

Stay Little – Enjoy Blessing!

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Father, we just want to thank You Lord this morning. Yes Lord, You are always on time. Thank You Lord, through the mouth of babes and suckling infants You have ordained praise. That You still the enemy and the avenger. Thank You Lord, thank You Father for all our children. I bless them in Your Name. Thank You once again this morning, and even as we look into Your Word, speak to our heart, prepare us for the days ahead, through the ministry of Your Word. Equip us O Lord, strengthen us in our inner man, strengthen our spirit man. Grant us the grace to digest Your Word. Enable us to not just be partakers of milk, but the meat of the Word, that we might discern that which is good and that which is evil. That we would have senses which have been exercised, that Lord we would be able to teach others as well Your ways, even as You teach us. This morning O Lord, touch us. Touch us, strengthen us, anoint us and speak to our hearts. We thank You, we praise You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wilderness is the theme that we have been looking at in our Sunday teachings. *Deuteronomy 8* is what we were looking at.

Deuteronomy 8:2

²And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

You see, the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt, it is the type of the world system. They were delivered from the power and authority of Pharaoh, a type of Satan. They were delivered from the whips of the task masters, a type of demonic oppression. And then they were out of Egypt. They came through the Red Sea, they were baptized into Moses, they were baptized in the cloud and then they came onto the other side. And it was God's plan that they should go through these experiences in the wilderness. For God is not going to reveal the source of all their problems. The source is not something which is outside. Derek Prince, of course we would have heard him several times, he says, 'There is something called as the fifth column of the enemy. And the fifth column of the enemy is there inside each one of us. And that is what we call as the old man; the carnal nature which is growing corrupt everyday because of the deceitful lust.'

And therefore when you come into the wilderness every test that the Israelites are put through by God is a revelation of the source of their problem which is inside, which is the old man. You see, in each one of us, there are dormant attitudes and patterns which we have inherited from our parents; the gene pool of our parents all the way from Adam. What they are waiting for, what those dormant attitudes and thought patterns are waiting for, is the right environment and the conditions and the company for them to begin to manifest.

You know some people say, 'My friends spoilt me. I got into bad company.' No, No. Bad company revealed what was already there inside, it just came out. If there was nothing bad inside of you, you would not have been trapped into that. Daniel was in Babylon. And yet he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. Joseph was in Egypt, but nothing of Egypt could touch him.

So there are dormant attitudes and thought patterns, familiar spirits, diseases. I mean when you go for a full body check up, the doctor will ask you, 'Is this there in your family?' and this is there inside of your gene pool, it is there, waiting for the right environment for it to manifest. So what does God do? He sends you through the wilderness and He puts you through tests so that those dormant attitudes come out. And then He says,

Exodus 15:24

²⁴And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

So when He put them to a test something came out; a dormant attitude, which they thought did not exist. A murmuring and a complaining spirit which they inherited all the way from Adam – ‘You are the problem!’ it is a familiar spirit. It is there in all of us. So He tested them, and you know what? The problem is that there is one old nature inside of you and that fellow has to be put to death. You enjoyed what the Cross did for you on the outside, now the wilderness is going to test each individual as to what the Cross will do to you on the inside. And unless and until you apply the Cross on the inside your problems will continue, they will persist. Yes you are saved, yes you are brought out of Egypt, yes you are saved from the demonic oppression but there are strongholds and thought patterns and attitudes which are dormant inside of you, waiting for the right environment, for them to manifest. And unless and until you are being delivered from those strongholds you will not be able to inherit the promise life of God; you will just wander in the wilderness.

You see, these are dangerous things. You never take these things for granted. Therefore He gives them the solution.

Exodus 15:26

²⁶ and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.”

Over a period of time, whenever I read the Bible, what I have realized is that the sources of all blessings, if you want to be blessed there is only one sutram or principle – obey the voice of God and keep His covenant. The problem is that the old man cannot do it. It is impossible for the old man to obey. What is he? He is a rebel. So the curses will continue, because he is bent towards disobedience. If you want to enjoy health, look at what He says, ***If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you, I am the Lord who will continue to heal you.*** He reveals Himself as Jehovah Rapha.

He gives them the first revelation. If you want to enjoy a continuing blessing over your life, one of the things that you need to do is that you need to put to death; apply the Cross on your old man, and strengthen your new man and begin to obey My voice and do that which is right in My eyes so that you can go through this process of healing and deliverance and stay delivered.

You see, the source of our problem is the old man. A nature which will not hear the voice of God. It will appreciate the message, like Herod who heard John the Baptist. He was very interested in the world, he heard him often it says. But one of the things that he could not do is that he could not obey. Madam Herodias came, her daughter danced, it is called choreography these days, the first choreography in the Bible, and something came out of Herodias, what was in her heart was revealed, she said, ‘Cut off the head of John the Baptist.’

Lot of people like to hear the message. Just because you appreciate the message it doesn’t mean that you are applying the message. The old man hates the message, he might appreciate the message but he will not apply. He is stubborn, he is stiff-necked. That is what it says in Ezekiel – son of man, the prophet of Israel, do you know what they are talking about you? They are talking very good things about you. They are saying, ‘come! Come! Come! Listen to the voice of God, this is truly the oracle of God and they are inviting all of them to your church. Do you know, son of man, what is happening? These people, they sit in front of you, they hear your voice, but their heart is set towards their own gain. They enjoy the message, but they will not change, because that was their dormant attitude.

Look at a classic example.

Acts 24:24

²⁴ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”

I am waiting for a convenient time. You know what after that? The convenient time never comes.

²⁶ Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, look at that attitude never changed. He appreciated the message, he said, ‘Wow! It is a very powerful message. Tension message, conviction message. It is convicting me.’ But his conviction never led to conversion, ***that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.***

²⁷ But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

One man of God made a very powerful statement – ‘Whatever is not transformed will be transferred to the next generation.’ That is a scary statement. Whatever is not transformed in your life will get transferred to the next generation. So transform!

So there are strongholds of unbelief. The wilderness, what it does essentially is that it brings out those attitudes into the open; it shows them. Now it is not the demonic which is being exposed, the task masters have been dealt with. But the task masters’ strongholds have not been dealt with. That has to be dealt with; that has to be brought into the open. The old man has to be crucified. You know what, lot of people say, ‘How can there be curses? When we are in Christ all the curses have been broken.’ Yes. But in Christ you are a new creation. Do you sin? You say yes. So what do you do in your sin? Can you say, ‘I am not sinning; my old man is sinning, my new man is not sinning?’ Who is sinning then? You are sinning. You have to confess, you have to renounce, you have to expel.

See, the whole purpose of teaching is to bring out into the open all these thought patterns. God is not here to condemn us. No. He is a Father. He puts us through the tests so show us that we are not ready. That is the reason why He puts us through the tests. So, I was thinking, what is the one attitude that the wilderness teaches, that the next generation have to take into the Promise Land so that they can continue in the blessing of God? All those 600,000 men who came out were men of valour, men of war. They came out. They were called ‘the hosts of Israel’ by the way. The armies of Israel. God led them out. But they were all destroyed in the wilderness. Why? It is because of one thing; because of unbelief. And what is the root of unbelief? So there is one lesson that the wilderness teaches. I want you to know that lesson; there is one term which I want you to know.

Deuteronomy 8:2

² And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Humble. In other words, what were you? Proud. So what was the purpose of the wilderness? To reveal your pride. See, simple right? So when you go into the Promise Land remember one thing, so I revealed the purpose.

Deuteronomy 7:6

⁶ “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Hallelujah! Thank You Lord Jesus, this is the identity that we have in Christ Jesus. But if you want to live out this identity there is something which you never have to forget, there is one word which you should not forget.

Deuteronomy 7:7

⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least (littlest) of all peoples;

Other translations will use the words ‘littlest of all people’. In other translations he says, ‘The Lord is giving you the Promise Land not because you are more righteous, not because of your righteousness, no. You are a stiff-necked people. But it is because of the unrighteousness and the sin of these people He is driving them out of this land. And if you continue to be unrighteous, just as I drove them out, I will drive you out too, because that is My land.’ And God is not a respecter of persons. He is not a Jew who is one outwardly; He is the one who is inwardly.

So one of the lessons that wilderness has to teach you is don’t forget that you were little. Don’t forget that you were little and stay little. That is it. So that is the reason why I titled today’s teaching as, ‘Stay Little – Enjoy Blessing!’ that is today’s meditation. This ‘little’ is a fantastic word. We do not like to be little, that is the problem. The source of all our worries and tensions is not outside, it is there inside.

1 Corinthians 1:26

²⁶ ***For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh*** (he doesn't say, 'all' but 'not many' that means very few wise are called. Even those few wise who are called they have to be humbled and they have to be emptied of all their reputation and their degrees. Otherwise they will come and empty the church by degree. So you have to be very careful, with all your degrees and PhDs and H₂SO₄ you are very acidic. That is what Moses was, right? He was learnt is all the wisdom of the Egyptians and what it could do to you, when it came to the work of God, he looked to the left and to the right and stabbed and murdered. That is all he could do with all his brilliance and accomplishments and all his degrees), ***not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*** ²⁷ ***But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;*** ²⁸ ***and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,*** ²⁹ ***that no flesh should glory in His presence.***

This is what I wrote down – the strongest dormant attitude; a stronghold in the old man is pride with all its many manifestations. One of them is bitterness, the word is Marah. It is interesting; we sang the song about Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Do you know what the word Mary means? The one who experienced bitterness, both of them. Mary and Martha, comes from the word marr. One continued to be bitter and said, 'Lord, do You not care?' and the other dealt with her bitterness. Jesus said, 'Do you know what, Maratha? You are concerned about so many things but only one thing is needful.'

So there are many manifestations. One of the manifestations of pride is bitterness. Another manifestation is rebellion. All familiar attitudes. Another is offense. Another is idolatry. Another is sorcery. Do you know how this idolatry came out? There was tests, He sent Moses, the man of God, away from the camp for forty days. And what comes out? Idolatry comes out. It is there, it is a dormant attitude. And you know what happens? They come to Aaron and say, "As to this fellow Moses," I mean look at the way they are addressing the man of God. 'This fellow' he is not your fellow. He is far above you. If he were your fellow you would be having fellowship with him up the mountain, not here. So they have so many manifestations.

See, witchcraft, sorcery, all these are works of the flesh. They all start as the works of flesh and then eventually take you into the occult or something even worse.

So, let us look at a few examples from the Scripture. Let us read through some Scriptures to get an understanding of how serious this offense is.

1 Samuel 15:12-13

¹² ***So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul*** Samuel was on an all-night prayer because God already revealed to him that He was going to remove Saul, ***it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."*** ¹³ ***Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."***

'If you have preformed the commandment of the Lord, what is the sound that I am listening to?' and then Samuel gives him a very honest appraisal about himself. Look at what he says to Saul.

1 Samuel 15:17-19

¹⁷ ***So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"*** ¹⁸ ***Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'***

The problem is this – if you leave these things in your life, do you know who is going to suffer? Just not you, but the subsequent generations, all the way to Mordecai. Why? Because Haman the agagite is going to arise. Now what is he doing? He is doing witchcraft to destroy your people, your own clan, the Benjamite clan. You are in trouble. You do not realize the consequences of not obeying the voice of God. And why do you not obey the voice of God? It is because he forgot that he was little.

¹⁹ ***Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"***

I am not sure if I can show you this video. It is not there on YouTube. You know one of the things that we do as scientists, we are going to teach a machine to stay upright. The machine has to be taught to stay upright. This is an experiment which is done in a lab, just to give you an idea as to what happens in a lab. There is a pendulum. It is called the inverted pendulum. Its default position is to hang down and swing from side to side. It is very comfortable in this default position. Suddenly the scientist creates an algorithm which keeps it upright. He is training it. It is like approx 297th adoration algorithm. He is training the machine to stand in its upright position. We all have to be upright. See, the default position of the old man is to swing down.

Now, let us look at what happens in another situation. What happens it that when it is in an upright position you want to test how upright it is, so we bring some kind of a temptation; a little bit of disturbance with the help of a magnet to attract it. So the machine suddenly realizes that there is a temptation and it moves away ('I want to stand upright'). The moment it forgets the algorithm it stops standing upright and it falls down, back to the default position.

This is what I have observed in my Christian life as well. You know what, we all like default positions. So what does God do? He picks us up, He keeps us upright and He teaches our mind to stay upright. But if we don't support our mind, the Bible says, if you do not arm yourself with the same mind, do you know what happens? The same lust which is already there inside of you will pull you down to the default position.

¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" So Saul, why did you swoop down? You went back. Do you know what made you swoop down? I was asking this question – why did you go there? You got attracted to the spoil and all the other things. You want to boast about the spoil that you got. You did not know that the Lord makes you rich. You did not learn the lessons of Abraham when he got all those spoils from defeating the kings in war. Do you know what he said? "I do not want any of this spoil. I raise my hands to the Lord most high." You swoop down, you know why? It is because you forgot that you were little. What made you rebel? You forgot that you were little. What made you sow the seeds of witchcraft? You forgot that you were little. What made you attract demonic oppression? You forgot that you were little. What made you lose the anointing? You forgot that you were little. What made you go after God's anointed? You forgot that you were little. What made you kill the priests of God and not the enemies of God? You forgot that you were little. What attracted demonic oppression? You forgot.

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and the evil spirit came upon him. What does it mean? He went away from the covering that God gave him. And God delivered him to the torturers. Does it not happen in the New Covenant? Of course it happens.

Matthew 18:32-35

³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. (because you said, 'I am little'. You forgot. Now you went and started tormenting your fellow servant)

³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

³⁵ "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

'I will deliver you to the tormenters because you did not obey. You forgot.' Derek prince in his teachings will say, somebody came to him and he said, "I believe the Lord is asking me to tell you that you should forgive your husband." She said, "He wasted 20 years of my life. He tormented me, he tortured me. If it very difficult for me to forget and forgive." Derek Prince was a wise man, so he looks at her and says, "Do you want him to destroy and torment the next 20 years of your life? Let go!"

You see, God will deliver us over because we forget that we are little.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

¹³ So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. ¹⁴ But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

The question is – did he not inquire of the Lord? Does not the Bible say that the Lord did not answer him either by Urim or by Thumim or by prophets or visions? So what does it mean that he did not inquire of the Lord? He did not wait, he never humbled himself, he never said, ‘Lord forgive me. Lord, where do I go? You alone have the words of Life.’ He never said that. Therefore what happened? Therefore God killed him, it says. ***Therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.***

You see, when you read the Bible you will see the disappointing stories of all the kings. Forget about Israel; Israel was hamstrung right from the beginning. Jeroboam and his calves. That is it; they are never going to recover as a kingdom. Look at Judah, some kings I will introduce. A very good king, a very righteous king when he started off.

2 Chronicles 17:1-2

¹Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. ² And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. ³ Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, ⁴but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. ⁵ Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance.

Whenever I start reading my heart starts beating. I am anticipating something negative now. The next verse I read with a little more tension. When I read the next verse I am like, thank God he didn’t fall. Look at what he does,

2 Chronicles 17:6

⁶ And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.

So he went radical. He was on fire for God. He was like, you know, my name is Jehoshaphat, it means that the Lord has judged me. Shaphat means Judge, Jeho is Jehovah. Jehoshaphat means the person who has been judged by God.

⁷ Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

He was on a reform rampage. He was the Martin Luther of Judah those days.

⁸ And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. ⁹ So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.

So there were reforms all over. And then it goes on to say,

¹⁰ And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

So God also gave him rest from everybody. Now they are all bringing gifts to him.

¹¹ Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats. ¹² So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah. ¹³ He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem.

So he has become strong and powerful, exalted by God and then forgot *Deuteronomy 32* (as we heard yesterday) – when Jeshurun grew fat what did he do? He kicked.

Now the sad story,

2 Chronicles 18:1

¹ Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab.

Now this is like strange. I was wondering, how did this happen? So I was using my imagination, I think it is sanctified imagination. What could have happened? This guy was on fire for God, how can he ally himself with Ahab? What did you

see in him that he attracted you to him? So I was thinking, maybe, you see generally in Davidic line you see the children were not properly mentored by their fathers. So he had a son and his name was Jehoram. Young guy, so he must have fallen in love with Ahab's daughter. And he came to his dad and said, 'Dad, I am in love.' With whom? 'Nice girl.' What is her name? 'I think Athaliah.' Athaliah? From which house?

That is how young people, when they come to pastor, will say, 'Pastor I found a man. Very nice, educated, got a good job, he is well settled.' Pastor will listen to all the points but at the end will ask one fundamental question – 'Is he a believer?' just not an ordinary believer, but a true believer.

So Athaliah is also from the house of Israel. But the problem is that her father is Ahab and her mother is Jezebel. So what has happened to Jehoshaphat now? You see, somehow this happens in many households. You are on fire for God, but the children, they have to make their own choices. Sometimes children may not make the right choices, but you should stand firm; you cannot tolerate. Do you know what has happened to Jehoshaphat? He became strong and somehow it legitimized his tolerance. I will give you an example, just to give this principle over here. I am not just speaking something which is in the air. Let us look at an equivalent of Jehoshaphat in New Testament. Do you want to see an equivalent of Jehoshaphat?

Revelation 2:18-19

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, these things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your ²⁰patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Jehoshaphat I know your deeds. Your love and faith, the way you loved God, you were on fire for God, your faithfulness, the way you taught the Word, you went all throughout Judah, your service and your perseverance and that you are now doing more than you did at first. All that is fantastic. You know what? You have been blessed by God now; I see a hand of God over your ministry, but because of the blessing of God, somehow, some kind of a tolerance spirit has crept in into your life. Look at what is say in *Revelation 2*,

Revelation 2:20

²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow (tolerate) that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Do you know what you are doing, Jehoshaphat? Just because you are going to tolerate this alliance, do you know what is going to happen? You are going to join yourself with an unfaithful people, and you are going to compromise the Seed of the Messiah. You do not understand what is going to happen to the next generation. And there is going to be an Athaliah which is going to rise and she is going to kill the entire seed of Judah. The Davidic line, the messianic line is going to be finished except for the hand of God. Why? Because of a man who allowed tolerance. Why did he become tolerant? It is because he became strong and his strength made him forget that he was little and legitimized his compromise. Be careful.

Revelation 2:21-23

²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ I will kill her children with death,

Did it not happen in your house? Did not Athaliah finish off the entire royal blood, had it not been for the priest and your sister who protected one Joash. You see, dangerous, these are dangerous games that we play. You know why? Because we forget where God brought us from.

²³ I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

That is the reason you see parents and children you have to be very careful with the doctrine of Balaam, the doctrine of Jezebel. You will grow up and when you want to get married, I mean I am telling you, be like Sammy and Jyothi. Fantastic example. You ask Sammy, he will say, 'My spiritual parents are Pastor James and Sis. Ailsa.' Ask Jyothi and she will say, 'My spiritual parents are Pastor James and Sis. Ailsa.' You are safe. Do you know why? God desires a godly seed. It is just

not about you. Malachi will say that he desires a godly offspring. And what is that offspring? Everyone in the Old Covenant had a hope that their offspring is going to be the lineage of the Messiah. And we also in the New Covenant, we may not be having a physical posterity but a spiritual posterity.

I like what Zac Poonen said, "My children are my biological children now, but when they grow up they should become my brothers in Christ." What a vision that is! You see, this is what happens; you become strong and you make a mess. Understand how Balaam tempted Israel. He said, "You know what, you can't touch them. You can't. But one thing you can do, deep down inside of their hearts everybody like girls. Send your midianite girls into their camp and let them do a choreography. At least a few, if not everybody, will fall." And what happened? A plague comes into the camp and who stands? Phinehas. I love that name, Phinehas is a very powerful name in the Bible. Do you know who Ezra is, by the way? Whose line did Ezra come from? From the priest of Zadok, from the line of Phinehas. Ezra, from the line of Phinehas.

That is the reason why the blessing of God is on the household of the righteous. Just don't look at your own life. Look at the next generation. Paul tells Timothy, 'The things which I taught you, hand it over to the faithful men who will be able to teach others also.' Four generations. How many generations you should teach? Four generations. Why? For how many generations is iniquity passed on? Four. See, the principles from the Old Covenant just do go away. The spiritual posterity has to be dealt with and they have to be taught the ways of God.

Look at another guy when he became strong. Young guy, 16 years old.

2 Chronicles 26:3-5

³Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. ⁴And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ⁵He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

So who is this Zechariah? He was that one prophetic voice in his life, one warning in his life, one teaching in his life who is keeping him upright. Like the pendulum that I showed you. So what is he teaching him? Look at some other translations to get an understanding as to what the visions of God mean.

2 Chronicles 26:5^{KJV}

⁵And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.

2 Chronicles 26:5^{NIV}

⁵He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

2 Chronicles 26:5 Aramaic Bible

⁵And he was praying before him in the days of Zechariah, who was instructing him in the awe of LORD JEHOVAH, and LORD JEHOVAH was organizing all his ways.

So wherever Uzziah went he was successful. What happens?

2 Chronicles 26:15 ^{ASV}

¹⁵And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by skilful men, He made engines. He was an engineer. Engines invited by cunning me. So he had a research lab. Projects. So what did he do? *to be on the towers and upon the battlements, wherewith to shoot arrows and great stones. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.*

So He was the first guy who invented the ballistic missiles and catapults. Intercontinental ballistic missiles started there. The seed was in Uzziah. Think about it. Let me tell you something, the best missile technology, who has it? Israel. We had a scientist who was working with us from DRDO, he used to go to Israel once in a while and he said, 'Vijay, our army and

their equipment, no match.' You go to Israel, you see their weapons, you see their army, you see their military, you see the way that they have designed their own system, it is awesome. Do you know why, Vijay? It is because they are always at war.' They are always at war.

Let me tell you something, so long as you are always at war, if you have a warring mind set, do you know what will happen? You will be sharp in your spiritual senses and God will give you ideas as to how to shoot arrows into the enemy's camp. Stay humble, stay little. Don't relax like David; he forgot war for one week maybe, I don't know. One day, that day changed his life and his family. He reverted back to his default position. One woman finished him off. Think about these things children. These are serious things.

2 Chronicles 26:15

¹⁵ And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

That is it right? And now you know that the story is going to change. The disappointment is going to be there.

2 Chronicles 26:16

¹⁶ But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

Do you know what happened now? His success legitimized his compromise. Now he was thinking, just because he was successful the laws of God don't apply to him. See? You forgot that you were little. Why do we learn all these things now? So that God, when He prospers you, you will continue to stay little. Do you know what the name Paul means? Little. What was his other name? Saul. King Saul forgot that he was little and Paul did not want to make that mistake. So Saul became little (Paul) and he stayed little for the rest of his life. And as the revelations were coming into his life and maybe pride was coming in, I don't know, and suddenly God said, "You know what? You have to stay little. You know what I am going to do? I will send you a messenger of satan to buffet you in your bodies. Three times you will ask Me to remove it, but I will not answer you. I will give you strength in your weakness so that you will continue to stay little. Otherwise with the abundance of revelations that you got you might get puffed up."

Please don't accept sickness in your body. That is not what I am saying. Just because Paul had a sickness in his body doesn't mean you should accept sickness. If you have revelations like Paul, then okay go ahead and have it. God will definitely send you some buffets of satan. But generally that is not what it means, people just quote things out of context. Fight sickness by the way. One of the things that I am learning now, after some things happened in my body, I am fighting it every day now. I started with 92.5, now I have come to 86.5, I lost 6 kgs. The target is 82. Can you see the fat belly is gone. So fight it, don't accept sickness into your body. Kick it out. So I went and asked the doctor, 'Can hypertension be reversed?' he said, 'Yes! Lose weight.' In other words, become little. The doctors also have the same advice. Become little and become lean. If your Jeshurun is fat what will happen? You will have a heart-attack.

Be very careful. What is applied in the spiritual should also be applied in the physical. They are all parables to teach us. Don't become stout in your spirit. That is what it says in Ezekiel – 'I will do all things; all the people who are broken I will bind them, those who are wounded I will heal. But the fat I will destroy.' So God has got the same principles everywhere. Alright.

for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

So what happened? What did he lose? As long as Zechariah's instructions were being followed, he was prosperous. What did he lose now? He lost the fear of God. It is lost. Now he is like very, very flippant with authority. You know, how do I know that you have the fear of God? It is by how you deal with authority. How you deal, how you talk, how you address. Albeit it could be weak authority, authority who may be fallible. But did not David stay under Saul? Did he fight him? No. did Samuel not be under Eli? Did he fight him? No. wasn't the hand of God upon his life? Absolutely yes. Do you know why? It is because they learnt to submit to authority.

You know, there is a verse in *Joshua 5*, it says – *from this day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of the people of Israel*. I was reading that verse and I wrote there, ‘Amen! Amen! Amen! This is for Vijay.’ And the Lord told me, “Vijay, when did God begin to exalt him? When for 40 years in the wilderness he stayed under Moses. That is when God exalted him.” Will you stay for 40 years? Like we heard last Sunday, to stay under authority for 40 years, can we? 18 years? Until God exalts you. It says, you know – *humble yourself under the hand of God and He will exalt you in due time*. When is the due time? God knows. *Exaltation doesn’t come from the East, nor from the West, it comes from God*. So stay under.

So what happened to Uzziah? He became futile, he lost the fear of God, he lost the awe of God. He became very flippant.

2 Chronicles 26:17-18

¹⁷ And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men:

¹⁸ And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.

That means your honor is going to fade now. Why? It is because you forgot that you were little. You what happens,

¹⁹ Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.

You forgot about Nadab and Abihu. You see, you forgot all the lessons in the Old Covenant. That is the reason why memorize, meditate on the Word, look at all those patterns, let those patterns become a part of you because God has never changed. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has never changed. He was a consuming fire then, when He consumed Nadab and Abihu who offered strange incense before the Lord. And it says in *Hebrews 12* – *worship the Lord with reverence and fear in a way that pleases Him. For our God is a consuming fire*. He is the same God. He has not changed. And you look at Revelation John looks at this awesome revelation of Jesus Christ and he falls on his face like a dead man. Why? See, God is a Judge, He has not changed.

²⁰ And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

From the crown of his head to the sole of his feet you know what you have? Wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. It is a depiction of Israel. That is how the Lord sees. Let’s look at another example. These are all godly people. I am showing you examples of people who started well. And when they became strong they made some stupid mistakes. Because they forgot. I will show you another example, I mean you would have had the most hope on this man; right from the age of 8 he had a heart for God. 12 years old he goes to Israel and he destroys all the altars and by the time he is 18 years old he receives the Word of God, he finds the Book of the Law in the Temple, he tears his clothes, repents, brings reforms and he goes all the way to Israel, finishes off the altars of Jeroboam, comes back, incredible revival. What is his name? Josiah. 8 years old. Fantastic start, look at how he ends.

2 Chronicles 35:20-21

²⁰ After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. ²¹ But he sent messengers to him, saying, “What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you.” ²² Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

And you know the story. How old was he? 39 years old, not even 40. What made him do this?

I have a very good relationship with reptiles and also dogs. So yesterday pastor was saying, “Mr. Thomas” and I was wondering who this Thomas is. I looked around and realized it was Tommy (the dog), I was like, “Pastor? This is Thomas? I thought he was Judas.” Because I don’t like dogs; dogs and I are very good friends, nice relationship – you don’t touch me and I won’t touch you. So I really avoid dogs, honestly I avoid because I do not want to get into any nasty fights. Dogs are dangerous, stray dogs. I mean, some people might have contrary opinions but everybody is entitled to his own opinion. Some people says that dogs are faithful and I say, ‘Faithful to whom?’ but that is just my opinion.

Proverbs 26:17

¹⁷ He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

What is the probability that is going to happen? Amplified Bible will amplify it. Just in case you forgot. If you think KJV has lost it sharpness, the amplified Bible will bring it out.

Proverbs 26:17^{AMP}

¹⁷ Like one who grabs a dog by the ears and is likely to be bitten is he who, passing by, stops to meddle with a dispute that is none of his business.

Josiah, what are you doing? What are you doing? Why are you meddling? Yesterday I was hearing Pastor Eric, he was teaching his congregation in a revival meeting and I heard him say, "What are the things that teachers teach after you come to class 3 and class 4? Class 2 they are okay when the kids complain about their peers. The teacher will come and intervene. But when you come to class 3 and 4 and go higher, if the students say, 'Teacher, this boy,' 'Teacher, that boy,' they will say, 'Mind your own business.'"

Josiah, mind your own business. What is going to happen otherwise? Your life is going to be cut short. What potential you had, I mean there is not going to be even a warning for you now. Sometimes I feel, 'Lord, Manasseh, You dealt with him so kindly. But why not Josiah, Lord?' so what happened to this guy? What happened to Ahab will also happen to you. You disguise and go to war; you think you are going to fool God? No, you are not going to fool God. The archers are going to find you. If you leave the covering that God has placed over your life there will be dogs which will be unleashed upon you. So what happens to this man?

2 Chronicles 35:23-25^a

²³ And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." ²⁴ His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵ Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah.

Jeremiah weeps for this man. His life is cut short. What he was supposed to finish he couldn't complete. It is because when he was strong he forgot that he was little. So this morning, how to we stay little? Yes I have made known the problem, but what is the solution to staying little? See, the thing is this; in the Bible there are secrets – *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and it is the glory of all of us to search it out.* I will show you a parable which is embedded in Scripture and which gives you the secret as to how to stay little. I'm sure most of you do not know this parable. How many of you know the parable of the little? The parable of the little city. Let me introduce to you this morning the parable of the little city. I mean Solomon, this guy was a back-slidden inspired person. A back-slidden man inspired by the Holy Spirit. So he cannot understand the revelations that he is getting. Look at what he says,

Ecclesiastes 9:13-14

¹³ This wisdom I have also seen under the sun, and it seemed great to me: ¹⁴ There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it. The question is – who is this little city? You need to ask this question. Let us see whom Solomon calls as little city.

Proverbs 25:28

²⁸ Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

He is a person with a spirit. So who is that city? It is a person. You are a little city. We are all little people and there was a great king who came against us. Who is that great king? Satan. He besieged it. He is tormenting you and there are few men inside. What are those men? Your eyes, your ears, the instruments of your warfare; your hands, your eyes, your ears. The Bible says, right – *Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Offer the instruments of your body as instruments of righteousness to God.* So few people, small city and a great king who came to oppress. Look at what happens; look at God's solution to bring deliverance to this small city. Look at how beautiful the Bible is,

Ecclesiastes 9:15

¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man.

Look at this, beautiful the little city. We are all little, we had to no strength, that is the reason why the Bible says, 'When you were without strength, when you were ungodly, when you were sinner, when you were enemies of Christ, what did Jesus do? He died for you. With what? With His wisdom. What was His wisdom? It was the Cross. What was He? He was a poor man. The Bible says that He was made a little lower than the angels. He was clothed with glory and majesty, he was made a little lower than the angels and He came as a poor man, He dwelt among us, He made Himself poor so that He can make us rich, He became sin for us so that we may be clothed with His righteousness, he became a curse for us so that we may enjoy His blessings. What did He do with His wisdom? He delivered us.

Hebrews 13:12

¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.
That is His wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

Therefore, what is the Cross? It is the wisdom of God. So what did God do? He sent His Son who hung on the Cross for us and He became poor, He became naked on the Cross and delivered this little city.

Ecclesiastes 9:15

¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man.

See, this is the problem with all of us. You see the entire record of the Gospels, Jesus is delivering thousands and thousands of people, He healed thousands of people. Jesus Christ of Nazareth was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. He was anointed and he was delivering people left, right and center; He was healing the sick, he was delivering the demonic oppressed people, they were getting healed. Everybody was getting blessed. But how many of them followed Him? 120 people, if you have to look at post resurrection. Only 120 people of all the thousands and thousands of people who actually were touched by God, who experienced the blessing of God. Everybody forgot Him. Only a few remained with Him. You see, therefore Solomon says, How do you stay little? This is the solution he gives to the problem, look at what he says,

Ecclesiastes 9:16

¹⁶ Then I said: "Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

See, everybody likes the blessings of God, the healings of God, the deliverances of God. Oh! Master my daughter is vexed with a demon. Can You please heal her? "I will not answer you." 'Please, please.' "It is not good to give to the dogs..." 'Please! Even the dogs eat the crumbs from the master's table.' "Great is your faith." Her daughter got healed. But now where are you? You and your daughter? Are you there in the temple of God? Are you following Jesus? Very few women followed Jesus wherever He went and they support Jesus with their substance and one of them is Mary Magdalene, all the way to the end. And she was delivered from seven demons. Very few people. That is the reason why *John 6* will say,

John 6:60-61

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?"

Why do you not like My words? Because it offends you. You see,

⁶² What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

They are Spirit and life, but you do not want to hear My words. Yet it was the Word who saved you. I sent forth My Word and healed you. I said, 'Be made whole in Jesus' name.' I told, 'Lazarus, come out!' it was My Word which saved you. The centurion said, 'Just speak the Word and my servant will be healed.' The Word which healed you is also the Word which will strengthen you, which will rebuke you and keep you on the straight and narrow path. But we don't like it, because it offends you. You see, how many people get offended and they just leave. They leave churches because they are offended.

John 6:66-67

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?" thank God for Peter, who says,

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

So first thing is begin to love the Word of God, enjoy the Word, come for the Word, study the Word, stay in the Word. Change the way you think.

Ecclesiastes 9:17

¹⁷ Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.

Who is the ruler of fools? Satan is the ruler of fools, because the fool says, 'There is no God.' So what should do you? Listen to God. Hear. What do the wise do?

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10^{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. So he used examples, he used metaphors. He expressed the truths clearly. He taught you the Word.

¹¹ The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful. They might be painful. But they are helpful. Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd drives the sheep. ¹² But, my child, let me give you some further advice: Be careful, for writing books is endless, and much study wears you out.

One study you do, it is called the Bible study. Therefore in our church we have bible study almost every day. Yesterday pastor was talking about vision 2030 in the world. God also has His vision 2030. Do you know what God's vision for 2030 is?

Proverbs 20:30

³⁰ Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

There, deep down inside, the inner man gets healed, that gets delivered.

Ecclesiastes 9:18

¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good."

One sinner, in other words, one small sin that you allow into your life. All the things that you did, Jehoshaphat, but one something thing you lacked. All the things that you did Uzziah, but one small thing that you love. All the things that you did Josiah, but one small thing that you loved. So I hamstrung you. *Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.* That is the reason it says,

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

The key to enjoying blessing and the key to enjoying health is to do one thing – obey and keep His commands, what will happen automatically? Healing will come and blessing will come. Don't forget the words of the wise. One of the things

that you need to realize, never forget in your life, where God brought you out from. Never go after success which you are not prepared for. You see David's life, it is a very interesting way God exalts him. God gives him victory in his secret life; with the lion and the bear. Once he defeats the lion and the bear then He exposes him to Goliath. And then everybody comes to know about David. The moment everybody comes to know about David, he is slowly put in the palace. And then now he is being exposed to everyone and Saul is jealous about David, slowly God sends him into the wilderness. He is building his character slowly and 13 years in the wilderness God slowly exalts him; seven years in Hebron and then God exalts him. And before every exaltation there is a test. There is a constant progress in his life and whenever success comes to him he is ready to accept and the weight of the success does not bog him down. Do you know why? It is because he has been prepared. That is the reason the process is very important. Coming under authority is very important. Staying under authority is important. Wherever you are, if you criticize authority it is to your own detriment. You will lose the anointing if you criticize and dishonor it will not go well with you. I am telling you children. I have learnt these lessons the hard way in my life.

When I was in one of the labs in Canada, my professor and I had a tiff, so what did I do? I was like, okay fine I wanted to teach him a lesson. So one guy came to me and he said, 'Vijay, you know what I don't like this prof.' I said, 'Do you want to leave the lab? He said, 'Yes, I want to leave the lab. But my English is not very good. Can you type an email for me that I want to leave the lab.' So I took his email ID, typed an email to the professor saying that this student is leaving the lab. And I started abutting, I became a communist. Do you know what happened after that? 2-3 months later, the hand of the Lord came strong upon me. You see, if you take chances with authority you will miss out. It doesn't matter.

That is the reason why it says – *servant, be obedient to your masters, not only to the nice people but also to the people who are harsh to you. Because of conscience towards God if you bare all these things it is good for you*, because Christ also went in the same path. Don't fight it. Don't fight authority. Don't fight leadership even if you think that they are not perfect, still come under them just like Jesus came under His earthly parents. Think about it – "Why are you searching for Me?" I mean those words are powerful. And then it says that He went down to Nazareth and He was subject to them. And He increased in favour and in wisdom, in stature; favour with God and favour with man. Do you know why? It is because He came under authority of people who are imperfect. You are tested under imperfect authority.

Now think about it, if the authority is not good and you are asked to obey, how much more obedient you should be if the authority is good? Think about that. You see, never ever go against authority. These are very, very, important lessons. Otherwise you are like Satan. Going up and down, slandering God. 'If you were with me I would have promoted you to be the next arch angel.' And he took one-third of the angels along with him and they are forever destroyed. There is no way they are going to come back. Do you know why? Because it started with that – rebellion. He forgot that he was little. Never forget where God brought us from. Little is very good. It is a good position to be in. so how do we do that? Practical examples.

Proverbs 30:24-28

²⁴ There are four things which are little on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise: ²⁵ The ants are a people not strong, Yet they prepare their food in the summer; ²⁶ The rock badgers are a feeble folk, Yet they make their homes in the crags; ²⁷ The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks; ²⁸ The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, And it is in kings' palaces.

The ant knows only one thing; it puts its head down and works. That is it. Only one thing. Have you ever seen an ant sleeping? Never. That is the reason why Solomon says, you sluggard. Look at the ant. He just puts his head down and works. One of the lessons that we were taught in ministry and mentorship is, pastor keeps on saying, 'Put your head down and work. Go back to the drawing board, leave criticism, leave slander, leave gossip, whatever people say just brush it off, whether it applies or it does not apply, let it fly. Put your head down and work. That is the reason why about the ant it says that it has no overseer, no ruler, no king. What does it do? It works hard. It is a little thing and it stays little because it puts its head down and work. And all the people have been given the same advice – put your head down and work.

You got 100 marks in your exam, next thing what will you do? Go back, put your head down and work. This is not the final exam. Don't take the lie of your parents. When I was growing up my parents told me, 'Vijay 10th class and then you are a free bird.' I was like, 'WOW!' I finished my 10th class board exam and then they said, 'No, no, no, 10th class no free bird.

After that intermediate. In intermediate if you get 90% then you are a free bird.' After intermediate, 'Now you have to get admission into IIT and then you are a free bird.' Then after IIT, BTech is over, MTech is over, 'Now you have to get a PhD and then you are a free bird.' You are never going to be free, there is never 'free'. So one thing they taught us is every time you finish a degree put your head down and work. Sachin Tendulkar, when he scores a 100 will he relax and say, 'I have finished'? No. What are you anticipating now? Another 100. Put your head down and work. People don't like it. Put your head down and work, do what you are called to do. Children work hard. Bond servant be obedient to your masters. Wherever you are, that is what it says in *Ecclesiastes* – *whatever good your hand finds to do, do it with all your heart*. Put your head down and work.

²⁵ ***The ants are a people not strong, Yet they prepare their food in the summer;*** you know what? It is coming, a famine. There is going to be a famine of the Word of God in the last days. You know what you should do? Like an ant put your head down in the Word, plow through the Scriptures, read through the Scriptures, study through the Scriptures, get your Word, get the Word that God has for you, for your season. Otherwise what you will have is a second hand Word. It is like this man of God who gave this very interesting example. He had a friend who was a bank manager, a teller in the bank. So one day he went to his office to meet him and what he was doing was he was counting bundles of 2000 rupee notes. So he was counting and counting, one bundle is over and he was throwing it in a box, next bundle he counted and threw it in and this man was looking at the way he was handling money. And he asked, 'Brother, don't you get scared when you handle this money? Does it not tempt you even a little bit? Does it not affect you?' and he said, 'No, no, no. do you know why? It is because I know that this is not my money.' But brother, how do you deal with your salary? Those days there were not ATM machines, we had to stand in the line, take a coupon, and when you get the money, even if it is not Lakhs and Lakhs of rupees, we used to be so careful, we put it in a cover, hid it in our secret pocket. Because it is not your money.

It is the same with the Word of God. You come for meeting after meeting, it is like the bundles thrown at you. But when you study the scriptures and you get your own revelation, do you know what you will do? This is mine! This is mine! God is good, this is going to keep me in good stead, one day I am going to use this. That is how you study the Scriptures. This is mine. That is not yours. Bundles and bundles of money is not yours. Work. Whatever you do, if you are called to be a student do it with all of your heart. If you are called to be an employee do it with all of your heart. Even if you are doing little things do it with all of your heart. Give your 100% there. Do miss out on opportunities that God gives you. That is the reason the Bible says, don't despise the day of little beginnings, small beginnings. Don't forget that.

The second kind of animal he talks about is a rock badgers, which are a feeble folk. He hides himself. Who is this fellow? Rock badger is an unclean fellow. He is an unclean animal. So what does he do? He hides himself in the Rock. He hides himself in the Church. He hides himself under the teaching, he doesn't go out. He says, 'Lord, the Word of God is constantly cleaning me, let me be there where You constantly cleanse me because I know that I am unclean.' It is like what we've talked about Apostle Paul. He is like, 'Lord, I am the least of the Apostles, the least of the saints. I am the chief of the sinners and therefore I do not want to leave your presence, I want to be in a place where I am protected, I'm preserved and I am constantly fed the Word, I am strengthened in the Word and I know that I have a clear conscience with God because I am dealing with issues even as the Word is coming into my life. I am dealing with every uncleanness, I am dealing with every sin. And I am hiding myself in the Rock. That is the rock badger that stays little. Where does it stay? In homes, and the church is a home. Stay there!

²⁷ ***The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;***

In the church, all of us have a part to play, everyone has a part to play. Everyone has a position. Some are called to preach, some are called to teach, some are called to lead worship, some are called to set up the sound system, some are called to do other things. There are so many things to do in the body of Christ. There could be little things, small, small little things. Do it! Follow in ranks. Every time we gather, let's say for Pastors' Conference, that is one outreach ministry of the church and yet do we find the entire church involved in it? No. Hardly some. That is one outreach ministry in the church. You see? Locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks. They know what the purpose is; they know for this purpose I am in the Kingdom of God – for such a time as this God placed me here, I am supposed to do this job and I will do it to the best of my ability. And if you are not in order (for the ants are in order) you will be disciplined. Just like in the army you will be disciplined. I mean I remember when we were in NCC, which is not even a real army, if we did not wake up at 5 in the morning, by 5:05 the army officer came with an iron rod, he chased us out of the beds and he made us run around the campus for 10-15 times. That is discipline, basically. But we don't do that in the church.

²⁷ The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks; meaning they have a structure in the Kingdom of God. Find that structure, find that order, be in order. Don't be out of order at any time. Follow that pattern, you will be safe. And I am telling you from personal experience, when you are in God's order you will be safe from so many attacks of the enemy. God will warn you, He will preserve you. You will not be destroyed. If you go out of order and you usurp God's order it is to your own destruction. Look at Absalom, I mean think about that. He is right there, he goes against his father, his own dad. You see the audacity of that guy. He wants to kill him. And what happened? The Bible is replete with all these examples. It is all written for our learning, for our instruction, to stay in order. To stay in God's order.

So what do the locusts do? They have no king, yet they all advance in ranks. So stay little. They are little things but they are wise things. They might not look very wise in the eyes of the world but God sees it. He says, 'This man is a wise man. Do you know why? It is because he knows his place. He knows what he is supposed to do. Nobody has to tell him what he has to do. He understands his place, he understands it all and he does it with all of his heart. Put your head down and work, hide yourself in the church and come under that teaching which cleanses you.

²⁸ The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings' palaces.

You know what? Every opportunity that you get to share the Word of God and to grasp people into the Kingdom of God, grasp them. Do you know what the spider does? It puts a web. It is a net. The Bible says that the Kingdom of God is like a net. So what do they do? They put them into the water. All kinds of things came in. Leave it to the shepherds to separate them. But you do the catching. Go and preach the Gospel, be a witness wherever you are. Share the Word with somebody in your office. Ask God to give you opportunities, to share the Word with people around, with your life, through your testimony.

Yesterday Bro. Bhanu and I were talking and I asked, 'Bhanu, is your brother-in-law saved?' 'No, pastor, he is not saved.' So he is still an unbeliever? 'Yes pastor, an unbeliever.' I asked him, 'Bhanu, does he respect you?' pastor, he has tremendous respect for Christians. And he looks at how Avinash and I behave in the office and he is shocked and he asks questions as to how we people can live like this. And he was giving an example as to what happened in his office the other day. He said, 'Pastor, you know what. That day I was having lunch and the lunch was a little spicy and my stomach started burning and I said, 'Lord, it would be great if somebody can get me some curd from outside. But I don't know I can't send anybody, I can't go I am busy with some work. Let somebody come and give me some curd.' Just then another brother walks into the office and he sits across me in the dining hall and he opens his lunch box and says, 'Bhanu, do you want curd?' and he gives me curd. And my brother-in-law saw it and he said, 'What is this? You just prayed to God, how does God answer you like this?' Do you know what Bhanu is doing? He is spinning a web. He is becoming spider man; trying to catch one small person into the Kingdom of God. Little things.

I like what Bhanu said, he said, 'Pastor, you know what, all these things happen so that we can give glory to God. So that other people will know that God takes care of little, little things in our lives. And that is our testimony.'

You see? You are in King's palace. Spin a web, catch the people and bring them to church. **²⁸ The spider skillfully grasps with its hands.** Have you seen a spider? Once the insect is in the web it just grabs it.

Ants, do your work. Badgers, come under the cleansing Word. Locusts, be in the rank. Spiders, spin a web and catch some souls into the Kingdom of God. These are little things, four little things. You know what, they are little but they are exceedingly wise. Do you see the ant? Busy fellows, right? Your children sleep, but ants don't. Sometimes I ask, 'Lord, when will I become an ant?' He says, 'Only in eternity.' Yes, in eternity there is no sleep. Only in eternity you will become an ant. You will never sleep. Do you know one of the things as engineers we constantly want to do is that we do not want to sleep, because when you are sleeping there are so many things that are going on in your mind? Honestly, whatever profession you are in you are constantly thinking about it. My wife is the witness. She looks at me and say, 'Vijay, why can't you sleep peacefully?' it is not possible. Simple. Something is going on in your mind all the time. And she is like, 'Vijay, when you were in the lab you were like this, now when you are in the Kingdom of God also you are like this.' I can't help it. Those days I used to think about my project, now I am thinking about another project. Constantly. You cannot take my ear phones away from me; always something is playing, something is going on. R

When I go for a walk around my house, people look at me like a strange man because I am boxing in the air, I'm getting fired up while I listen to a message. I want to do it with all of my heart. I want to be an ant. Somehow I have found the art of standing and sleeping as well. But it had detrimental effects so I had to let it go. So ants, they are not lazy people. They are little people. When I come to the class in the morning all my children are yawning. I am like, what are you doing? They are either center stand (resting their head forward on their hand) or side stand (resting their head sideways on their hand). When they are in their office, it is side stand. When they are sitting in front of me for devotion it is center stand. That is the reason why the Bible says – you sluggish, learn.

You know what? If you are a humble person you will learn. You will sit there and say, 'Ant, teach me.' It doesn't matter who it is, you will sit there and learn. You should listen to Pastor Eric's revival meetings. So powerful. I didn't listen to all of them, but I enjoyed some of it. Powerful. So, four little things that are exceedingly wise. Those who turn other people to righteousness, they will shine like stars in the heaven and they will be called wise. It is wisdom to turn people to righteousness. It might be like a little thing; you might just give one small transcript. Think about it, sis. Ailsa started sending the transcripts to prisons in 2008, pastor preached a sermon called 'Sin, Iniquity and Transgression' and she made CDs and transcripts and sent them all around the world. How does it look? Little. And before we knew it our website was being spammed literally. Data was getting consumed left, right and center. Do you know why? There was a web which was being spun and lot and lot of people all around the world, through what we call as WWW - World Wide Web. People were getting into the Kingdom of God. So that is the key. You may be an ant with a little talent. Be faithful.

Can you pray for some time? Just be faithful. If you can pray for few minutes, just be faithful. If you can read the Word for hours and hours, be faithful. Start with one hour and go on and on. Start it and slowly God will increase your appetite and your hunger for the Word of God. He will see those little, little, acts of faithfulness. Let's look at another important principle.

Psalm 37:16

¹⁶ A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked.

This is a little that a righteous man has. Who is he? A righteous man. what does he have? Very little. What did the little boy have? A little tiffin. And what did that little tiffin do? It spread a web for everybody because it was given to Jesus. Little that you have. What did the widow have? Two mites, what is it? Jesus said, "She gave so much." They were so upset. So they were walking down the temple. They looked at Jesus and said, 'Jesus do you know how the temple was built? From donations. And You are talking about the two mites that widow put? What can it buy? Not even 2 grams of rice. Not even 2 grams of cement, forget about rice. What will it give?' you know what Jesus said? "Do you see this temple? Not even a single stone will be left. And what she put will have a ripple effect in the Kingdom of God. A little.

They came to Jesus and they brought things and gave it to Jesus and they started a ministry. Little things my dear brothers and sisters. Don't despise the little things, stay little. A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. If you desire to become rich before your time, (I am not saying that God will not bless you), but if you desire to become rich before your time, it will not be good. This is the prayer that you should pray, like John the Baptist, 'Lord, I should receive nothing unless it has been given from You from Heaven.' In fact I should decrease and He has to increase. Little!

Many of you because you think that you are little you are lazy like that lazy servant. Do you know what God calls him? You wicked and slothful servant. Great wisdom is in little things, my dear brothers and sisters. So stay little and enjoy life. A little that a righteous man has. Look at what it says in *Psalm 131*,

Psalm 131:1-2

¹LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. ²Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

Little child, small things, God will bless you if you are faithful. That is the reason why it says, if you are faithful in little things you will be faithful in big things. What does it mean? You are content with whatever little that you have; you are

not comparing yourself to the one who is on the right and to the one who is on the left. You are actually happy and you say, 'Good for you my dear brother. Good for you my dear sister,' and you know what you will do? You will be like an ant; you will put your head down and you will work. You will enjoy other people's success and you will do your own work. That is what we call as complimenting. You see, little. So you know what God says in *Deuteronomy 7*,

Deuteronomy 7:7

⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least (littlest) of all peoples;

He says, 'You were little that is when I brought you out. You were the littlest of all the people. I did not bring you out because you were great and awesome people. And if you stay little you will enjoy. Continue to stay little and you will enjoy My blessing, you will enjoy My protection, you will enjoy My provision in your life.' That is what the widow did, she had a little and she gave it. Everywhere in the Bible you see those little things. God is a God of little things.

The little foxes which destroy. Little sins. God is a God of little, small things. So this morning, let us be little and enjoy blessings. We were that little city, my dear brothers and sisters. But do you know what God did? He sent His Son, who was despised. A great and awesome God, to save mankind He became little. The Bible says – He made Himself of no reputation even though He was equal to God He did not consider equality with God, a thing that has to be grasped. But He made Himself of no reputation, He humbled Himself. Took upon Himself the form of a bondservant, and He was obedient, even to the death on the Cross. And the Bible says, God therefore greatly exalted Him. Jesus has showed us a pattern. He came under absolute headship. He never initiated any action. The Father took inputs from Him and He initiated the action and Jesus followed the pattern and the things that His Father showed Him to do. He came under absolute headship of His Father.

The Bible says – as Christ had God as His head, man has Christ as His head and the woman has man as her head. This is the order in God's creation. Let us be that ram, no matter what the world thinks. Man under Christ, woman under man and children under the authority of their parents. And the Bible says that if you do this your life will be like the life of heaven on earth, because it is God's order. And in this order which is insignificant in the sight of the world there is great wisdom. This is the order of God. Let us never forget that. And if you come in order there will be a time when the Holy Spirit will say, 'Separate unto me Paul and Barnabas for the ministry that I have for them.' You know why? It is because they came under God's ordained authority. And there was a time they were touched and they were sent out into the mission field and they changed the entire gentile world, because they came under God's order. They put their heads down and worked. They cleansed themselves under the teaching of the Word. They came under God's order. And then they became like spiders all around the world and they brought millions and millions of souls. Even now through their teachings they are touching the entire world and it started with that little thing – to come under God's order. Do not despise it. Do not despise God's order. Children do not despise God's order. Wives do not despise God's order. Men, do not despise God's order. Do not initiate anything which God has not started in our lives, because God is not obligated to finish that which He has not started. But if He is the Author of our faith, He is also the Perfecter of our faith. And that only happens when you come under His order.

Let us be little this morning. Let us ask God for the grace. And the only way we can be little, God says, 'I will not humble you, you have to humble yourself. And Ezra humbled himself through fasting and prayer. Young people, humble yourself, come under the authority of the elders, be clothed with humility. Come under the authority of your elders, otherwise there is a lion called the devil, he is like a roaring lion and if you go out of God's order he is there to grasp you and finish you off. You may not lose your salvation, but you will be cut short before your time. You will not finish what God has started in your life. Bible is replete with examples. Josiah messed up, Jehoshaphat messed up, Uzziah messed up and so many others. They forgot God's order; they forgot that they were little.

Shall we pray?

Closing prayer

This morning Lord, help us Lord as a Church. You have placed order in our lives. Simple things you have taught us, through animals and insects. Through insignificant things, but in those insignificant things is great wisdom. Lord we were cities

without walls. We were completely under the assault of the demonic. But You sent a Man, Jesus Christ, who became poor. And in His wisdom He died on the Cross for our sins and He delivered us. And I pray Father that none of us will forget the Cross in our lives. We will hold onto the Cross as we sang this morning. The Cross before me and the world behind me, no turning back. We do not want to be like Isaac who started with the Cross in his life, on the altar but at the end of his life, that little things called food destroyed him and his god became his belly. His belly became his god. And he became the enemy of the Cross. Enable us, O Lord Jesus, never to forget that. Enable us to never forget where you picked us up from. Lord, You were faithful, You protected us, You guarded us, You shielded us. In all these years O Lord Jesus You have been with us. Enable us Lord to find our place in the body of Christ, to be in the rank that You have placed us under. Not to be meddling with things that don't concern us, like Josiah. Not usurping positions which we are not called to like Uzziah. Not allowing compromise in our lives like Jehoshaphat. But Lord, that we will be careful with two things – we will be convicted when You show us little errors, we will put down our head and work. We will hard and we will do that best that we can, to the best of our ability. Whatever our hands find to do we will do it all of our heart. To that end I pray that You would bless us as a church. We might be a little church O Lord, but Lord we do not want to despise littleness because You are able to do exceedingly, abundantly even more than we can ask or even think.

Therefore O Lord, the little that we have enable us to place it in your hands so that You can break it and You multiply it for the glory of God, for the extension of Your Kingdom and for the detrimental of the kingdom of darkness. Thank You Father.

We praise You, we worship You, we give You glory. For in Jesus' mighty name we pray. And all God's children said Amen.

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