

Shattered, Shamed but Restored and Honoured

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Father we just want to thank You this morning for Your goodness. Lord, You are a good God, Your mercy endures forever, this morning O Lord, we come to You in the name of Jesus through the body and the blood of Your Son that You have ordained for us, the New and the living Way that we could come boldly and confidently to the throne room of grace, to obtain mercy and grace in the time of need. This morning Lord even through Your Word, we want to receive from You mercy, we want to receive from You grace and Your Word says O Lord, we have access to both of these by faith and therefore this morning strengthen our faith, strengthen us in our faith. You heard our worship, You heard our prayer, You heard the song that we gave in our offering, this time Lord, we want to hear from You, speak to our hearts, anoint us in the speaking and in the hearing of Your Word, grant us concentration O Lord, we surrender our bodies into Your hands, we thank You, we praise You in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

We've been, if you've been coming through the week, we've been studying and meditating on overcoming fear in these last days. In the Olivet discourse which is recorded in the three gospels in *Matthew 24* and *Luke 21* and also in *Mark 13*. In all of these discourses, there are several different emphasis Jesus places. Men's heart will become colder and colder, they lose love but in the gospel of *Luke 21* this is what He tells His disciples in *verses 10, 11*, this is what He says.

Luke 21:10-11

¹⁰Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences. And what will there be? There will be fearful sights. Unfortunately, one of the unfortunate things about social media is violence, videos of violence have taken over and they just go viral on social media. Fearful sights and then again it goes on to say in the same chapter in *verse 25* onwards. He says

²⁵And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations. Talk about distress now, all nations, it doesn't matter which nation you belong to. From the most prosperous and the freest to the most tyrannical of all nations. One common feature that every nation is going through, every people group is distress, perplexity, confusion and *verse 26* says, and men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of the heavens will be shaken, this is what is going to happen in the last days and all of us at different levels, if not all at least many of us, are crippled by fear and the first category of people who will be outside, who will not be a part of the resurrection and will be part of the second death is in *Revelation 21*

Revelation 21:7-8

⁷He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

He who overcome shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son but the cowardly, the fearful, it starts with that and all the others, the list goes on, they will be in the second death. So, how do we overcome fear? I mean you need to look at the word and say, "Lord I want to overcome." What causes fear? What cripples me? *Romans 2* and I want to look at this verse because this verse is one of the scariest verses when we were here last Sunday. It should have definitely scare you if you were listening carefully. Which part of the message scared you? Anybody there? It is better to die young. That was something which stuck with me. I just want to look at the context of that particular verse to use that as a launching pad for today's meditation. This is the later part of *verse 4*

Romans 2:4-5

⁴Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God should lead you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness you're your impenitent or your unrepentant heart, what are you storing up? Wrath. The goodness of God should lead you to what? Repentance, a change of mind. This is what I wrote. In order for us to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord, it is imperative that we are in a constant state of repentance, changing the way we think and live, to be continuously transformed by the renewal of the mind that we may prove that which is the good, the acceptable and the perfect will of God. It is a continuous transformation of the mind, why because everything ultimately is in the mind. Look at *2 Timothy 1:6, 7* this is what Paul tells Timothy in *verses 6, 7*

2 Timothy 1:6-7

⁶Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

It's in the mind essentially and I wrote this down, a well taught mind. What is a sound mind? A healthy mind. You say sound body, sound mind etc., right? What is a sound mind? It is a healthy mind, a mind which is well taught, a mind which has been disciplined and trained to think the way God thinks. The mind that has demolished all strongholds, presuppositions, prejudices, ideas, arguments which are contrary to the Word of God and has learnt to be sober, where? Sobriety is in the mind, and be calm knowing that God is in control of every situation. That is a sound mind, a healthy mind, a well taught disciplined mind and not a mind which is wavering all over the place. You know our minds are like a cluster, it is so difficult for us to focus steadily on one particular thing. This mobile phone has messed us up, right? You know there is something called as, recently I have heard thing called as when you fast, your body detoxifies, right? And there is another recent term which has come up in health care circles, it is called digital detox. You detox yourself from social media, from YouTube, from Facebook, throw it. I mean think about it, several years, even when I was doing my engineering, we never had access to internet, we had to go to the internet center for twenty-five rupees for an hour and things are so completely different now. Everybody is hooked unto a gadget; a digital detox is needful. We need that because a mind that has been focused, a sound, why am I saying that? Because it is there in the mind. God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore, it says in *2 Corinthians 10* we know these verses very well.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 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,

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, what do we do? Casting down arguments, imaginations, etc., where are they? Here. As a man thinks so is he. A sound mind, a well taught, well trained, disciplined mind. Because where your mind goes first, your body follows, you know that very well. Present in the body but absent in the mind, so many people. Your mind is not here, it is Somewhere, loitering in some place, anxious thoughts. Look at this another famous, I mean love this verse, so many times I read it. *1 Peter 4:1*

1 Peter 4:1

¹Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

You don't want to waste time. So, that stronghold that literally cripples us is fear and followed by shame. Many of us have not gone ahead in our walk with the Lord because we have been crippled by fear, we have been crippled by shame and condemnation and we have not been completely delivered from that but the Bible says, God has not given the spirit of fear but of power of love and of a sound mind and it says categorically, we have the mind of Christ. It is a categorical statement. The stronghold of fear, a mind that has been paralyzed because of the stronghold of fear and shame especially in the eastern culture. We are a culture of shame; 'stand up on the bench'. That's what we do, right? 'Let everybody see.'

Only two careers are acceptable, first Doctor, second Engineer, why? Doctor is more difficult to get, few number seats. I remembered when I got a rank in my EAMCET and I was going to join college, my friend and I got the same rank, that fellow got in medicine, I got in Engineering. So, I got a seat, that fellow couldn't get into medicine because the number of seats were very less, those days very few seats okay, two thousand five hundred rank, you will get civil engineering. So, I went to his home and I said, 'Aunty I got seat in engineering.' She said, 'You are engineers, very easy. My son Doctor, very difficult.' I said, 'Baba, so, what should I do now?' I told my mother, by that time I was already telling my mother, 'Mama, I want to be a doctor,' and my mother said, 'You cannot handle being a doctor. You are an engineer.' Only two careers are acceptable, either doctor or engineer, otherwise you are ayyo (what a pity). What happened to you, you did not get through engineering? Which college? Nizam college? Oh no.BSc?Ayyo! What a pity!Commerce? what will happen to you?Don't give up. This is our eastern culture. Most of the things that are done are hidden even in our culture, several things are hidden and they are not brought to the light because of the fear of what people think about us, especially our weddings. We will take loans to have the most ostentatious wedding and for the rest of the life we are paying debts, why? Ayyo, what will people think? See, I'll tell you something. They all did not think anything and none of them are praying for your marriage, they just came, had a nice meal and forgot everything about it.

So, I'm telling you for the next couple who wants to get married, give them tea, biscuit, and Pastor and I, I think I can take the liberties for that, we will come and solemnize your wedding without any issues. Set a trend, I remembered the guy who has Chai 360, Benny, he said, "We went in an auto to our wedding, we spent nothing on our wedding, nobody died." because we are a shame culture my dear brothers, we are crippled by the fear of what people think about us. Young people, we want to be known among our people, your peers. All the toppers will have one peers group, all the backbenchers will have one peer group, all the middle fellows they will have one peer group. The problem with fear is, it is one of the stumbling blocks to faith. Perfect love casts out every fear and we have been listening to all that teachings, right? In *Mark 4*

Mark 4:40

⁴⁰But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

Why did you fear, where is your faith? Look at what it says in *John 5:44*,

John 5:44

⁴⁴How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

This is my rendering; how can you believe unto repentance who receive the honor from one another and will not receive the honor or the glory that comes from the only God? You see, fear cripples your hear, cripples you from following God, cripples you and does not cause you to repent because you will be wandering, you are scared as to what your parents will think, friends will think, your peer group will think.

John 9:18-22

¹⁸ **But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.** ¹⁹ **And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"**²⁰ **His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;** ²¹ **but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."** ²² **His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.**

An ostensible miracle has taken place, an impossibility has happened in your midst, to your own family members, in your own home, something impossible, you gave up on your son, this is John's gospel 9 - **but the Jews did not believe concerning him, a man born blind, that he who had been blind received the sight until they called the parents of him who had received his sight and they asked them, is this your son who you say was born blind, how then does he see?** What should they say? You should be happy, right? Their son, he was blind he could not see, we are Jews, we like signs and wonders and miracles and miracle has taken place in our midst, praise God, somebody did something remarkable, they should have had a celebration in that town, the synagogue should have gone on a seven day feast not fast but what happened? Hey, please come here, parents come here. Is this your son? Look at the parents confessions about their own son and what crippled them. Look at this. **His parents answered them and said, we know that is our son.** Okay, very sure, you can a DNA analysis also, no problem, but look ma no hands, as far as this miracle is concerned we don't know. **But by what means he now see we do not know or who opened his eyes we do not know. He's of age please ask him,** we are not responsible.

Think about it, your son has been failing and failing and failing and you gave up on him and one day that fellow cracks IIT JEE and gets number fifty rank, what will you do? Look man, no hands, I do not know what happened. You will say, no, no we prayed, we sent him to Chai-Na we sent him to this, we sent him to that coaching, we fasted and today but look at this guy. Fear. Look at what it says, it's remarkable. His parent said these things because they fear the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confess that He was the Christ, if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth, that means what, fear paralyzes your salvation. Your door way to salvation is shut because of fear because they don't want to be put out of the Synagogue. What use of that Synagogue which will not be happy of sinners repenting and coming to the Lord, what is that Synagogue? Another example, fear. You're almost at the verge of salvation but you will still not cross the line, you know why? Fear. *John 12*

John 12:42

⁴² **Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;**

Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him. That is what Jesus says, "If you confess Me before men, I will also confess you before My Father, if you do not confess Me, I will not also confess you before My Father." I remember Nabeel Qureshi when he was saved, he came to David Wood and he said, "David, I want to get baptized." Then David said, "Okay, I will do one thing, I will baptize you no problem but please go and tell your parents that now you are a Christian." He said, "No that would be a big commotion. No, my dad will go crazy, let it be a secret baptism." Then David said, "I will do one thing, I will pray that your parents will come to know that you are going to get baptized." You know what happened? He just left his door open and his computer was on and he was not in his house, his parents came to visit and then they opened the door and just sat, Nabeel was not around and the chat was going on, "Congratulations Nabeel, you are going to be baptized," "Yeay, yeay, yeay." Father saw it, mother saw it and after a while he came in and he said, "Abba, amma," their faces turned pale, "You're getting baptized?" And you know at that time, he said, "I got this verse into my mind -if you don't confess Me before men, I will not confess you before My Father."

How many of us are ashamed, that's the reason you know what, Paul says, I'm not ashamed of the Gospel. I am not ashamed of the Gospel. I care two-hoots as to what you think about me. If I have to look for the approval of men, I should not be a servant of Christ, I should not be. What paralyzed Peter from becoming, truly a complete apostle, fear of what his peers will think about him. See, the Bible has several paradigms, I want to learn from that man, this man is a man who is being literally cripple, when I say literally, I mean literally. Literally crippled by fear and shame.

Let me introduce that man to you this morning. Very careful construction of the verse, you should look at the verse construction, look at what it says this is found in 2 Samuel 4:4,

2 Samuel 4:4

⁴Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

Look at the name Mephibosheth where it is mentioned. This happened, this happened, this happened, Mephibosheth. And I just wanted to make sure, I want to look at different translations except the New Living Translation every other translation. Every other translation has the same rendering Mephibosheth being mentioned at the end. This is just for your perusal, this is NIV, the modern NIV, this happened, this happened, this happened, his name was Mephibosheth. When is he mentioned? At the end. This is the English standard version, the scholars version, so, we do not want to offend scholars and theologians. Okay let us see them. This happened, this happened, this happened, and his name is Mephibosheth. Now, I like the NASB because the liberals hate it and whatever the liberals hate I love, so this is NASB. This happened, this happened, this happened, and his name was Mephibosheth. In other words, he was not supposed to be Mephibosheth, something happened to him and I want to prove that to you.

A man who is crippled. *Romans 15* before I unpack what Mephibosheth means.

Romans 15:4

⁴For whatever things were written before were written for our learning that through the patience and the comfort of Scriptures might have hope.

What do we have, you know what? Say, hope. Hope, my dear brothers. Have you seen Shawshank redemption? How many of you watched Shawshank redemption? I'm not ashamed to watch it any other time, one of the best movies, I've seen my entire life. You know what, it's about a prison break and you know what keeps a man in prison and still hopeful, and still alive in his endeavors and makes him sane is hope. And he says, 'If you don't have hope you will go crazy and insane.' Now, think about it, many of us are going through the trial of our lives and you are saying, "Lord!" you know what is the hope? "One day all this will be over and I will be on the other side, all my tears will be wiped out," that is the hope. Am I right? If that hope is not there, you know what will happen to us, we will go insane. So, what does Mephibosheth mean? Mephibosheth comes from two Hebrew words, the first part means shattered, the second part means shamed. Shattered shamed and therefore, crippled. You know what, the actual one of the renderings, Mephibosheth literally means, from the mouth of shame. I was thinking Lord, will anybody name their son shame? What is your name? Vijay, who gave you this name? Your parents; one day, this guy is going to be victorious, Vijay. Even though I was very not Vijay, so many times but one day I will become that, definitely Vijay. My brother's name is Hrishi, meaning he is saint.

I remember I took my brother when he was a kid to my friend's place, we was a small fellow okay. We used to have real fun when we were kids. And I took him, he went there, he messed up their entire house, he pooped there a little and then my aunt, my friend's name is ThirivikramDoosa, his brother is an orthopedician surgeon in Germany, a big guy, a genius, genius family, all my friends were genius family. So, I took him there, that fellow messed up the entire home and after the entire thing and we were living, and she asked me, "What is your brother's name?" I said, "Hrishi," and she looked at me and she said, "Hey, who named you Hrishi? You should have been called 'Rakshashi' (devil)".

Think about it, will you name your son Rakshasa, Rhamana, Asara, will you say that? No, there should be punch even in the name. That is the reason why powerstar, megastar, rebel star, what star! Now, all the star dictionary is over now. Now, who is this guy? Who is Mephibosheth? The first thing that we see is, he belongs to the household of Saul. I will come to Mephibosheth, Mephibosheth is not Mephibosheth okay, this is the Holy Spirit's saying of Mephibosheth. It was not supposed to be Mephibosheth, it was something else. He became Mephibosheth. *1 Samuel 15:23* onwards. He belongs to the household of Saul. He is a type of all of us, we had a God-given destiny but something happened to us,

when we were tender, or even because of our birth, naturally we were born in Adam and who is Adam, he is the quintessential rebel, the first betrayer.

So, Mephibosheth is a type, a type of a person who is born in the household of Adam. So, what does he belong to? He belong to the household of Saul, Saul who lost the anointing, the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and the evil spirit from God is tormenting him and now he is born in that family and that is the spirit which is influencing that family. He belongs to the household of rebellion, the household that is under the influence of witchcraft and these are not my words, these are the very words of God and look at how he substantiates, why he had to go under the influence of witchcraft and rebellion.

1 Samuel 15:23

²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.²⁴Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

For rebellion is as a sin of witchcraft. See, I'm telling you something, if your children are rebels, or you are a rebel, I do not care what qualifications you have to prove that you are a genius but I'll tell you something, you are a clever devil, categorically. You are an intelligent, smart rebel, son of Satan. Look at what it says and ***stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry, because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He also has rejected you.*** Look at the words of Saul, ***then Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned, I have transgressed the commandments of the Lord and your words because I feared.*** Because I feared. What will people think about me. You know what, Saul was one fellow who is zealous for people. You should think very good about me, anything for you to think great about me, so I will kill even the Gibeonites. In his zeal for the people of Judah and Israel and not his zeal for the Lord, no. He belongs to the household of rebellion.

2 Samuel 4:4

4. . . and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

The second thing, he was entrusted into the arms of the one who trembled in the time of crisis. He was entrusted into the arms of the one who trembled in the time of crisis and I was thinking about this entire verse, one incident that happened in Pastor James' life and he shared it in different platforms, so it's public knowledge, I'm quoting him. When Andrew was a very small, so he liked to run and play so he carried Andrew in one of his arms, the right arm, and he rushed and he slipped and he fell but even when he was falling, he was so conscious about it, he somehow flipped arms, put him on the other hand, fell down, his arm got fractured but Andrew was safe but Pastor James broke his arm and passed out.

But this lady, when the time of crisis came, she made haste and she trembled. Warning to our parents, crisis will come and children, very young children have been entrusted into your hands, how you respond at the time of crisis will greatly influence the spiritual influences that manipulate the child. I want to look at a parallel example when there was a crisis where somebody was very tender was entrusted into the father's hand but how he handled it. *Matthew 2.* This is Herod, wanting to kill all the children below the age of two. This is what it says,

Matthew 2:13

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt. Was he safe? Absolutely. Many parents have destroyed the children, they are crippled by so many unwanted fears, you know why? Because in the time of crisis, the parents fell apart. Why do these things happen? This is what I wrote, the trusted arms gave way because the foundation upon which it rested collapsed, why? Saul heard and did not obey.

Matthew 7:26-27

²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

But everyone who hears these sayings of mine and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Who is this guy? He heard but he did not do. Rains will come, floods will come, boy you think your crisis that is coming into your life is crisis, wait for the next one. Out of the frying pad, into the furnace, from the furnace into the blast furnace, blast furnace seven time over until you are purged seven times, how many of you can say amen to that. No, brother please, everything should happen smoothly in my life Lord and one day I should be raptured. It doesn't happen. And as a result of all this, this tender boy fell and what happened to him? He was shattered, he was traumatized, he was split. But what was the spiritual destiny of Mephibosheth? What was he supposed to be? Who gave him this name Mephibosheth. Saul had one son, that fellows name is Ishbosheth. You know what Ishbosheth means? Man of shame. That means, what is your name? Shame, shame. Who names somebody Ishbosheth. I was just doing an analysis of this particular name, I wanted to know, what is this? How can someone name somebody Mephibosheth. It is not the name the parents gave, he became that because of a crisis in his life. What was his actual name. let me show you. *1 Chronicles 8:34; 9:40*

1 Chronicles 8:34

³⁴The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah.

1 Chronicles 9:40

⁴⁰The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah.

You know what Ishbosheth's actual name? Eshbaal. You know what Esh means? Fire. What Baal means the gods of this world. The one who will put fire on the gods of this world. What does Merib-Baal mean? Meri means contender. Baal means the gods of this world. The person who is supposed to contend with the gods of the world. That was your spiritual destiny. That is the destiny of many of us here including myself, Merib-Baal, the one who contends with the enemy. He's supposed to be an arrow in the hands of the mighty warrior who will shoot the arrows and contend with the enemy at the gates and not be ashamed. That was your destiny, but what destroyed you? because you belong to that house. And where are you right now? Where have you placed yourself.

2 Samuel 9:4

⁴So, the king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.”

And the king said to him, where is he?” Where is the son? And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar. You know what the word Lo Debar means? Debar means word or pasture, Lo Debar means, no pasture, no word. Where are you right now? You have been captivated by the Devil so that the Word of God will not reach you, you have been captivated by the Devil so that you will not be led back into green pastures where you can be fed and shepherded and find your God given destiny but thank God for his promise. One from a tribe, two from a country He will bring us all together and what will He give us, shepherds after His own heart. He's at the place where there is no word; so many places.

Churches are unfortunately where there are all Lo Debars. Unfortunate, it is not an indictment on any church, Lo Debars, places where you cannot find pasture, there is no Word, there is no authentic Word, there is no anointed Word, there is no anointed teaching and as a result, he is cut off from the love of the king. He doesn't even know that the king loves him. He is cut off from the kindness of the king, he doesn't even know that the king wants to show kindness to him. He's cut off from the covenants of God. He doesn't know that he's already in a covenant relationship with God. He is cut off from his God given inheritance and what is happening. He is hiding at a place where the Word of God cannot reach him. Why? Crippled. As a result, he has lost all his hope and what is he doing now? Living in constant fear, fear of being found out, fear of being exposed, that someone is going to blow the cover and one day he's going to be destroyed. Some of us

are living like that, your secret life is in shambles when nobody is watching. You are addicted to stuff that you cannot even express, you are ashamed of it now and you are living in constant fear. How is this man going to be restored? How is he going to be delivered from this trauma, from this shattered life? Is there hope? There is. But let us see ourselves in this man first. What was our condition? *Ephesians 2:11* onwards,

Ephesians 2:11-13

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Therefore, remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hand that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. The next verse will say but God, thank You Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for all the 'but God' in the Bible. So, how is he going to be restored? *2 Samuel 9* let's read it. This is thirteen verses, let's read it.

2 Samuel 9:1-5

¹ Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ² And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So, when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" He said, "At your service!" ³ Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet."⁴ So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

Now David said, Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" He said, "At your service!" what is your service? His service is this. Going around everywhere, making a note of all their faults. Rittu did this, Abigail did this, Mahima did this, Kruthika did this, full record. You've got a database now, it is not only data, it is bigdata. So, you need algorithms now, artificial intelligence to find out all the things that you have done. What is his name? Ziba. He's a first-class son of Satan, Satan's son. He's coming from the mouth of Satan. He's a crafty fellow and he's at your service.

The sons of God all appeared, this fellow also appeared. This fellow Satan also appeared. Everybody thought he's also one of the sons of God, nobody recognized but who recognized? God. "Hey, come here, Satan, do you consider My servant Job, My child? Wow!" "At Your service, can I tell You something? You know what he did? You know why he does this to You? You know why he serves You? You know why he fears You? Because You blessed him so much. Take away all his blessings, he will curse You to Your face. At Your service." "Okay, do one thing, remove everything, remove all the edges." "I was waiting for this opportunity, at Your service."

One man of God said, "If you become a gossip, you are 'at your service' for the devil. You are devil's servant." Devil calls you, whatever your name is, "Mr X. come here," "At your service." Find out what this fellow, this fellow did, hack his email etc." "At your service," Ziba, the classic accuser of the brethren. He opposes the will of God in your life and look at what the heart of David is. David 's heart is fantastic okay, David typifies God the Father. It is very interesting, it is beautiful in what Acts 13 records about David. **David fulfilled God's purpose in his generation and he rested with his fathers.** He fulfilled all the will of God and also God's purpose in his generation. In Telugu it is interesting, you know what 'udesham means?' He fulfilled the intentions of God in his generation. The intentions of God. He knew the intent of God's heart. David fulfilled the, what of God? The intentions of God in his generation. Do you know the intentions of God?

Let me tell you, one of the intentions of God. That every one of your unsaved loved ones should be saved, should come to the knowledge of Christ, that is the reason why He is long suffering. Why? His will is that no one should perish but all

should be brought to repentance. Is that your heart? Do you fast and pray, at least one meal a day, one meal a week? One meal a week, and go on your knees before God and say, "Lord, time is clicking Lord, eternity is right at the verge, so many of my family doesn't know you. What about them? The intentions of God. Look at what David says. ***Then the king said, is there not still someone in the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness and Ziba said, there is still a son, Jonathan's son who is lame, crippled.***

I wrote this down— It is God who came in search for us, we were not searching for God. It is God who found us, we did not find Him. It is God who chose us and called us, we did not choose Him. It is God who loved us first, notwithstanding the fact that we were without strength, lame, that we were ungodly, without any interest in God, that we were sinners and we were enemies of God. He sent His Son to die for us. That is the story of the Bible. It is God who came in search for His people. He was in the world; the world did not know Him. He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. He went in search of Adam, "Adam, Adam where are you?" He went in search for that one lost sheep that went astray, got deceived and strayed away from the flock. He went in search for that one woman who was living in shame and fear, ostracized by society and rejected by men. He went in search of two demoniac on the other side, a man who is oppressed completely taken captive by the Devil to do his will. He had compassion and delivered and searched out for him.

God is a God who searches for individuals. He went in search of a man who heard that he was a cripple for thirty-eight years. God did not change, the God of Israel did not change, He is still in search for each and every one of us this morning. Do you believe that? Some of you are in very good godly homes, nice comfortable homes, you do not know what is happening. You don't even the words that are coming out of my mouth because you are in a protected environment. If you seek Him, what is your answer? I'll tell you something, if you seek Him, He will be found of you. Because He wants to be found but then there is Ziba, a crafty, double-tongue son of Satan. He will give the king reasons as to why this man does not deserve mercy. He opposes the purposes of God and stands against the people of God and points fingers at their sins. He is the classic subtle accuser of the brethren. But you know what, he is insistent. The king said, "Is there still not one son that I might show the kindness of God?" ***verse 4 the king said to him, where is he? Ziba said to the king, indeed he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel in Lo Debar. Then the king sent and brought him, out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar.***

Now think about it. This guy is living in hiding and one day, a knock on the door. Thud, thud thud, "Open up!" "Who is there?" "The king's soldiers." Gone, BP one seventy by hundred, heart-rate one-twenty. His heart is beating against his chest. Am I being found out, am I found out. Somebody blew the cover but let me tell you something, the kindness of God, the love of God will hound you, will find you no matter how far away you have strayed from God. Do you believe that and most of the times we might fear in our response but let me assure you, this is what it says in *Romans 8:31*

Romans 8:31-34

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

You know therefore, David a type of God the Father, Jonathan a type of Christ who laid down his life for his friend, a type of Christ and for the sake of Jonathan, for the sake of Jesus, for the sake of the life that laid down, a perfect sinless life that was laid down, God the Father is going to show kindness for the sake of His Son a type of Jonathan here and He will find you and this Jonathan, Jesus Christ sitting at the right hand of God and what is he doing? Interceding for us. You know there is a rescue operation, an Israel rescue operation I'm sure many of you will know about this. It is called the operation thunderbolt or something, rescue from Entebbe. There was an air France flight which was hijacked by Palestinian terrorists and it was taken to a place called Entebbe where Idi-amin was the president of Uganda those days and they had to rescue this people. How many of you know the story, project Entebbe? So many of you know. For all the people who do not know the story okay, for the young children this is a fantastic story.

The story was that this man, they knew that hundred and three Israeli soldiers have been hijacked, they are there in Entebbe now. So what did they do? They plan a rescue operation. They get a limousine and they put a Uganda flag. And they have 3-4 army vans and a bunch of high commander soldiers, they plan this rescue operation and the person who

headed this operation, his name was Yonatan Netanyahu, an Israel Defense Forces Officer. The brother of Benjamin Netanyahu. They go to Entebbe, they fly at a very low altitude and they escape the radar, they finish off all the terrorists, all the Uganda soldiers, they rescue all the people, except one casualty; Jonathan dies. Jonathan dies in that operation.

This is a rescue operation literally, Mephibosheth has been hijacked by the devil. And Jonathan has laid down his life, and before he laid down his life he entered into a covenant with his friend, David, and he said, 'David, will you show kindness to my family? My brothers, my sons, for my sake.' David said, 'You laid down your life and I am going to show kindness. You know, therefore, what we can say?'

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The love of God will find you. You know why? It is because of the covenant that He made with His Son in the New Covenant, 'for Your sake I AM going to show kindness.' To the household of Saul. How is Saul? He is your enemy. When we were enemies, when we were sinners, when we were without God, when we were ungodly, and without strength He still loved us.

Where is he? He is sold and sold at a place where the Word can't reach him. There is no accuser, no opposer, no principality, no demonic entity which can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. And that is how restoration takes place, the first step is that God finds us. We don't find God, but God finds us.

2 Samuel 9:6

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

I just wrote this down, 'Are you Mephibosheth here? Are you the one who is shattered? Traumatized? Broken? Fearful, crippled, helpless, hopeless? Are you at a place where you thought that the Word cannot reach you? A pasture-less place, dry, cold, a living dread? You were supposed to be Meribaal, who was supposed to have a destiny, who should cause the powers of darkness to tremble, who was supposed to content with baals of this world. Have you become Mephibosheth today? Are you in the slum of despond? The cares and the anxieties and the fears of this world have crippled you. Shattered by people, who said that they will love you and they gave up on you.'

It happens a lot in India. Boy and girl fall in love, everything has happened now. Everything. Now the time of marriage has to come, "Please tell your mom and dad, we will get married." "Marriage? What will my mommy say?" Everything has already happened, now suddenly mommy is coming to your mind? Mommy?

Shattered. So many people are shattered. I have seen. I have seen in top universities, people heart-broken because they have been betrayed by their so-called people who said, 'I will live with you forever.' 'We are lovers forever.' So ultimately they will sing this song, 'Sesha ho ya dil ho, akhir toot hi jatha hein.' Toot gaya, piece-piece ho gaya. Betrayed in a marriage, betrayed by six people in the marriage. Everyone took a part of your soul. You have been shattered. Are you Mephibosheth? What will your answer be? What will your response be this morning? Will you prostrate before the feet of the Son of David, who will never reject the cry of mercy? Will you cry out in desperation and say, 'Son of David have mercy on me'? When the voices that raise up in your mind, that try to silence you saying, 'You are so unworthy,' will you rise above those voices and shout even louder and say, "Son of David, have mercy upon me"?

Luke 5:8-9

⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

Do you know what the response of David is?

2 Samuel 9:7

⁷ So David said to him, (the first words that come out of David) “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”

First words – do not fear.

Do you know what Jesus says to Peter, who sees this incredible catch of fish? What are the first words that come out of Jesus’ mouth?

Luke 5:10

¹⁰ and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”

Don’t be afraid, don’t fear. Do you know why? I have accepted you. Over. If I accepted you, it doesn’t matter if 2500 people have not accepted you. Don’t care. Think about it. What happened to Joseph? Joseph was sold by his brothers, he was accused falsely by his master’s wife. Now after several years where is he? He is in the highest position as a Prime Minister of Egypt. Now think about it. Who gave him the position? Pharaoh, the highest authority in the land. What is his name? Zaphenath- Paneah; the revealer of dreams. What if 2500 people he is a molester, does it matter? It does matter. ‘but do you know what he did?’ ‘but do you know what he did?’ ‘Hey bro, you want food? You will have to beg him. So shut your mouth,’ even Pharaoh’s son, ‘Dad, I do not have food.’ “Go and ask Joseph.” That is his position.

“I will show you kindness.” The second thing he says is, “I will surely show you kindness, for the sake of Jonathan.”

Titus 3:3-5

³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. We were hated and we hated one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, did Mephibosheth do one thing? Nothing, **but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

So first thing what does he do? He says, “Do not fear!” second, you know what, “I will surely show you kindness, not for your sake, but for the sake of Jonathan.” Third, “I will restore your inheritance.”

What is last year’s promise? **Joel 2:25** ²⁵ **“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.**

How many of you have been fully restored? It is still happening. You know one of the things that I do? I hold onto last year’s promise, the promise of the previous year, and the promises all the way from 2008. You might have forgotten them. But I have not forgotten. You think if the year is over the promise is gone. No. No. This is the Word of God; it is forever settled in the heavens. They are time bound, but they will happen in time for sure. ***I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten...***

And the fourth thing – “You will eat bread at my table, (how?) continually.” You know what? That is exactly what is happening to all of us. I remember 15 years back, 2006 January, everything in my life came to a standstill. The labs were closed, professors’ doors were closed. Emails were closed. And what are you? fantastic credentials. Everything was closed. I was like, “Lord, what is happening with me?” and I was literally walking down the streets of Montreal. I was walking and walking down, and Saint Catherine Street. To the left I find a Barnes and Noble. It is a book store. I was like, ‘Okay, let me just go in,’ I was walking down the street with almost nothing in my pockets. I went into the book store and I was browsing through the Bible section. Two KJV Bibles; one small and the other big one. I looked at them and thought, ‘When was the last time I read the Bible? 356*3 at least.’ And the Lord told me, “Take the Bible, KJV.” So I took the two KJV Bibles. I do not know why I bought two bibles. I just took those two, went to the counter, paid for it and went back to my room. From morning to evening I read. I was like, what book should I start reading? Pastor usually says, ‘start from the New Testament,’ but I wanted to read Jeremiah for some reason. I was like, okay let me read Jeremiah,

because somebody in my family said, 'Don't read Jeremiah you will never understand.' So if somebody says, 'You will never understand,' I like to start with that first. So I was like I will start reading Jeremiah. I opened the book of Jeremiah, and started reading and the Bible started speaking to me loud and clear. The Voice of the Word of God thundering in my heart – *“My people have forsaken Me, the fountains of living water, and have hewn for themselves cisterns; broken cisterns which can hold no water.”*

I was like, 'Lord, that is me.' I read and read and read, *Jeremiah 29:11 – 'I have plans to prosper you and not to harm you but to give you a hope and a future and an expected end.'* And you know what, from that day onwards, for the next six months, the only two books I had was those two KJV Bibles, I went to every library in town, not to read the books in the library, but to read my Bible. I underlined every page, that Bible is in shred right now. I showed it to my children, they know that. It is there in my repertoire to remind me what brought me back to the Lord. And after six month, all the doors were closed, the Lord told me, 'Pack your bags and leave.' I packed my bags, I had sufficient money, one-way ticket back to India. And when I come back to India, I call my friend, my batch-mate from IIT. We got baptized on the same day. I called him and said, "Hey I am back home. Back from Canada." He said, "Oh! Vijay, Vijay, Vijay, we have to meet, man. We have to meet." That guy was excited. I didn't know why he was excited. I said, "Okay, we shall meet up for lunch." And after two days we met up for lunch and those days he was working in a good company, so at his expense he gave me a lavish lunch and he said, "Vijay, you've got to meet my pastor, you've got to meet my pastor."

I said, "Okay okay, okay. I just came back from Canada." There is this saying in Telugu which translates, the tamarind id dead but its sourness is still not gone. I was still making plans. I said, "I'll come to your church, don't worry. Just don't disturb me, I still don't have clarity as to where I am going now." He was like, "Vijay, Vijay, you have to come man! You have to come." He was persuading me, so I was like, "Okay I will come. I'll come." But in those days, habits die hard, I was a lab-man; 24/7 in the lab. So when I came back to India so went to a GATE coaching center and I was teaching for GATE those days, and by default I was working on Sundays too. One of those Sundays, because the coaching center was closed, and I did not know, I went to the coaching center and they said, 'No class.' I was not informed. So I was like, 'Okay there is time,' I called my friend and he was like, "Vijay, Vijay, where are you man?" "I am in Ameerpet." "Our church is in Somajiguda! It is very close. Come, come, come." So I went, it was March 2007, just before Good Friday.

I entered into the hall, it was not a closed hall, it was a shamianah kind of a place. I entered into the hall and I sat on a chair, one pastor was there, a big man, he was preaching and praying. He was the pastor. I was waiting and waiting and then the pastor announces, 'Pastor James will come and preached the Word, as to what God laid in his heart.' The Pastor James walks and I hear the Word for the first time after several years. I said, "Boy! I have never heard anything like this before." And then I knew why my friend was excited. But his excitement did not last for a long time. That is a different story. You know what happened after that? This was 2007 March during Good Friday, Easter was over, everything was over, 2007 we got married, 2008 our church started and I am the prisoner of Christ. Not GTC, but of Christ. And you know what, God took every bit of energy, all the days that I did not go to church, He restored it. And now I have come to a time, where even if I get up in the morning and say, 'I don't want to go to church,' you know what my wife will say, "You are the pastor, you have to go." You see? Restored. Where am I? Eating bread continually.

Jesus says, 'I AM the Bread of Life,'

John 6:35

³⁵ ***And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger,*** in other words – you will have bread continually. 'I am feeling hungry.' Okay, take bread. 'I am feeling hungry' "Okay take bread." Whenever you say that you are hungry He will fill you, ***and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.***

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they will be satisfied.

2 Samuel 9:8-10

⁸ ***Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"*** Another word for 'shattered' is 'contrite'. Now this man has become contrite. He knows that he does not deserve it.

⁹ ***And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. ¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always. ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to***

all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do.” “As for Mephibosheth,” said the king, “he shall eat at my table like one of the king’s sons.” What a statement!

This is what I wrote – the same servants who kept you as a slave of sin, a slave of fear and he never allowed the good Word of the Lord to come to you, and kept you out of your inheritance and the promises of God for your life. They will become your servants who will till the land and bring your inheritance.

Romans 6:12-14

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

You are out of the clutches, now what has happened to your instruments? They have become the slaves of righteousness. Look at what it says in *Romans 6*,

Romans 6:17-18

¹⁷But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

That is the fifth thing that will happen to you.

2 Samuel 9:12-13

¹²Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king’s table. And he was lame in both his feet.

What does that mean? What does Jerusalem mean? Now he has come to a point, he is saved, he is rescued, he has repented, he has come back to the table, now he is at a place called Jerusalem. Do you know what Jerusalem means? A teaching which causes you to become perfect and complete. What does that mean? A teaching that causes you to become perfect and complete. Why?

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

What is happening? Slowly you have been delivered, you have been accepted, you have been shattered, now what he is doing is, He is slowly binding you up; He is putting all the broken pieces of your life together. You know something? I remember Shibu telling me something very interesting. He said, “You know Vijay, our lives are sometimes like that thread which becomes entangled and if I have to make it straight now, I have to remove one knot at a time and it is a long process, when one is being pulled out, the other knot becomes tight and when that is being untied something else is being tightened, slowly and carefully everybody want deliverance, one day it is not going to happen, Vijay, you have to be at that for a long time and slowly God will take out all the entanglements in your life and He is make to straight. Be at a place, don’t leave Jerusalem. What is Jerusalem? It is not the name of the church, but a place where you have teaching which will cause you to become perfect, complete so that you have need of nothing.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Stay! Don’t run away. You have been restored, but stay until you are complete. Remember, this man who was a cripple? Jesus heals him and after that He finds him in the temple and he says, “See, you have been made whole, do not sin

anymore, otherwise something worse will happen to you.” That is the second instruction, the first instruction is – *pick up your mat and walk*. Everybody listens to the first instruction, gets excited and does their own thing. You do not wait to the second instruction. What is the second instruction? You have been made whole. You have been restored. Stay in the place of teaching, stay in the place of anointing. Stay in the place of protection, stay in the place of warning, stay in the place of discipline. Be fed continually, fill yourself with the Word of God. Be empowered with the Spirit, come under the discipline of the Church, whatever the church ordains go for that; if the church says, ‘Go on a seven day fast, go on a seven day fast. Inculcate all these spiritual disciplines, so that you may be complete, so that something worse will not happen to you.

The problem is that Lot has been taken captive by the devil to do his will. Abraham comes and rescues him, what should he do? ‘Uncle, I learnt my lesson uncle, I am sorry I left your household and I have gone to a place where there is no teaching. Please forgive me. My family and I, we don’t want this wealth, we don’t want a name in Sodom, we don’t want anything in Sodom, we want to come back and be a part of you.’ Did he say that? No. what has happened? Something worse has happened. Something worse, and what is this worse? He lost his entire next generation. He has lost his family, lost his wife, lost his children, lost his wealth, lost everything that he had. Do you know why? Because he left the place of teaching. It is a warning for all of us.

You will have so many pressures. You know what? For so many people are tied up. I remember a dialogue in ‘DilWale Dulhaniya le Jayenge’ (I am not recommending that movie) but in that first scene this guy is a business man in London, and why is he in London, he says, ‘My heart is that I should be in Punjab, my homeland. But I am here, you know why?’ he makes a very powerful statement, he says, ‘Roti Peharon ka janjir bangaya’ it means, I have to earn food for my family and that has crippled me and made me lame in my legs. Janjir means chains. “I have to feed my family! I have to feed my family! What will happen to my family? What will happen to my family?” so what has happened? “I cannot go back to my home town, I cannot go back to my place because you know what roti has become janjir. Roti peharon ka janjir bangaya, what a dialogue that is!

So many people are entangled. What will happen to my family? What will happen to their education? Will they get into IIT? Will they get into JEE? Mathematics Olympiad? Etc,etc like me. I teach my children in Christian school, but I actually think like Chi-Na so many times. I’m worried, “What will happen?” Every time my daughter comes to me with a problem and says, “Daddy I did not understand this,” I say, ‘In IIT exam if you didn’t understand this, do you know what is coming?’ so that worry is there and I get frustrated, ‘How can you not understand such simple things?’ we are still entrapped. We still have hopes in the world. You know something, I was talking to Pastor Eric, we were discussing something and he was saying something very interesting, “Pastor, I have seen so many people in the church, they have so much of hopes in the world, they have actually not given up hope in the world even though the world has betrayed them so many times.” What a statement! You know that stuck to me. The world has betrayed them so many times but they still have not given up hope in the world.

Sodom has betrayed you, Sodom has taken your children captive, Sodom has made you lame, completely useless in the Kingdom of God, but you are still trapped by Sodom, you know why? Because Roti Peharon ka janjir bangaya. What will happen to my family? What will happen? What will happen? What will happen?

You know what? Faith is a risk. Faith is a big risk, brother. *If I perish I perish*. That is what I tell you, you should be like those lepers, ‘If we stay here we will die, if we go back we will die, 50% of probability of being alive if we go into the battle field.’ Where would you want to be, if you were a smart fellow? Where the odds are in favor? Or against? For so many people it is like that. Office comes first. I remember pastor telling me, ‘Where do you work brother?’ in London. ‘Where do you live?’ Somewhere far away from London. Why? Why are you taking such a long commute? You know why? It is because I want to stay close to my church. Not close to my workplace.

That is one thing that prompted us to move from Narsingi to lothkunta, to alwal, because we want to be close to the church. You know these are the prices that you have to pay. You don’t want to pay any cost for your salvation, but automatically your children should become angels. How is it going to happen, brother? Tell me. Parents? “It is your responsibility, sir, it is your responsibility.” It is your responsibility, parents. Not mine. Understand this. Can we actually say, ‘Even if my child does not know mathematics, he can fail in mathematics so many times, but if he knows Jesus that is all that is enough for me.’ Can we say that? No, we want him to know mathematics also.

You know, the new child in our home. What to do? Father, mathematics peharon ka janjir bangaya. Poor thing, I give her at least 50 problems a day for practice. What can I do? So sometimes she comes to church with a long face. So don't misunderstand and think that the father is doing something at home. She struggles a little, she forgets certain things and I am like, "Okay!" it is a different thing, it is a total new experience for me. Completely a new experience for Jacinth and me. Completely new. It is God's gift into our lives, you know why? To straighten us out, literally; to teach us patience and to be kind.

One of the things I really appreciate about that child is that she is a fighter. What a fighter she is! If I say, 'Get up in the morning at 6,' she will get up in the morning at 6. 'Okay, you did not finish this right? Get up in the morning at 6 and start studying.' She will get up in the morning and start studying.

For me it was like that, you don't even have to have one rupee in your bank account, I don't care. But in mathematics 100 out of 100. That credit should be there. Honestly when I was growing up, one thing my parents taught us, "You know what Vijay, we don't care about money. Knowledge!" that stuck in my mind. So my wife used to earn, when I was in IIT at least four times more than me and I was never jealous. You know why? I got papers, she got money. So it was fine. You know what? Money serves mathematicians, don't worry. So I never worried, money was never an issue.

All of us, we have different chains. I remember the day when I used to wait for my result for my paper. I said, "Lord, what is the use of my living?" This is my thought process. "What is the use of my existence as a scientist, when my work is not being accepted by my community?" Fear cripples us.

Therefore stay. Make choices, make choices which will cause you to cost loss in this world, my dear brothers and sisters, so that you can be places at a place where you will be made complete. You do think it is going to be easy? I mean, only people who paid the price know what it is to pay the price.

2 Samuel 9:13

¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

You know that is where the Old Covenant ends. See, Old Covenant is only a type. But it is not complete. New Covenant is totally radical. So many, different, things paralyze us. So many, different, things cripple us. Let me show you four verses from the New Covenant.

Luke 5:18-20

¹⁸ Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. ¹⁹ And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

So many of us have no assurance that our sins are forgiven. You know this guy had no faith. Who had faith? His friends had faith. So Jesus saw the faith of his friends and said, "Your sins are forgiven." What is paralyzing you today? Sin? The sins that you have committed? Last night? Through the week? Are your sins paralyzing you? Nobody knows, only you know. You know what, God looks at you and He says, "Your sins are forgiven. Not because of your sake, but because I paid the price for your sins. I became sin for you." Let sin not paralyze you this morning. Let sin not paralyze you.

Second category of people – paralyzed by self-pity.

John 5:5-8

⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

This morning, do you want to be made well?

⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

"I am so slow. God did not give me talent. It is all God's fault. It is entirely the other fellow's fault. Look at me! Poor me, poor me!" you know what? Your self-pity is paralyzing you, my dear brothers and sisters. You know what Jesus says? "How long will you be like that? Get up, pick up your mat and follow Me."

⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

In Telugu there is a word called, Alpasanthoshi. What is Alpashanthoshi? They do not have great expectations from God. You know what, you should have fantastic expectations from God, for God is a God of the impossible. We sing that song right? 'Way Maker, miracle Worker, promise Keeper, Light in the darkness' those words in your mouth are lies. Those words are true, but not in your mouth. You are like that beggar, 'Please give me one paisa, sir, please just give me one paisa in Jesus name.' that is what you are – 'Let me continue in my misery, but please one paisa for the day.' No expectations. Let me introduce that man.

Acts 2:2-4

² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." (we don't have money)

Let me tell you something, we have more than what money can give you. Nothing that I give you that money can buy. You are only looking for money.

⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

Today maybe I will get 50 rupees.

"Dharmam cheyandi naina, dharmam cheyandi." You know what dharmam cheyandi, in Telugu, means? To do justice. When we are going on the streets, they come begging, "Aiyya! Dharmam cheyandi aiyya." "Sir, please do justice." I am looking at her and I am like, "justice?" what does she mean? In other words, if I give her 50 rupees and the other fellow gets 10 rupees that means there is injustice. They will fight for their rights. "Sir, give me justice."

That is how we are as well. We come to church like beggars. "Lord, Lord, Lord I am not finding a wife Lord. Please Lord, one wife Lord. One wife." "Please Lord, give me one job." Really? More! Exceedingly, abundantly, more than you can ask or think of. Do you believe that this morning? You know what they said?

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

We do not have silver and gold, but I can give you something which can make you get silver and gold. We do not want that. I will give you something which can make you have the strength to earn silver and gold. Do you want that? No. please just give me silver and gold. We are like those people who are in welfare. 'Annadhan' a government subsidy, 10 kgs of rice for 10 rupees. "Just give it to me! We will vote for you. Congress zindabhad!"

⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

'Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give unto thee. In the name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk.' What did he do? Walking and leaping and praising God. And where did he go to? To the house of God. The only thing is that – stay there. Lot of people, they come and they go. After that they are not to be seen.

Acts 14:8-10

⁸ And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. ⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

Rise up and walk. You don't have to be a Mephiboseth. That is the Old Covenant. Lame all the days of your life. This morning, rise up and walk.

If you believe that, rise up this morning to your feet. Rise up to your feet. What has crippled you? What people have spoken about you? I don't know what has crippled you. People have spoken so many things about what you are and who you are. 'you are good for nothing.' See, if God says that you are good for nothing, then you are good for nothing. There is one fellow like that, useless fellow. In Telugu it is very interesting, 'panikimallina vadu' it is there. But we are not like that this morning. We are not useless. People might call us hopeless, etc. but the hopeless the case the greater the glory. Amen? If you are going through the worse crisis in your life and you are saying, 'Lord, this is impossible,' God likes that. Don't be like that alpasanthoshi, "Lord, just give me this. One paisa." Don't shorten the hand of God in your life because of your unbelief. You have an incredible destiny, my dear brothers. We are all supposed to be meribaals; people who have the capacity and the destiny to contend with the enemy at the gates. That is what our spiritual destiny is. That we should stand in front of the enemy and the gates of hell will not prevail against us. "On this rock I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not stand against it." That is our destiny. Let not fear, let not shame, let not your hidden sin, let not your secret life cripple you this morning. Bring it out. The Bible says, confess your faults one to another and you will be healed.

Isn't it interesting? The confessing of faults one to another is directly proportional. It is linked to your physical healing. Some of you may have to do that. When I am talking about confessing your faults one to another, maybe you can go to your pastor and confide in him, just open up and talk about it freely. Open up and cleanse it out once and for all. You know one of the things I loved about my Jamshedpur trip is that Eric and I could open up our hearts and speak everything about ourselves. What an amazing time it was! You don't know our secret sins. It was a fantastic time. We just opened up to each other and God healed us. So this morning, you can come openly to God and confide in. I am not talking about going around and confessing to everyone in the church. No. You can go to the eldership in whom you can confide in; open up, cleanse yourself. That is your destiny. Don't become Mephibosheths, when you are supposed to be Meribaals. Crippled by fear. God is surely willing to show you kindness this morning. If you can stretch out your hands and touch the hem of His garments, you will be healed.

Let's pray, close your eyes and bow your hearts. Everybody has a destiny. Just take a few moments, in your own words praise God. Just open up and praise. Offer unto God the fruits of your lips giving thanks. Open up and thank God. Thank God. One more day in the land of the living. Just thank God, say, 'Thank You Lord.'

Closing prayer

Thank You Lord. Lord, we were people like Mephibosheth, who did not deserve Your kindness. But Lord, for the sake of Your Son, for the sake of Your Son who made a covenant with You, You are a God of covenant. You are a God of covenant faithfulness, even though we break the covenant You still remain faithful to the covenant because You cannot deny yourself. Lord, when You made a covenant with Abraham, You did not ask him to pass through those shattered pieces of animals, You Yourself pass through them O Lord. And Abraham believed in God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. You made a covenant with Him. A covenant. God made a covenant. It is a new covenant; the Blood and the Body of His Son. His entire resources which were in His Son; the fullness of God dwelt in Jesus bodily and that God was crucified on the Cross for you and me. It was God who was crucified and it was God who took our place. It was God who was broken on the Cross, it was God who was shred to pieces. It was God who was shattered. It was God who was broken, it was God who was put to shame. It was God who was made a curse so that we may be made acceptable, so that we may be made righteous, so that we may inherit the blessing. And by His wounds, by His stripes we were healed. It is the kindness of God. We don't have to fear. The first words he comes and utters is – do not fear. Your sins are forgiven. That is the reason why the Hymn writer says – 'My sin, O the bliss of the glorious thought, my sin, not in part but the whole, was nailed to the cross and I bare it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul.' You can raise your hands this morning and worship him this morning. Just praise Him.

Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord. Lord we were all people who had a destiny. Supposed to be people with destiny, but Lord, we have lost our way, shattered. Some of us have been shattered because we were in the wrong hands. In your tender age you have been shattered. God is a God who is still able to pass through all those shatters, He is a God who is a perfect equalizer; He can level everything. And every odd which was against you, He is able to turn it around for your good. Because the Bible says, all things work together for good of those who love God and who are the called according to His purpose.

Joseph was shattered, he was totally ashamed, he was stripped, not once, not twice but three times. But one day, he was clothed, he was given a ring, he was given authority and he was given a new name. Our destiny, my dear brothers and sisters, let not shame, let not your past, let not your secret sin, let not something which you are hiding steal your destiny. Bring it to the light. How long will you hide? Are you not sick and tired of living a double life? Can't you just come to God and say, 'Lord, I am sick and tired Lord, this is what I am. This is who I am. The worst sinner, the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus His pardon receives.'

So this morning let us hold on to God, let us hold on and prostrate ourselves before the Son of David, for He shall surely show us kindness, not for our sake, but for the sake of His Son who died for us and not only did He die for us, but He reconciled us to Himself and not only did He reconcile us to Himself, but He is at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. These things I write to you, John said, that you may not sin, but even if you do sin we have an Advocate in heaven, Jesus Christ the Righteous, who will be the propitiation for your sin and not only for your sin but for the sins of the whole world, Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

Thank You Lord, this morning I pray Lord for all of us, crippled by shame, crippled by regret, crippled by failure, crippled, Lord, by cares of this world, by the worries and the anxieties of this world. We have made our decisions O Lord, because food has become our chains, Lord. Career has put chains on our ankles Lord. Education on our children had put ankles on our feet, Lord. Money Lord, career, O Lord. We want to come back to You this morning O Lord. And we not only want to come back to You, we want to stay at Your table continually, eating Your bread, until we become whole and are perfected. Enable us not to leave Lord, the place that You have ordained for us. For You have been our dwelling place from generation to generation. Whom have we in Heaven but You O Lord. Even if our heart and our flesh may fail, Lord, You will be the strength of our heart and our portion forever. We want to confess with the Psalmist, Lord, this morning. One thing have we desired of the Lord, that we may dwell in the house of the Lord. And enquire in His holy temple. One thing is needed, Jesus said, it is to sit at My feet and to hear from Me, and Mary has chosen that thing.

Choose, this morning. Lord, I pray, Father, for all Your children. Crippled in different areas of their lives. Lord, You break those chains Lord. You are a way Maker, You are the miracle Worker, You are the Deliverer. Jesus Christ of Nazareth who was anointed by the Holy Spirit who went about doing good and delivering and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil. This morning, Lord, You touch your people, O Lord. Healing for those who need a touch this morning. Lord, no sickness, O Lord Jesus. We do not want to exalt sickness, we want to exalt Your Name O Lord, above all our sicknesses O Lord, this morning. Above Cancer, O Lord. Above everything O Lord, that the world calls impossible. But Lord You are truly the miracle Worker, the promise Keeper. Is anything too hard for You? Nothing, Lord, nothing. Touch Lord, touch Your people this morning, deliver us this morning. Deliver Your people this morning. Let the words, 'Do not fear! I will surely show you kindness, I will restore and you will sit at My table as one of My sons,' encourage us. This is the word of Jesus for all of us this morning – "Do not fear, I will surely show you kindness. Not for your sake, but for the sake of My Son. I will restore everything that the enemy has stolen, not for your sake, but for the sake of My Son that He might receive the glory and you will sit at My table as one of My sons and you will eat continually, bread, from My table. O Lord, if the crumbs from Your table can heal us O Lord, how much more the bread from Your table, Lord. If the crumbs from Your table can deliver us from demonic oppression, the bread from Your table can make us deliverers this morning so that we can become instruments in the hands of God, who will contend with the gods and the baals of this world. Meribaal who have become Mephiboseths. But Lord, restore our destiny this morning. The enemy comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. But You have come to give us life and life in abundance, O Lord. And this morning we choose life, Lord. We choose life. Not just blessing, we choose life, Lord. We choose You. We choose to exalt Your Word above all our situations. No depth, no height, no principality, no power of darkness, nor things present, nor things yet to come can separate us from the love of God.

Have mercy upon us this morning. Grant repentance for those who need repentance this morning, we need repentance O Lord. We need to change, I need to change Lord. Have mercy. Thank You Lord. Restore this morning O Lord. Restore, restore Lord Jesus. Heal broken hearts. Lord, heal broken marriages Lord. Lord, this morning heal Lord those people who need a touch in their bodies. Heal, heal. Heal Jesus, You are the Healer. We do not want to stop the anointing to flow in our lives O Lord through our unbelief. We do not want to shorten Your hand. Lord, we do not want to be like the people in Jesus' hometown, in Nazareth; Jesus Christ of Nazareth when He went back home, He could lay hands only on a few people but He could not do many mighty miracles because He marveled at their unbelief O Lord. There will not be

unbelief this morning O Lord. Jesus have mercy, teach us Lord to come back to You, for Your hands are forever open to receive us. You are the Prodigal Father. It is not the prodigal son Lord, it is the prodigal father, who wasted his resources of his son, yet wanted to have him back. Lord, enable us to see Your heart. Bring back Your people back to Yourself this morning and restore our God given destiny. Jesus have mercy. Thank You Jesus. I commit Your children into Your hands this morning. Those who have been oppressed let them be made whole in the name of Jesus. The spirit of fear has to leave in the name of Jesus. Lord, we come against the spirit of fear in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Let the strongholds of fear, doubts and anxiety be broken in the name of Jesus. Let every iniquity that has been passed down from the DNA of our forefathers, let it be cut down at the roots, because we do not have that DNA anymore, we have been made whole in Jesus, we have been given a new DNA, we have been born-again by the very Word of Truth. You've caused us to be begotten again by the very Word of Truth so that we may be a kind of the first fruits of Lord this morning. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. Jesus, hallelujah. Thank You Lord, Jesus. Lord I pray Father, fear will have no dominion over us. Free us from fear. The fear of lack, O Jesus, for so many of us it is crippling O Lord. And for that reason we are not able to give, we hoard and we are not able to give. I pray Lord Jesus that we will break that strangle-hold of fear in our lives. Have mercy, release us this morning, deliver us Jesus.

We thank You Lord, we praise God. We give You glory, we give You honor, we give You thanks. For in Jesus' mighty name we pray. 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. For in Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.