

This morning before we look to the Word we will look to the Lord that He may touch our hearts first, that we may believe and touch our minds that we may understand, touch our tongue that we may confess, in every situation, that Jesus is Lord!

Father this morning we come to You, we want to thank You Father, we just want to praise You. We just want to worship You Lord. Because of who You are and what You have done and doing for us every moment of every day. And what You are preparing for Your people. Truly Father, only in eternity we will truly understand the meaning of the songs which we sang. That there is no one like You. Our understanding is so limited now, but Lord, one day when faith becomes sight we will realise how awesome You always were, that we would truly regret that we didn't praise You and worship You when we were on earth. We just want to thank You Father. Speak to us, strengthen us, encourage us, edify us, exhort us, and correct us. Do what only you can do Father. I am just a vessel, but You are the Word, You are the power, the auction is Yours. The increase comes from You. And therefore the glory is always Yours. To that end we commit this time and ourselves into Thy hands. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Exodus 1:6-8

⁶And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. ⁷But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. ⁸Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

That is the beginning of Exodus of Israel out of Egypt. We need to realize why things are happening the way things are happening. Joseph was there, Israel prospered in Egypt, God's people prospered in the world and nobody is thinking about going Home. Everybody's confession is – 'I shall not die but live.' Nobody is thinking about Heaven, Jesus is preparing and preparing and preparing, but nobody is interested in going. So what did God do? He just turned the situation around that a king arose who did not know Jesus and trouble started for Israel and trouble started for the Church. Now they are all thinking Heaven. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

There is a good way to go to heaven, then if you don't go that way, then there is another way which God will ordain. That is what is happening in these last days. Please understand, the last days, the Bible itself says that, will be so terrible. So terrible. And it is not actually terrible for everybody. It will be terrible only for God's people. Not necessarily terrible for everybody. It is only for God's people that it will become terrible. So when Joseph died, though they were multitudes from different nations in Egypt it went bad only for Israel. It didn't go bad for everyone else. So get this picture.

So this morning to 2 Corinthians,

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working are eternal.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Whenever there is 'therefore' you should ask the question why it is there for? Therefore, why don't we lose heart? Honestly, the thing is that, one of the things which you need to understand is, what I preach no one here, unless you are absolutely surrendered to the Spirit of God will receive it the way God is intending to speak through me, not even me. We will not receive it; it all depends on our perspective. If our perspective is eternal we will receive what God is saying. If our perspective is temporal, we will receive something else which God didn't actually say. So here is a servant of God who is going through the wringer. But his perspective is completely different. 2 Corinthians 4 you should read; it is a very powerful chapter of a man whom God used most, after Jesus Christ and his perspective. And he sums it up by saying - ***¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is***

perishing,... his outward man perishing is not like ours perishing. He is in hunger, he is in the desert, he is adrift in the ocean, he is whipped, he is in hiding, he has been chased, all things. So the outward man is perishing. Our outward man perishing is nothing.

Till last night the letters I get from the underground church, their outward perishing is something else. It is not like ours. And he (Paul) is part of that. But he says, 'It doesn't matter why? Because the inward man is being renewed day by day.' That is the key. There is another person inside; the one who was born of God. The question is what is happening to you? Today, 22nd of Oct, it is around 10:30, you need to ask, in this 10 hours and 30 minutes, how much time on the Lord's day, did we spend on thinking and examining the inward man. That is the question. So we need to realize why we are not able to handle what we are going through? It is because if the focus is on the outward man it doesn't matter what you do, he is perishing. There is a day appointed, which day we do not know, for everyone's outward man to perish, we will go. The question is – what is happening to this inward man?

Is he being renewed? Your hope is directly proportional to your renewal of the inward man. If the inward man is being renewed more and more your hope goes up and up. But if it not being renewed your hope goes down. So you will see, when he is awaiting execution, his hope reaches the peaks. Like I said, there are very few people in human history and as recorded in the Bible who knew what they would receive in eternity, while they were living. Most of us sitting here are not sure what we will get on the Day of Judgment. But Paul knew. How did he know? Because of how his inward person was being renewed; how his perspective was always eternal and not on the temporal. He says, ¹⁷**For our light affliction,**

If you see what he went through you don't see it as light. How do you see the trouble in your life? Do you see it as light? Or heavy? He is not denying that there is affliction. There is affliction, but the question is how do you see the affliction? Do you see it as light or heavy? **which is but for a moment**, how do you see time? Because we are all caught in time. When you are young birthdays are exciting, when you are old birthdays only mean that you are older. He sees it as a moment. The light affliction which is but for a moment.

See, one thing, the affliction is not light and what you are going through is not momentary unless your perspective is right. How you see it as light and momentary is because what he knows it is doing inside him. *It is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.* The glory is going to be heavy, the weight of glory. So you have to see affliction in the light of glory. The baby that you saw, the mother is a tiny little one and she was very clear about it, she wanted a normal birth, but the baby was huge. 11 hours of labor and still struggling. And then they tried suction and still didn't work, then finally she decided, 'Okay go for C-section.' Once the baby is given into your arms you forget all this, it is all gone. The light affliction, the eternal weight of glory. Suddenly you see time in a different perspective; what does it mean, forever and ever? It is not even time, I don't know how. We will understand eternity only when we reach there.

That is what God is talking about. If we don't look at life in terms of eternity we will waste our time here. We will run after the wrong things here. It is a waste of life, it is a waste. I am talking to people who are saved. I believe you are saved. See, this whole week was preparing. That is what we do, we prepare we read, we prepare, we write our notes. Until this morning I was kind of sure, I believed that God wanted me to speak on this and then this morning it all changed to that one question we looked at last night. Because we have been looking at judgment. So believers when they look at judgment you should not be scared, we have to look at it in term of we are being judged for what we will receive in eternity.

So on earth lots of things are happening. But in heaven the perspective is completely different. Heaven is getting ready for another event which you will see in *Revelation 19:6-9*,

Revelation 19:6-9

⁶**And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."** ⁸**And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹Then he said to me,**

“Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

Perspective is completely different. Because if you study the Book of Revelation, chapter 1 is introduction, chapters 2 and 3 you have the inspection of the churches. Chapter 4 onwards everything changes. From 4 onwards actually you go through all the way to 18 it is the terrible events that are happening on earth. But while these things are happening on earth, Heaven is getting ready for a wedding. There will be unbelievable trouble, the kind of trouble Jesus said, like never before mankind has ever experienced is happening on earth. But Heaven is getting ready for a wedding. So the simple question is – therefore, what are God’s people getting ready for?

That is why the Bible talks about our perspective. When we talk about faith, faith is never looking at the temporal. Faith is always looking at the eternal. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Though you can use faith for little, temporal things, but faith is not ultimately connected to the temporal. Faith is connected with the eternal. If you focus on faith, even as believers if you focus your faith on the temporal, the Bible actually says that you will become miserable. The most hopeless of people we will become, because when we were saved we were not saved for the temporal. We were saved for the eternal. But when we talk about judgment, when we talk about judgment, the first thing we need to understand is this,

John 3:16-18

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (it is absolutely broad – whoever) believes in Him (the Person. Not teaching. Every religion says, believe in the teachings. Here, in this case – believe in HIM) should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸“He who believes in Him is not condemned; (this is the first line we have to cross) but he who does not believe is condemned already, (while you are living on earth you are already condemned. Judgment has already been passed over you, you are just waiting for the sentencing; which part of hell you will go to. Which part of the lake of fire you will go to. You are already condemned. So this is the first line - He who believes in Him is not condemned, I believe we have all crossed. Many, if not all of you, I hope so, have crossed this) because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; so this is the first part of the judgment. Like, if you know, in the courtrooms, the first thing is that the jury will come and the leader of the jury will be asked a question – what is your verdict? He will either say ‘Guilty’ or ‘Not guilty’. The verdict is only two things. They will either say, ‘Guilty’ or ‘Not guilty’. The jury does not determine the sentence. The sentence is determined by the judge. And the sentencing will be done on a later date. So if the verdict is passed on the 22nd of Oct, when the jury may say, ‘guilty’ Nov’ 1st the judge will pass the sentence, ‘Okay, rigorous imprisonment for these many years’ or ‘for life’ or ‘electric chair’ whatever. So all who have not believed already their sentencing has taken place. What is that? ‘Guilty!’ a thousand years after Jesus reigns on earth, as we see in *revelation 20*, the sentencing will take place. What you will get. On the other hand all those who are not guilty, their sentencing doesn’t wait for a thousand years. It happens before, if you read the Bible, I am not being very dogmatic about it but it happens before the seven year tribulation begins. And the seven-year period is the wedding of the Lamb.

While there is hell breaking loose on earth, in Heaven something else is happening. And at the end of seven years is Jesus coming with the saints for the millennial. If that is not our perspective we will struggle. So the simple question is – what are we preparing for? That is why always the call – keep your eyes on Jesus! Keep your eyes on Jesus! Keep your eyes on Jesus! So today we will be looking at the longest chapter in the book of Genesis. It is the longest chapter. The book of Genesis has 50 chapters and the longest is chapter 24. That is the longest chapter. It is very interesting; it is not chapter 1 when God creates everything, or chapter 2 which talks about the specific creation of man, or chapter 3 which talks about the fall. None of these. The longest chapter in the book of Genesis is about a man’s wedding; the search for his wife and how the wife is found, and how the wife is brought to this man, and then he gets married to her and he settles down. That is the longest. Why is it given with so much detail? Because that is what the church is heading to.

So there was this question yesterday – how do I become the Bride? Or at least the Bridesmaid? Now you need to realize, all these terms are there; the Bride is there, Bride’s maids are there, guests are there at the wedding, Bridegroom’s party is there at the wedding, therefore Bride’s party has to be there. So where will we get in, is the question. First thing is, get

in! don't presume, because you need to realize, the Gospel according to Matthew is the longest account of Jesus' life. And when He comes towards the end you will see that the tone is changing, and He goes further and further into the end; how it is going to end. And you will see, by the time He comes to chapter 24 they ask Him the signs. But before that, all the parables are actually talking about the end. And He talks about a wedding banquet when those who were invited did not come, and the king is upset. And he says, 'Go to the streets and compel them,' and they are brought. And then when he comes to the wedding he finds a person who is not wearing the wedding garment. He said, 'Friend, how did you manage to get in here? Throw him out!'

So don't presume, be very sure that you are invited and you got in. you don't have to be thrown out on that day. So these are not for conjecture; these are all sureties in the Bible. You can know that you are saved now. You can know where you are going. And if you look at the life of Apostle Paul you can actually, probably before you die, know whether you are part of the Bride or the Bride's maid or serving outside.

In *Genesis 24* there are four characters. The man called Abraham, the son called Isaac, the chief servant, probably his name is Eliezer, we do not know, not very sure; Eliezer is mentioned only in *Genesis 15* when God comes to Abraham and says, 'I am your exceedingly great Reward and your Shield.' And Abraham says, 'What is the point? I am childless and this Syrian of Damascus (remember Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the world) this Eliezer from Damascus will inherit all.' So we believe that he is the chief servant. And then there is this girl called, 'Rebecca.' These are the four major characters. It all begins with Abraham come of old. Sarah is dead. That is not part of the story but that is a human thing, it is not an eternal thing. It is a human thing because in some cases God allows the mother to die and in some cases he allows the wife to die, when they become a stumbling block to the chosen one's purpose in God's Kingdom.

Because Sarah is very attached to Isaac and Isaac is very attached to Sarah and if she lives Rebecca is going to have a difficult time bonding with her husband. Because every time she says something he will ask his mother, 'What shall I do?' so Sarah dies. Joseph has got an eternal purpose in God's Kingdom, but the problem is that Rachel is a stumbling block. So God will take Rachel out so that Joseph will have only one voice speaking into his life; the voice of his father and not a conflict. So please understand these principles, because Sarah is absent in *Genesis 24*. So from that, simple lessons, parents and husbands and fathers and wives and mothers need to understand that when you say and pray for your children or your spouse or anybody, 'Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done,' be sure you know what you are saying. It will be done! It will be done with you or without you, because ultimately His will will be done.

So you have chapter 24, and when you come to verse 6,

Genesis 24:6

⁶ But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there."

He is calling Eliezer and says, 'You need to go. My boy will not marry from this land. You go to my father's house and get a girl.' The first principle of marriage, don't marry an unbeliever. Who do you learn it from? Most of the things which we learn in the new covenant you will see that we learn it from Abraham's life. So many things we learn it from Abraham's life. That is why he is called the father of faith. So the first thing is that don't marry an unbelieving girl or an unbelieving boy, because you are running into trouble. And first thing he says is that, 'You will not get a girl from here. Instead, go to my father's house and get a girl.'

So, there are these questions taking place. The question is this, the first thing he tells is that, 'You will not take my son back there.' So please understand, when Jesus comes back He is not coming down to earth; His Bride, His Church is going to Him. This is how we see whether the doctrines in the New Covenant connect with the pictures which are there in the Old Covenant. So the first thing Abraham says, 'My son is not going back. He is not going back.' Jesus came once to save us and to deliver us. The second time when He comes He is coming to rule, He is not coming to get married. So in between that the marriage takes place. So the first thing Abraham says is 'Don't take my son back. My son is not going back there.'

So in verse 8 the servant asks this question,

Genesis 24:8

⁸ And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there."

What if the woman is not willing to come? So the question to the people – what if there is no believer to get married? Don't get married. This is not a new problem, this was right there in the beginning. 'Don't marry anybody from here. And the one I find from there doesn't want to come. What do I do?' 'One thing is this; you are released but my son is not going there.'

So the first question is that – What if the woman is not willing? How many men and women (because when He talks about the Bride of Christ, there are both men and women in the church) how many of you are willing to go to Isaac? How many of you are willing? How many of you are prepared? How many of you are ready if it is today? How many of us are really willing? How many when we wake up and when we go to bed that is our thought about going Home? 'There is Somebody waiting and my whole life, post-salvation, was a preparation to meet Him.' Is the woman willing?

So God says, 'You don't worry, every woman who is not willing, My Son is released from them. My Son Jesus is not bound to any man or woman in the Church who is not willing. Because He will always have willing people who have been crying for 2000 years, 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' is not that God does not have people who are willing, the question is – are you willing?

Then, post that, in verse 10 Eliezer starts the journey.

Genesis 24:10

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.

Now it is just one line talking about the journey. But the journey is around 500 Kilometers. So it is not one day, one week, one month; it is weeks and months they are traveling. But when we are looking at this spiritually in the context of the New Covenant it is not the distance; it is the time. For 2000 years the Spirit of God has been travelling and from every generation He has already separated the Bride of His Son. Now He is waiting for the last generation. From every generation, all those who have died in faith. His Son's Bride has been separated, and they were those who were willing, they were prepared, at some point their life all changed.

At some point your life has to change. I am not saying that you begin with that, but somewhere in your walk of faith this has to change. Something has to happen. That is why holding a baby is one of those awesome experiences. Because you need to realize that Enoch's whole life changed when his son was born. And thing is that probably he was a normal, believing, praying man and I do believe that he went to God and asked, 'What should I name my son?' and God said, 'Name him Methuselah, which means, when he dies judgment will come.' Once that happened his whole life changed.

And I like what my unbelieving uncle said, 'All diseases are not bad. Some diseases are nice.' If you had a diagnosis and you had an appointment, the reports come and this evening you meet your doctor and he says, 'I am sorry. Your diagnosis is cancer and it is stage 2, or stage 3. I give you six months to one year to live.' It is a good diagnosis, because suddenly everything will change; now you will start thinking very seriously about eternity, putting your life in order. I saw that, this year and last year, my mother who was actually very hard and tough, how in the last 3-4 months she became so quiet, so meek and so gentle, because she was getting ready to meet her Maker. What couldn't happen in 87 years happened in 6 months. But we do not need those things. Our perspective can suddenly change because that is the coming of Jesus Christ, the last generation. Nobody knows the day or the hour. God says, 'Watch and pray!' because it will happen suddenly. But we have the privilege of seeing the signs right before our eyes; the things that are prophesied are happening.

And therefore the question is that, ***And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.*** This is not talking about the distance; this is spiritually talking about time. One line, he is the one who is in charge, Eliezer the type of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Lord of the Church. He is the One in charge. That is why the Bible says, where the Spirit of God is Lord, where the Lord is the Spirit there is liberty. Everything is being worked out by God, through the Holy

Spirit. Nothing is worked out apart from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been given sovereignty over what He does with the Church. And the purpose of the Holy Spirit is first to save us and after that it is to prepare us for His Son. That is the purpose of the Holy Spirit. And He will take a long journey and everything that is in the Father's house He is the steward. So every resource of the Father He will use for this purpose. Heaven's riches are at the disposal, Heaven's power, everything is at the disposal of the Holy Spirit. What is the purpose? To save, to sanctify a people for His Son.

So just one line about the 450 Kilometers. God doesn't want to waste time about the journey. We would want to know what happened on the journey. If you are like me that is what I would do; in my time I would watch all the railway journeys from Siberia down to Andes mountains, I would watch the entire journey. But God doesn't give all those detail; it is just one line. 450 miles, one line, over. So He has a target, a purpose. What is the purpose of the journey? Please remember, we are not tourists, we are not tourists on earth. We are pilgrims. There is a difference. A tourist will go to, let us say, to Rome. A pilgrim also goes to Rome. The difference is that the tourist is going to see the places, while the pilgrim is going on a different purpose altogether. But most of us here have a tourist mentality, that is the problem. We are not tourists, we are pilgrims. Keep that in your mind, we are not tourists, we are pilgrims.

So Eliezer came, he reached a town of Nahor and he didn't enter the town. We would enter the town. But the Holy Spirit didn't enter the town, He is outside. And outside there is a well.

Genesis 24:11-15

¹¹ And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.

Did you see the word 'time'? Were you on time? Do you know what the well means in the Bible? Eliezer met Rebecca at the well. Jacob meets Rachel at the well. Moses meets Ziporah at the well. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. There is a time. Today it is 9:30, half hour extra time, for most people it is very close. But the one who lives furthest came on time, Bro. Wesley and family with their 3 children. And at 9:20 when I was walking across Dr. Richard just finished his night-duty and he came in and he was here before 9:30. Everybody has the same time, right? So what is your excuse to Eliezer, who is looking for the Bride? 'I'm sorry I am late'? But He says, 'There are people who come before time.'

Now these things don't happen in one day. These are things which you have to work hard on yourself, because rewards are eternal. Salvation is called the wells of salvation. Your appointment with God through the week. Then your appointment with God on the first day of the week; it is called the Lord's day. Just imagine, John the Apostle is old now and he says, 'It is okay I have finished my race. I have done enough, now let me rest, because anyway I have been sent as a prisoner to this rocky Island. There is no church, nobody to worship, nobody to preach to, nothing. Let me sleep late today.' We wouldn't have the book of Revelation. But that is not what is written.

'On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit and I heard.'

And we have a book which we are all trying to break our heads over, so that we can get ready for the eventual end.

¹² Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

Hallelujah!!? It is very simple if you read Scripture and you find out. Eliezer has been given this unbelievable task where he can't go wrong. There is only one eligible bachelor in the land of Canaan. And there is only one eligible Bachelor in Heaven. Isaac is 40 years old. Jesus is 40 x 50 Jubilee; He is 2000 years old. Understand what 40 means in the Bible. 50 years is a jubilee when liberty is proclaimed. Fifty 40s have passed by. We are coming to the end where liberty will be proclaimed to the Church, 'Come up hither.' That is where the search is being going on.

So there she is, Rebecca. She is going to make her introduction.

¹⁵ And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

So Rebecca comes. Now you need to realize. I mean, this is a technology age, so lot of young people who do everything with their apps. In the old days, if you wanted to book a railway ticket you had to go to the booking station and you had to go 60 days in advance, before that it was 90 days. If you are late by 10 minutes you can wait for the next year. So the reservation was there at Secunderabad and it opens at 8 O' clock, and if you are smart you already have the reservation slip because 5 minutes will be lost when the gate opens to gather the reservation slips. Then you have filled it and come and then you rush to the counter so that you are at the least second or third in the line, if not the first, so that you get confirmed ticket.

The problem is that all the women come in the evening to draw water. So there is a lady who comes ahead of time. If you read, there is nobody with her. She comes alone before time. Did you see that? So in the group of giggling girls one person comes alone. Think about it. That is what God is always looking for. And that is the pattern you see through Jesus' life when He walks in Galilee, in Israel. He is never looking at the crowds; He is looking at the individuals. Even today, which is the one who has actually come today believing. Crowds pressing around Him, and He stops suddenly. He was actually rushing because somebody's daughter is dying. But He stops and asks, 'Who touched Me?' Peter says, 'Lord, everybody is touching You.' He said, 'No. one, only one that touched Me because I felt virtue flow. Only one.'

Crowds are flowing Him to Jericho, everybody. He looks up and says, 'Zacchaeus, you come down. These crowds are tourists, but you are the pilgrim. Come down. There are crowds looking for a spectacle, finishing a chore of religion, but you are the pilgrim, you come down. I am going to sup with you.' What happens at the end of that encounter is that God says, 'Salvation has come into this house.' You go through the narrative over there you will realize that Jesus knows. Crowds and crowds of cripple, the lame and the sick all sitting over there and nobody knows that it is Jesus. He goes around and says, 'Do you want to get well? Pick up your mat and go.' And He walks away. The individual in a crowd. Because it is very easy to get lost in a crowd but God misses nobody; He knows, today on the 22nd of Oct, who has come for Him. He knows and it makes all the difference in your life.

That is what is called favour with God. And here is she who comes alone. And she comes early. One of the things, this is the simple ways, *Matthew 6:33* is there –*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*. Seek ye first; the focus is on the word 'first', because we all seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness. But that is not the point, the point is, do you seek Him first? Rebecca is coming first, Rebecca is coming early. So today, Oct, 22nd make a decision – 'Lord, I heard something, it has convicted me. From next Sunday onwards I will be early.' And it has got nothing to do with pastor; it has got nothing to do with me. Even if I am doing nothing in the church yet I will be early. I will make it a point Oh Lord to be early. I am going to change my life-style, and prioritize putting God first. That is why the Bible says, 'When we say, 'Lord God' how should I love God? God says, 'Love your brother.' God says, 'I am not the beneficiary of your love. The fact that you love Me I will ask you to love your brother; the beneficiary is your brother.'

So there are many visible ways where we can make our love known to God, that He is actually first. And God doesn't become first by accident on that Day, but that is your pattern. It is our pattern. But the thing is that imagine, this is the year 2023, Jan 1st, Jan 2nd, 31 days of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, every day in the evening she goes first nothing happens. She just gets her water and comes back home. On the 22nd of Oct also she goes early for water and there is somebody waiting for her there. The problem is that once in our life we go early and expect an encounter with God and then we get so upset, 'I came early and God didn't meet me.' God will say, 'That was the day I decided to be late.' These are patterns.

People in the world do it for temporal things. Now we are talking about doing these for eternal things. Every person in the world who has succeeded has these disciplines in their lives. Now we are not talking about that. We are talking about things, like I said, when the worship leader speaks I listen to the words. Today when bro. Wesley was praying the words that he used, it is all the words of gratitude, everything in the beginning. Why are we so grateful? Like I told you 2 Sunday back, the end of a devout religious man of an entire life time of religious discipline is hoping to be declared righteous at the end of which he has no hope.

I once asked one young man in Bhutan, I asked, 'What is your hope?' he said, 'Sir, my hope is that maybe after 1000 rebirths I may be fit to be born as a lama.' I was like, '1000?' this is their hope. When we believe in Christ Jesus we are given the righteousness of God, not of religion, but as a gift, just like that. And we are not grateful. What that man can

never achieve by works, we receive it as a gift. Though it is a gift and free for us it was not free for God. It was not free for God. The price that He paid, honestly we will never understand. It is not possible for us to understand. We will never experience it, we will never understand, even in eternity we will not understand it – what it is for a holy God to become sin, we will never understand. It is impossible for man to understand what it is to be a pure, absolutely holy God to become sin for man. That is why He was battling it out in the Garden of Gethsemane, ‘Take this cup away from me. But Father not My will...’ because this is something that has never happened in eternity. It has never happened in eternity, before or in the past, it has never, ever, happened. And when He becomes sin on the Cross His cry changes, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’ Never before or after, is that cry heard in eternity. God has forsaken God for the sake of man. And we take this salvation so lightly.

That is why the writer of Hebrew says, ‘If we ignore, neglect, such a great salvation...’ it is a great salvation. That is why when we focus on what it cost God we are grateful and all these temporal things mean nothing, because eternally we realized, ‘Oh boy! I’ve passed that line of condemnation to justification. Thank You Lord, I didn’t do and I couldn’t do anything for that, but believe.’ And once we understand that things start changing, we start prioritizing God. This God who loved me (don’t make it ‘us’. ‘Us’ doesn’t change anything) only ‘me’ changes. Jesus died – that is history. ‘Jesus died for me’ – is salvation. Everywhere it has to be very personal. That is why it is easy to get lost in a crowd. But God doesn’t look at the crowd. He always looks at individuals. And individually we make our decisions.

So when we stand before God we stand individually. The only person who will be asked, if somebody is asked, to say something on your behalf, I may be called to speak on your behalf. So better be nice to me, okay. Hahaha! ‘Pastor, what do you say about this one?’ ‘Father, this one never came on time.’ hahaha! Don’t worry, I’ll try to put in a good word. Hahahha! But you know, before Truth you can’t lie.

So there is she, she comes ahead of time. She goes, and you need to realize, she came out with pitcher on her shoulder. These are simple things. Did you bring your Bible? Half way to church you realize, ‘Oh I forgot my Bible’ and you go back. If she had forgotten her pitcher by the time she goes back to get the pitcher another girl would have come before her. See, this is why we talk about order and discipline. Because these things have to be engrained because you do not realize how these things really matter in life, with God and even in normal life. You will see, she is very purposeful; she went there - ¹⁵ ***And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.***

So she has come with a very clear purpose and she has come there early. When you go to verse 16,

Genesis 24:16

¹⁶ ***Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.***

Now begins the description of the Bride. Since the Bride of Jesus Christ is the Church and it is called she, both men and women. So you have to take the physical description from Genesis 24 and apply spiritually, how it is applicable to all of us. The first thing mentioned about her is, of course she came on time, she came alone, she didn’t come with the crowd and waste her time gagging. Most people waste their time unnecessarily talking. It is a waste of time. I wish they spent that time praying, then it is use of time. The amount of time, think about last 6-7 days we wasted talking. I am not saying that you shouldn’t talk. But the amount of time, hours and hours talking and talking. She is not a girl who will waste her time. She knows that she has to redeem her time. She knows that if you come with this group of chatters talking and talking you will forget what you came for. So she comes alone.

Now the description begins – she is very beautiful. Let’s go to *1 Peter 3:1-5*, now in context wise it is talking about a woman, but principle wise it is talking to both men and women.

1 Peter 3:1-5

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— ⁴ rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in

the sight of God. ⁵ *For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,*

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, (so every man, remember, you are supposed to become the prospective wife of Jesus Christ. don't put this only for women. It is for men too. The head of man is Christ, so men have to be submissive to Christ in all things) ***that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,*** (He says, in life you will meet all kinds of people who give no regard to God, all kinds of people will be there. But He says, when they see your conduct they will be won over. This is the principle, what is that?)

² ***when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.*** ³ ***Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—*** (it is not saying that you should not dress well, but don't focus on that. I mean, if you look good outside and then Jesus comes and says, 'You are white-washed graves' what is the point? The Pharisees are going around in white cloaks and all those linings and borders and all and they are feeling good about themselves and Jesus said, 'You are white-washed graves' it is terrible. So he is not talking about not dressing well. God says, 'You should dress well. Be good and neat, dress clean,' all that is fine.) ⁴ ***rather let it be the hidden person of the heart,*** (there is a person God is looking at. The inner man. That is the real man. Even though the outward man is perishing it doesn't matter how you adorn him; with fine apparel and gold and braiding your hair and all, the outward man is perishing. The first thing I noticed when I came to this hall last night and this morning, there is already hair all around. So your hair is falling. Outward man is perishing, witnesses are there. Evidence is all over on this white floor. It cannot be hidden. So even though the outward man is perishing, the inward man is being renewed. What is the first thing God looks at in the inward man? ***hidden person of the heart,***) ***with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.***

That is the first thing. That is the first thing that Jesus said, right? 'Learn of Me.' we want to learn every doctrine. He says, 'It doesn't make any difference even if you know all doctrine and you have done Doctorate of Divinity, if you do not have a meek and a quiet spirit you are nothing in the Kingdom. So learn of Me, I am meek and lowly.' That is the first thing that is there about Rebecca, she is meek. The Bride of Christ is meek. Meek and a gentle and a quiet spirit. See, this is part of the incorruptible beauty.

There is a beauty that is incorruptible. We are born of incorruptible Seed; the Word of God. And if you allow it to be watered and guarded, and when appropriate conditions are met, the inward man will become more and more gentle and quiet. It will become, because that is the work of the Holy Spirit. I said last night as well, most of the little ones were probably not born or you probably would even remember. But I remember very distinctly that day, on that same day two women died, in the 1090s. two women died, both the women were icons; one was Diana, princess of Wales and the other was mother Teresa. Both died on the same day. On one side, for Diana there was so much sorrow and on this side also there was so much sorrow. But these two women were like chalk and cheese. One was the icon of beauty, died in a car crash when she was with her Muslim boyfriend. The other died of old age serving God and Jesus.

Now let me ask you – who is beautiful? Who is actually beautiful? Like I said, I've heard her speak, (not personally, but her recordings) I have never seen her raise her voice. I've never seen her raise her voice, she was very gentle. She was a woman who actually heard the voice of God. She was from the old Yugoslavia. And she actually heard the voice of God telling her to go to India and start this. And you need to understand, she is the only person under the Roman Catholic seat who was actually given permission by the Pope to start her own order. Even the Popes who do not know her God touched their hearts to give this lady permission. And she came to Kolkata and started this unbelievable work under tremendous opposition.

It is not like we taking care of the poor or something. The kind of people she took care of was like, you wouldn't dare go near them. Lepers and people with maggots through their wounds. She carried them and cleaned them and took care of them. She is what we talk about. So there are two icons in front of us. Which is that we are talking about? What are we looking for? This is what God is talking about – the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and a quiet spirit. Where you are a man or a woman. So this (1 Peter 3:1-5) is general. This is not gender specific. Because this is what Jesus is looking for in His Bride. Because He is meek and lowly, after all He is called the Lamb of God. How can a Lamb marry a goat? What will the children be like? Lamb marries a lamb. Right? So He is meek and lowly, so the question is – will we become? We didn't start that way, but the question is – can we become that? James and John were sons of thunder, right? That is what they were called, who wanted to call down fire and all. But you read the epistle of John, he is a gentle, meek and a

quiet man. How did he become like that? From thunder to whisper. How did he become like that? It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

That is how you look at yourself and say, 'Am I changing inside?' this is our hope, the hope of our glory is Christ in us. And what is Christ like? This is what He is like. Who is He looking for? Somebody who is like Him. And therefore, in all whatever situations you are caught in; married, unmarried, in unbelieving homes, all, you need to realize that you are put in there into these situations and God is framing you. You are trying to run out of your situations, but God says, 'I put you there. I put you there until you become that person.'

That is why when you read the book of Genesis, from chapter 37 to 50, twelve chapters and given to one man called Joseph. Why? Because he is another type of an overcomer. And if you look at what he has to go through and what his brothers don't have to go through. His brothers don't go through anything until famine hits. But this man has to go through everything because he is available and he will become the overcomer. So that is how we look at life. If we don't look at the eternal, the temporal will either deceive us or fool us.

⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

This is how they adorn themselves. Now this is not an outside adornment. It is an inside adornment. It is visible after sometime.

⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

I think long ago we had a message called – 'Daughters of Sarah' I really congratulate sis. Jacinth. I have never heard anyone in my life who has saved her husband's phone number as 'lord'. Never. And I told the young men who came to visit me, I said, 'I was stunned when I heard it, that somebody actually saved it in her phone 'my lord'. And that is who your husband is. You need to understand what scripture calls a husband. Is Christ my Lord? He is my Husband, He is my Lord. The wife's head is her husband. It is not a small thing. That is why of all the women in the Bible only one woman is mentioned. And the husband said, 'Say that you are my sister, otherwise they will kill me.' she said, 'yes my lord. I am your sister. If you say that I am your sister then I am your sister.' Second time also, 'Say that you are my sister,' 'Yes my lord.' And you will see that she was not afraid. Because when you are under authority you are not afraid. When you are submitted to the Word of God you are not afraid. You don't have to be afraid, because God is your defender and in every situation Sarah is caught in, you will see that God intervenes and protects her even from the mistakes of her husband. Pharaoh has to release Sarah. Abimelech was told by God, 'I saw to it that you didn't even put a finger on her.' And what did Abraham do there? Nothing. And what did Sarah do? She went by order.

So it is a lesson for us and a lesson for, a lesson for men too. When you know Christ as your Lord, as Jesus submitted to the Father in all things, even unto the Cross, even to the Cross, dying on the Cross. All He has is His Father's word – 'You will rise up on the third day. I will see that Your body doesn't go through corruption.' There is nothing else. That is why what is the last thing that is written about His death? He committed His Spirit into His Father's hands. That is lordship. So God is speaking to all of us over here and telling us what He is looking for. Everywhere we have to look into these pictures and try to see what is God looking for over here? Because, yes I want to be the Bride, but the question is – how do I become the Bride? What are the patterns in the Bible?

Do you know that there are patterns in the Bible? I will show you a few patterns. Just read Scripture and then go back and do your home work. First go to *Daniel 1:3-5*,

Daniel 1:3-5

³ Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, ⁴ young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. ⁵ And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

⁴ young men in whom there was:

1. No blemish
2. Good-looking
3. Gifted in all wisdom
4. Possessing knowledge
5. Quick to understand
6. Had ability to serve in the king's palace
7. Whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans

Seven qualities. Take it into Scripture and see how it applies spiritually. These are seven qualities to stand before Jesus and serve the Father one day. this is how you go through Scripture. Because in the New Testament you only have doctrine, but the pictures are in the Old Testament. So if you are actually in the race; it is your personal race, nobody can run with you or run for you. Only you can run. And the ones who are with you may not be interested at all, but it doesn't matter. Nobody was interested in Jacob's family but Joseph was. So this is the way you go. So you have seven qualities mentioned over there. Let's look at another picture, go to the book of Esther,

Esther 2:8-9, 15

⁸So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women. ⁹Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; (There were so many women, but one pleased the eunuch. One woman pleases the Holy Spirit,) so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

Something is happening over there. Every woman will get a chance to go to the king, so now when you come to verse 15, look at what it says,

¹⁵Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

Did you see that? All the others grabbed whatever they could because you could ask anything. But when it came to her she asked for nothing, she said, 'You choose for me.' every woman chose for themselves, but verse 15 is submission. She didn't choose for herself, she said, 'You choose for me.' so you see patterns in the Bible. Let's look at the third pattern in the Bible, another woman, the mother-in-law Naomi is telling Ruth; the Jewish mother-in-law is telling the Moabite daughter-in-law,

Ruth 3:3-6

³Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

⁵And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." ⁶So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

Do you see why all these women were chosen? What did they have? They all had a meek and the quiet spirit; they listened and they obeyed and you will see that every one of them is redeemed. So God is putting these pictures over here. He says, 'This is what I am looking for. This is what I am looking for.' Whether you are a young person, like Jacob had 12 sons, but only one son obeys, 'Here I am,' and you will see that his destiny changes immediately after that. So whether you are young, whether you are a man or a woman, there is something, post-salvation, the Spirit of the God is looking for – do you have a meek and a quiet spirit? The Bible says, 'Him He will guide. Him He will teach.' So it is not whether you are hearing the teaching or not; can you receive the teaching?

Genesis 24:16

¹⁶ Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

Now that is the physical reality. Now we are not looking at that. We are looking at the spiritual reality. Please understand, when we come to Christ we didn't come as virgins, we came as harlots. We were in the world, of the world, for the world and some people still are. We were not virgins, we were harlots. What salvation does is He takes harlots and makes virgins out of them.

What the world is looking for is to get virgins and make harlots out of them. Our children were born innocent; they were virgins, boys and girls. What is the whole world after? To make harlots out of virgins. So when we came to Christ, like the Samaritan woman, we were harlots. But what Christ does through the entire work of sanctification is to make virgins out of us. That is what He does. If you go to Apostle Paul in *2 Corinthians 11*, he says,

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

He says, 'This is what I want to present on that Day.' He says, 'I can teach you and show you how to do it, but if you allow the Holy Spirit to work this through you, on that Day you will be presented to Christ as a pure, chaste virgin, undefiled by the world.' That is what the Bible is talking about. You may ask, what is the big deal about sanctification, at the end of it what do I get? To be the Bride of Christ. That is the purpose of sanctification. You need to understand, if you do not have motivation, without faith it is impossible to please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is and He is the Rewarder. The greatest reward a king can give to a person in his kingdom is the right to sit with him on his throne. "Be My Bride, sit with Me."

So this is what he is talking about.

³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Like I said, the Gospel is very simple. Salvation is very simple. I don't know why people do not get saved. I understand, because I also didn't get saved for 19 years. But I didn't get saved because I never heard the Gospel. First time I heard the Gospel I just believed, because it was easy to believe. I found that religion was very difficult, especially if you are born in a Syrian Christian family and you go to the Syrian Christian church where it is 3 hour service and the mat is of coir and you have to kneel down and get up 50 times in an hour, you will believe that salvation is very difficult. The only thing that I learnt from my church experience is that my knees hurt like crazy. But when I heard the Gospel is heard that it is so simple.

It is not complex, it is very simple, it is very, very simple. The only difficult part is that you have to accept that you are a sinner. Even that I had no issues, because my mother always told me, 'You are the worst of the five.' That was very easy to believe, I didn't need a friend to tell me that I was a sinner, I knew that, because my mother used to say that, 'From your delivery time onwards, because your head was so big, you gave me the most trouble during delivery and after that.' So it was very easy to believe 'you are a sinner'. But the same mother finally changed her testimony and said, 'I realized that I was born to give birth to you. I understood purpose.'

So we were all harlots. Honestly, we were all harlots. Born in this world, we love the world, we enjoyed the world and many of you still enjoy the world, that is why when I said that your face became a little longer, 'Pastor, why are you pouring cold water over us?' but if you want to be the Bride, look at the simplicity of the Gospel. What does God do through the working of the Word, by the washing of the water of the Word. See, there were so many people and Jesus prayed through the night. And then as the Holy Spirit said, 'You, you, you... follow Me.' and they followed Him. They followed Him and by the time He finished His ministry only 11 were left. The crowds left, the disciples left, Judas left. Only 11 were left. Then He looked at them and said, 'You are clean because of the Word.' He says, 'You are clean because of the Word. You are clean, you have been sanctified because you have allowed the Word to cleanse you. It shows in your action that when everybody left, you have clung to Me. you have stayed with Me till the end. Therefore,'

He says, he uses this incredible illustration. Like I said unlike mine and Pastor Vijay's Jesus' illustrations are very simple, anybody can understand. He says, 'I am the Vine and you are the branches, My Father is the Gardener.' And He tells a secret to all that we are learning – Abide in Me! Stay! Abide! Learn to abide. The son abides forever. The slave comes in and goes out, comes in and out, in and out. But you stay, abide. 'Let My words abide in you. It is the work of the Holy Spirit by the simple thing that you stay in Me.' It is as simple as that.

So there she is. If you go to *Revelation 14:1,4*, there are so many various interpretations about who this group is. Let's just leave that aside and look at the picture, the principle here.

Revelation 14:1,4

¹Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

It is a symbolic number or a real number we do not know. But where are they? They are standing on Mount Zion. If you know the Old Testament history, Mount Zion is the pinnacle of Jerusalem. There is Israel, there is Samaria, there is Judea, there is Jerusalem, and then there is Mount Zion. And the Lamb is standing on Mount Zion and with Him and 144,000. Though this is spiritual, because how can 144,000 people stand on the peak? So it is spiritual. And they are standing with Him. And there is a whole description, we will go to verse 4 connected with today's teaching.

⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

So they are not just talking about men. If so then only men are going to heaven and it is like the Muslim heaven where only men go and virgins are waiting for them there. That is not what is written here. It is a different thing. They have a weird understanding of what heaven is.

for they are virgins. So what does this mean? In the Bible, woman is called the Church, Babylon is called the mother of harlots. All those are called women. So here ***⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women***, one interpretation of the word 'women' is doctrines and ideologies. You are not randomly what you are. You are because of what you think, what was sold to you and you bought it. Nobody randomly went and bought anything from anywhere. Behind that there was an idea, even in what you eat, what you drink, what you wear. Behind everything there is an idea. That is advertisements is a huge industry, they are selling products and the first salesman was the devil. In the Garden of Eden he came there and he sold an idea. We do not see the whole point of him selling that idea. It is not about eating from that tree of knowledge of good and evil. That is not what he was trying to sell. They didn't understand what he was trying to sell. He says, 'You can be independent of God.' That is the idea he sold. And we still are swallowing that idea that we can be independent of God. And we are still making decisions in life independent of God. That is what was sold – being independent of God.

The Son comes and says, 'I will do nothing by Myself. I will do only what I have heard and seen what My Father do.' I will tell you, it is not independence from God that brings liberty; it is absolute, total dependence on God that brings liberty. So that is what he sold and we are still buying it. So these are virgins who never defile themselves. It is not that they became that in one day, but they became that over a period of time. They allowed their thinking. Every argument, every idea, and every imagination that was contrary to Christ, the knowledge of Christ. Not the Word of God, the knowledge of Christ. Because the Word of God has to give us the knowledge of who Christ is. Because the Father is not conforming us to a doctrine; he is conforming us to a Person, the Person of Jesus Christ. That is what happened, they are dealing with issues in their own mind. Because the battle is in your mind. You all can be free in one minute if you want; if you decide in your mind – 'I will surrender' that is all. Do you know how easy deliverance is?

Ask Apostle Paul when you reach heaven, 'How difficult was it?' he will say, 'One minute. I said, 'Who are You?' Jesus of Nazareth. Next minute I said, 'What do You want me to do?' he surrendered and he never looked back. He took one minute to surrender, we take 15 years, 20-30 years and still not surrendered. It is so simple. It is not difficult.

So there it is ***⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.***

I have used this illustration many times; there is only one set of people who can follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Who are they? His Wife. Like the example I gave yesterday, we can use very simple, practical examples from our day-to-day examples. Like I said, if you come to my house there are a lot of people who stand at the gate, they don't come in, they might be vendors or someone. (the vendors miss my mother. they loved my mother very much because she used to sit outside, at the gate, on the chair after her bath with her hair all let down and they used to bow to her, 'Durga matha, kali matha' hahaha and they used to give her 1 kg tomatoes extra, 1 kg onions extra. They used to love seeing my mother sitting over there. These are all stories I am finding out after she passed away) so they don't come in. then there are others who cross the gate and come to the door. Then there are others who come inside. Then there are others who are allowed to go further. And then are children who can go anywhere. But let us say you are a husband, or you are a wife, and you are in the bathroom showering and you forgot something. Who is the only one who can come in there? It is your spouse. Nobody else can come in there, even children won't come in there.

There is only one person who can go wherever He goes. To every other person there is a limitation. There is only one person, only one person who can come wherever you go, that is your spouse. That is why the first statement made about Adam and Eve before the fall is – they were naked and they were not ashamed. So this set of people is absolutely naked in the spiritual realm before God and they have nothing to be ashamed of, because they have dealt with it all in this life. Man is controlled by fear and shame. These people have no fear and they have no shame, because their lives were right before God.

Remember the flooring of Heaven is like a glass of fire, transparent. Can we stand there? Can our lives go through that transparency under the fire of God's eye? You read *Revelation 1 and 2*, look at Jesus' eyes, He sees everything. The writer of Hebrew says, nothing is hidden from His eyes. And here are people who never let anything be hidden from His eyes. Therefore now they are the first fruits unto the Lamb. So we are seeing a picture, and the picture in the Old Covenant is Rebecca. She is the picture. Let's look at the next verse. Understand, this is an ongoing journey.

Genesis 24:16

¹⁶ Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

How many of you will do that? If there are a dozen men and camels on the road side, how many of you will do that? You will forget the pitcher, forget the water, you will be busy staring at all of them, 'Where did they come from?' did you see how focused she is? Can you be focused in church? A baby may cry, but why should that disturb you? The baby has a mother. Somebody may move around and immediately your attention is gone. You see her, she is absolutely focused. There are people like that. She is not looking at anybody, she knows what she has come for. Do you know what you have come for? Most children do not do well in academics is because they don't listen. Simple reason, the reason they don't do well is not because the teacher is bad, it is because they don't listen. She is absolutely focused. What is you come there for? I came there to draw water. Why did you come so early? So that I take the water early and start my work early. Because if I am late all the ladies will come, there will be pushing and pulling and after sometime all the water will become muddy and you will waste time in unnecessary gossip, I need to go back, there is work to be done.

Do you see simple principles? You wonder, pastor keeps on talking about time and focus and order, how does it make a difference? It will make a difference in eternity. Like I said yesterday, in God's Kingdom, in God's universe there is absolute order. This is 22nd of Oct' 2023, you can find out about 22nd of Oct' 2024 exactly what time the sun will rise. In 2050 exactly what time it will rise. That is how orderly His universe is. The only disorderly set of people is humans. Because we have been given a free will. Not animals, animals have order. If any animal has disorder you can be sure it is your pet. It is you who made is disorderly. The polar bear can sleep for 6 months at a time, because that is his order.

You look at how God has created everything, it is unbelievable. Birds going on migration for 10,000 miles and they don't lose their way. And when they finish they go right back. They don't go shopping in between. I don't remember when was the last time I visited a shopping mall. I think it was last century. But if you have ever gone into these big shopping malls, sometime later you will hear an announcement, 'Baby lost and found, please parents come and claim him/her.' You know, the baby was not lost; the parents were lost. They were so engrossed in their shopping that they lost their baby.

Did you see this in *Genesis 24:16*? You have to read the whole chapter, it is fantastic. You go through it verse by verse by verse and pray, 'Lord, here is a girl who has been picked by You for Isaac. I want to be like that.'

Genesis 24:17

¹⁷ And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

You see? The servant ran. Who is that? Abraham's servant, the one who is in charge of the entire inheritance. He ran to meet a person who is on time, who is on purpose, who is an answer to his prayer. The Spirit of God runs, God runs. Remember the Ethiopian eunuch who has gone to Jerusalem. Lot of people come to Jerusalem, thousands of thousands, and they all go back. But here is one man going back, and why does the Holy Spirit take Philip and says, 'Run after him!?' because even after all this, when he is going back he is still reading. So he came with a purpose, he didn't come as a tourist. He has finished the pilgrimage and now going back, but still breaking his head over the scroll of Isaiah. He is in his chariot reading. And God said, 'Run!' the Bible says that Philip ran.

Eliezer ran. Will God run towards us? Will God stop for us? Like I said, you read the Gospels of Jesus Christ, God hears faith, God sees faith, God feels faith. He asked, 'Who touched Me?' So He felt it. *When He saw their faith, He said, 'Son, your sins are forgiven. Go.'* He could see faith. *Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy!* Jesus stopped, 'Bring him here.' He heard faith. We heard a cry, He heard faith.

Now, in the first 25 minutes of this morning, God heard the same cry and words from every mouth. But in whose voice was there faith? They also heard what we have heard, the Gospel. But what they heard they did not mix it with faith, therefore it was of no use to them. That is why the tune is not what is important, though it is attractive. It attracts us. But what is important are the lyrics. And those lyrics have to be uttered with faith, 'I believe! I believe! I believe!' sometimes when you are doing your personal worship you need only one song, you don't need five songs, ten songs. Only one songs, sing it over and over again, 'I believe. I believe what I am singing.'

So he ran towards her and said, ***"Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."*** Awesome, right? This is Rebecca, the daughter of Nahor. Beautiful, virgin, disciplined, big khandan. A few thousand years later Jesus will stand by the well side, here will come a Samaritan woman, married five times, living with the sixth one, He will ask her, 'Can I have some water?' and she is shocked, 'You are a Rabbi and You are asking me for water?' she also came alone. But she didn't come in the morning or in the evening; she came at mid-day, because nobody would come with her. She came at mid-day and even for her God was waiting. Understand the significance.

Genesis 24:18

¹⁸ So she said, "Drink, my lord." (Oh! She is a very respectful person. We don't have to say 'lord' but we can say, 'Sir') Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

Today nobody wants 'Sir'. 'Call me by name.' No! I will not call you by name. I will call you 'Sir'. I am sorry, to call you by name is your culture. To call you 'Sir/Madam' is my culture. 'Sir' it is a respect. It doesn't matter who it is. Every time I speak in Nepal or Hindi, let it be anybody even if it is a common worker I say, 'Aap' I don't say, 'thum'. They will be shocked, 'Sir, why are you calling us sir?' it doesn't matter, because you do not know one day he may judge over you. You never know. Because sometime back, they keep changing, but there was this MCH sweepers on the road and that lady I always give her something and one day she removes something for her pocket and shows me, 'Pastor, your transcript. Sin, iniquity and transgression in Telugu.' Now imagine you reach Heave and she is put over you. It is better to call her 'madam'.

You do not know, there is going to be an inversion in eternity you will be shocked at the people who are going to rule. The first will become the last, the last will become the first. Judge is not according to what is happening over here. It is going to be an absolute, mind boggling revelation in eternity. That is what He said, from the east and the west they will come and sit at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

So we see that she is a very respectful person.

Genesis 24:18-20

¹⁸ So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." ²⁰ Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

This is what is important, along the other things. There are two kinds of people in the world; one is selfish and the other is selfless. Which category do you belong?

2 Timothy 3:1-4 KJV

¹ ***This know also,*** (so you should know this. As far as I know that is the only place the Holy Spirit, through Apostle Paul, actually, specifically says, 'Know this.' So when God says in only one place in the Bible 'know this' you better know it) ***that in the last days perilous times shall come.*** (Why? simple reason. One reason alone. There are so many things mention, but one reason. What is that?) ² ***For men shall be lovers of their own selves,*** (that is what causes everything. They are selfish, they are self-centered. It is me, I, myself. Lovers of self, that is the root cause of all the problems.) ***covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*** ³ ***Without natural affection,*** (this is another thing – without natural affection) ***trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*** ⁴ ***Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;***

That is what we saw, without natural affection. At the worst type when the Hamas terrorists butchered babies. You should take Anisha's baby, hold her in your arms and imagine, it is these kinds of babies they beheaded and butchered. What happened to natural affections? This is the extreme, there is no natural affection also left in the last days. Natural affections also will go which will create this huge, huge problem. Natural is not divine; it is normal natural affection which parents have for children, children have for parents, brothers have for one another, friends. That natural affection also will go. Why does it go? Because people are lovers of themselves. So if you are selfish, ultimately if you are weighed in the balance you are a taker.

If you are selfless, ultimately when you are in the balance you are a giver. And you look at the first thing about Rebecca, she is a giver. And it is all to strangers. She sees them and they ask her, 'Can you give us a drink?' first thing she does is she pours water for him and she pours water for all the camels. And the camels can drink you out of the house. There are 10 camels. So it is not a onetime thing. That means she is a hard working young girl. She's got strength. She didn't collapse after 2 buckets. And yet she is from one of the wealthiest families in town. That is what I keep telling you, we need to understand this simple thing what you call as the dignity of any labour. In any labour there is dignity. Not in certain professions or certain offices. Every labour has dignity and that is why when the Father sent His Son He sent Him as a Carpenter. He became a Carpenter.

How many parents over her want your children to be carpenters? 'Nooo!! What? Carpenter!?!?! NO!!' what about plumber? 'AAHH!!' when your pipes are clogged, you call the engineer or the plumber? When one leg falls off your dinning chair whom do you call? The doctor or the carpenter? Nobody wants to be a carpenter? We do not understand, these are simple things. See, these things just don't come on one day, these things come because you have understood these things. My God is a worker, He instituted work, there is going to be work in eternity. So every work has its own dignity. Indians will do any work only when they go to America, because there is dollar there. Doctor becomes a car-washer, why? Because there is more money in washing cars in America than being a doctor. They will do anything there. In India they won't. Only where there is money. Now let me ask you this question – are you working for money? You are a slave.

She is not working for money. That is why I personally disagree to children doing chores in the house to get pocket money. No. Those are your chores, why should you get pocket money? You get pocket money because your father has a pocket and there is money in it. See, if the children need to get pocket money for their chores, then the wife needs to get a salary for cooking, and the husband need to be paid in the house as well. See, everybody is now looking to be paid. How can you live in a house like that? Husband says at the end of the day, 'You haven't paid my wages.' Wife says, 'I cooked for you, you haven't paid my wages.' You can't live like that. No, it doesn't work like that. You can't work like that. You have to understand that there is dignity in any work you do and the joy of doing it is what your reward is, it is

what you receive. Otherwise you know what will happen? Ultimately you will take this ethos into your service for God. That is the problem.

The problem is that ultimately you will take this work-culture which works for money alone into your relationship with God and you start serving God for money. That is what Satan told God about Job, 'Oh! Anybody can serve and worship You the way You have blessed him. Take it away and let us see what he will do.' God said, 'Take it away, I know him. He didn't work for money. His wife did, but he didn't.' because when all that went away Job worshipped, his wife didn't.

So we need to understand this fundamental principles, 'Lord, thank You Lord, I am healthy. I got up in the morning. All my limbs are fine. Thank You Lord, there are many who are without any limb.' You see all these videos where people without limbs the kind of work they do it baffles you. This fellow, I think he doesn't have hands, he repairs bikes with just his feet. And here we are with every limb and we can't repair anything. And we complain. Please understand this, God has given us a body and God has given us time. This body is for this time. And if you can allow this body to be used for His service in this lifetime He will give you another body which doesn't need sleep, which never grows tired, its dimensions will be completely different and you can serve Him forever. But you won't get it unless you do it here. This perishable body.

So there is a very good motive behind how you serve here. Of course you will get tired. Sleep, get up and start working again. That is what Rebecca is doing.

My Father and I are at work from the beginning and We are still at work. The Father works, the Son works, then what about His Wife? Is she sleeping? What a picture in Heaven! Father is working, the Spirit is working, the Son is working and the Bride is sleeping? Because she is used to sleeping long hours on Earth, she can't change her habit. There is humor but pun intended. Think about it.

There are so many lovers of self. We are living in a self-driven world. The first thing Jesus says, so many people are following Him and we all followed Him. We believed Him and followed Him, but He says, 'If anyone wants to follow Me and wants to be My disciple he has to deny himself.' That is the first step, and then we stop. Deny himself. The motive in the world is even if you give it is only to get more. So the Bride here is totally, totally transformed. She is fair, has a meek and a quiet spirit.

When I was young my father and my mother used to fight. (Both are dead and they are listening. God bless you both). I am just using as an illustration. Actually my mother used to fight and my father was very silent. One of the days I asked him, 'What is the secret?' he said, 'Son, it takes two hands to clap. If one hand is silent nothing will happen, it will just be a lot of air. Leave it alone. How long can they talk alone? After sometime she will also stop.' He was a man beyond his years. I remember I was in class 6. There are certain things I can remember very vividly. I was in class 6 and there was this Indian teacher telling my dad, 'Sir, I am preparing for IAS.' My father asked, 'Why do you want to do IAS?' 'Once I do IAS you know how it is in India. The dowry will be more.' These people how they connect dowry even with IAS. And I heard my father make one statement which is stuck in my mind from class 6, he said, 'Man makes money. Don't let money make you.' What a statement for a man who was not born-again. 'Man makes money. Don't let money make you.' And older man, the principal, giving advice to a young teacher who is studying to become an IAS officer.

What is your motive? What is your purpose? So there she is. Let's go to *2 Corinthians 8*,

2 Corinthians 8:7, 5-6

⁷But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

What is that grace? Grace of giving. Read verse 5,

⁵And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. ⁶So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.

So, the grace of giving. Honestly think about it, the grace of giving. *For God so loved the world He gave.* He gave, that is why we are here. Rebecca will reach Isaac's house because she gave. Do you know what she will become? One of the,

second, matriarchs of Israel. Do you know why? s simple thing, she saw a man who was thirsty, he said, 'Can you give me a drink?' and she saw that all the other men and the camels are all thirsty and she said, 'Sir, sure. Don't worry about it,' one look at them she knew these people have come from far, dust all over them, they look tired, she said, 'You please wait over there, here drink some water,' and she filled the trough until all the camels have drunk. Did she ever think that this one action would make her one of the matriarchs of Israel? Did she ever think? But that was her nature, that was her culture, that was who she was.

You go through the Bible you will suddenly see pictures like that emerging through the Bible. We are saved by grace. Yes, the grace of God. How does the grace work out? Look at what Apostle Paul says in *1 Corinthians 15*,

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Did you see that? He labored more than all the apostles. Why? Because, he says, 'Unlike them , I persecuted the Church. And He saved me. So I am eternally grateful that He saved a sinner like me.' *He who is forgiven much loved much*, and it pours out. Love gives. You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. So if anybody says that he/she loves you without giving that is not true. It is not possible to love without giving. So if you say that you love God, you also need to ask – what have I given God?

Do you remember Aruna's threshold? When thousands have died and to stop the death he has to offer a sacrifice. And Aruna says, 'My lord! Take it all, it is yours, my king.' David said, 'I will not offer the Lord anything that has not cost me.' remember the final offering at Bethany with the alabaster oil. Think on these things. And we will see that she waters and trough and sees that all the camels drink. Think about it, honestly think about it. It will change your life. It would change her life.

Genesis 24:22

²² So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold,

This should be the order. The problem in the Corinthians church is that they did not have this heart but they had the gifts and they were all flaunting their gifts. And there was so much dissension in the church. This should be the order. This woman has the fruit and the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts. This is the balance. A bird with one wing cannot fly. A lot of people only have the gifts (one wing) they do not have the fruit. A lot of people have the fruit but they don't have the gifts. But when Eliezer sees that she has the fruit, what he takes out are the gifts.

So there is a God who is looking to give us gifts. But here Eliezer is waiting and watching, will she finish what she has started? Or is it just words? Will she finish what she was promised? And she did finish it. Then he finds out who she is, he is tickled pink and then he asks a question in verse 23,

Genesis 24:23-26

²³ and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?" ²⁴ So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." ²⁵ Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge." ²⁶ Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD.

She asked a question, interesting question, now remember this is a woman. The man is asking the woman, 'Is there place in your house for us to lodge? Will a woman of any culture say, 'yes'? No, she will usually say, 'I need to ask my father, or I need to ask my brother.' But why did Rebecca say 'yes'? Because it is a very hospitable house. Did you get the picture? She said, 'Yes'. Can your child invite anybody to your house? She will, or he will, if they know that you are hospitable even to strangers. That is where their courage comes from. But if you ask such a kind of person whose parents say, 'Don't bring anybody here. I don't like people coming over here.' They will not invite.

Where did she get her confidence from? Where did she get her boldness from? She said, 'Yes, please come, all of you.' We are not talking about one of two people, we are talking about 10 of 11 people. She says, 'Yes. Not a problem.' You need to understand how important hospitality is both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. And one of the conditions in ministry is that pastor or the Deacon should be hospitable. If the widow has to be included in the group to be supported by the church, one of the conditions was that she was hospitable when she was not a widow. If she did not wash the feet of the saints and was not hospitable person herself she is not worthy to receive hospitality from the church. That is how important hospitality was. We need to understand what the rules in the Kingdom are. This has nothing to do with salvation. We are not looking at salvation, we are looking at rewards. We need to realize that when we stand before God and when we are judged, what are the parameters under which we are judged? 'O Lord, I did not know.' God says, 'You did read your Word? You did listen to the sermons? I told you this is how you will be judged.'

And Rebecca is a very hospitable person. These are things which should be in our mind. And there are people in the church who are hospitable, but I am saying all of you should have that heart. And it doesn't matter, you don't need to give 5star comfort. Just comfort. First you need to have an open heart.

Then all the men go there, it is all excitement and all, they finally realize that this is from God. We will fast forward from there (because we are watching a movie of the end days), and in verse 54, everybody is sure that this is from God, they are all excited, 'Isaac, he is our relative,' cousins and everything.

Genesis 24:54

⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

Please remember, he did not eat until he given his entire testimony and purpose. We will eat first and then give our testimony, because we are very zealous for the food. Hahaha! He was zealous for the Lord. You need to understand his zeal, his zeal is that though he traveled so far, they are so tired and so hungry, but he said, 'No. let me first tell you,' because he was so excited that purpose has been fulfilled, we found the purpose, 450 Kilometers or miles we have travelled, all these weeks and months searching and we found the girl. God led us like a laser missile right to the right house, we found the right girl. You read that whole account you will see how many times Eliezer is worshipping and worshipping and worshipping because he is so excited, 'Wow! What a God of Abraham! We started committing this journey into His hands and He has given us success.' Every time he realizes that he is worshipping and he is not worried about who is looking, he would just worship.

So the question is – where did Eliezer learn worship from? Abraham. How come Lot never learnt that? How could a Syrian learn to worship in Abraham's house and his own nephew never learnt to worship and at the end when judgment comes he loses everything and almost all his family, because he didn't learnt to worship. These are things which are imparted, but some people do not receive it. Eliezer worships at every point. That is why you get the pictures of all the little ones, the parents will send me of their children raising their hands and worshipping. It is awesome, but the thing is that in another 10 years from now he/she should still e worshipping. It is awesome to see them worshipping, they are not really worshipping, they are just imitating. That is fine. But my serious question to you is this – are they imitating a video? Or you? Who are they imitating? I don't know, I am just asking you a question.

So the men and Eliezer arose in the morning and said, 'Send me to my master.' ***Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."*** There is an urgency of the Holy Spirit. Once the Bride has been found there will be a quickening. Please understand, there will be a quickening for the Holy Spirit to leave. Because the Bride has been found there is no point in tarrying anymore.

Genesis 24:55-58

⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go." ⁵⁶ And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go

to my master.”⁵⁷ So they said, “We will call the young woman and ask her personally.”⁵⁸ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go.”

Think about these kinds of things. I am honestly telling you, think about these things. Because you need to get this mindset. Because I see this in ministry, I am not judging you, I am judging people like me who is in ministry. Everyplace I go where there are these big ministries and meetings and all, after the conference is over nobody goes home, they stay there another 5 days visiting the city. I am the only one who leaves immediately. I don't see any place. I did not come here as a tourist, I have come for a purpose and I am going home. And they ask me, 'How come you don't want to see?' I tell them, 'If you see now you have to pay. But there is another time called rapture where I will see everything for free. But right now I have a time and I have a purpose.' You talk about any city where I have gone for ministry I haven't seen any city. From the car window I saw Burj Khalifa, that was enough for me. And when people ask me, I say, it is written in the book of Revelation 18, 19, all these will be haunts of demons. All these shopping malls everything will be empty, nothing will be left, and everything will be shaken. Why should I go and waste my time looking at things where demons are going to live tomorrow? You read Scripture and you will suddenly understand that many of the places you go and waste your money are places where demons are going to reside one day. And I don't like Singapore, because it is a man-made city. You get into in they will start exalting man. Why should I hear all about what man has done? Look around at nature and see what God has done.

They said, 'Let us go.' And the others are saying, 'Stay 10 days and eat.' We will take those 10 days, 'Thank you. I was hoping for 2 weeks.' We will make so many excuses, 'After all I travelled 450 miles, it was 3-4 months. And the camel is not an easy animal, every bone in my body is aching and the food is good. The bed is soft. I will take ten days.' But Eliezer said, 'I will go tomorrow. Can we go back?' Do you know purpose? When you go somewhere do you know what you have gone there for?

My second job, the first day I go there, I was a young man working in Hyderabad and I am the latest entry, the editor with their fiction series. The problem was it was a huge office with cabinets and everybody can see everybody above their shoulders and a chairman is sitting on my right and the director is sitting right in front from where I can see him. And there were two other women one from JNU, one from HCU and I am from EFLU, three of us were sitting beside each other. First day I finished my work and I am ready. I was packing and by 5 the office is done. But the women whisper to me, 'James, nobody leaves at 5.' I asked, 'Why, they haven't finished their work?' 'No, we wait for the chairman to leave, then the director to leave. Only then we leave.' 'Oh!' so I didn't leave the first day. Second also I didn't leave. Third day I was getting uneasy because I finished my work. So third day I picked my bag and left, because I need to go home. I am not working for you; I am working here for my home. The reason I go to office is for my family. So on the third day the junior most employee in the company stood up, took his bag and walked right in front of the chairman and the director, they didn't say anything. Next day two of those women also walked out behind me. I was a Daniel in the company. I didn't defile my heart with too much work.

People need to understand, what are you there for? People will sit there till 2 O' clock in the morning to please their boss who doesn't like them. Go home, your wife is waiting, your children are waiting. Go home. Because when you go to work you need to understand who you are working for, what you are working for. Who are you working for?

They said, 'Let us go.' These are simple things which people need to understand. This is how the Kingdom of God operates. What am I here for? They finished and they said, 'Okay, ten days, let us ask the girl personally.'⁵⁷ ***So they said, “We will call the young woman and ask her personally.”*** And the girl is asked. What does she say? ⁵⁸ ***Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go.”***

Awesome thing. You need to understand one thing. It is not like today, because I have come through all this. The thing is that I remember as a child, every day evening we wait. One letter from our parents would take between 30-45 days for that letter to reach us. So you hear from your parents once in 45 days. No telephones, nothing. We are talking about connecting with family. Then telephone came. It is not easy to get a telephone. You have to pay 10,000 as special deposit to get a connection and even that you may get in 6 months. If you apply normal it may take 1-2 years to get a telephone connection. To get a bajaj chetak you have to put foreign money. Now they are all trying to sell on the roads

with Shamianas, 'Come! Come! Buy!' you need to realize the reality in which we lived once. Then mobiles and all these things came.

So you are looking at a time when a girl leaves her father's house she never comes back. Isaac doesn't have to say, 'Please don't go back to your mother's house.' There is no going. This is not an easy 'I will go' she has to add, 'I will go and never come back.' There is no coming back. There is no seeing them again. Rebecca will never see her family again. Think about it. So when they are talking about these 10 days, it may not matter to these ten people who are going back to their homes, but it matters to her, 'Yes please 10 days, or at least 5 days.' But she says, 'I will go.' And the question is – do you know Isaac? NO. Have you seen him? No. what do you know about him? Only what I have heard about him, I don't know anything about him. Ask this question.

1 Corinthians 16:22

²² If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

Meaning, 'Leave them behind, You come and take me.' If they are not interested in You why are You interested in them? That is the simple question. That's what it means, 'Let him be accursed! Anathema! Let him be cursed.' What is the greatest curse when you bring 'maranatha' and 'accursed'? It is to be left behind if you don't love Jesus that way.

Revelation 22:20

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." (And what does the Bride say?) Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Do you know what Jesus said in *Luke 14:26*?

Luke 14:26

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

He says, 'You cannot be My disciple. It is not possible, something else will pull you away.' Christ demands that affection from us – 'Will you go?' and you will say, 'Yes, I will go.' What about dad? What about mom? What about wife? Husband? Children? 'I will go.' If you don't have that heart Enoch cannot go. Enoch wouldn't have been raptured, because he has got his parents, he has got his wife, his children. He has got everybody. How can Enoch even go? He was translated. Enoch is the first one who is translated in the Bible. The first one to be translated from his family he had to have loved God more than anybody. Not that he loved them less.

It is like Brutus telling about killing Caesar, 'It is not that I loved him less, but that I loved Rome more.' It is not that we love our family less, it is because we love Christ more. It is not that Rebecca love her family less, it is because she loved the man whom she was going to marry, whom she hadn't seen. It was for that day her whole life was prepared. One day, one day a man will come.

This is how our old mindset, our ethos was. My younger of the two sisters, (I can't tell about my family. It doesn't matter, it is not your family. It is my family). The younger sister had a huge issue with her husband and one day, I don't know what happened over there, she tried to kill herself, she swallowed all kinds of pills, was taken to the hospital and they flushed her stomach and cleaned it all out. And her husband called my mother and said, 'Go see what your daughter has done.' My mother, she went, she saw my sister, her daughter. Got her discharged, put her in the auto and took her straight to her husband and said, 'That is where you left to, and that is where you will stay.' Those are tough people, they don't buckle under pressure. She said, 'You left us for him and you will stay with him. Work out your differences by yourselves.'

You need to understand. Will you go? What is holding you back? Rebecca's starting point is far better than Abraham's; he is stuck in Haran because he loved his father more than the call of God for years. Her starting point is greater than Abraham's. First choice and she says, 'I will go.' Abraham didn't, God had to call him a second time after his father died. God said, 'There is no point in talking to this man, as long as his father is alive he won't go.' Sometimes people say, 'God

never calls me.' He doesn't call because He doesn't waste words; He knows that if He calls, you will say 'No'. So He waits until you are ready. So get these pictures in. the call, the supremacy of Christ in our life.

This is why I said in the beginning, you have to look at the temporal and you have to look at the eternal. In every life there is an eternal and a temporal. Think about me as a woman, the Church is a woman. I have a father, temporal, one day who will die. I have a Father who is eternal, who never dies. I have a spouse in the temporal who will die. And I have a Spouse in the eternal who will never die. So when I have to choose between the temporal and the eternal, whom will I choose? That is the simple thing God is talking about. Whom will I choose? The eternal Father or the temporal father? The eternal Spouse or the temporal spouse? You choose, He says. He leaves the choice to us but He will also tell us the consequences. Because He says, 'I will choose those who have chosen Me.' that is why the Bible says, 'Many are called but very few are chosen.'

There are questions in the Bible which I still haven't understood. One of the question I ask is that – Joseph becomes governor of Egypt; number 2 in Egypt. And for the next 22 years he does not seek his father or his brothers. Why? because he is hearing in his spirit, 'Wait! This is not the time. I did not bring you to Egypt to make you a governor; I brought you to Egypt to redeem My people. For that, wait for My time.'

And I know personally in my life and in everybody's life, our biggest issue is not God's will, it is God's time. And nobody knows God's time. We will say, 'God makes all things beautiful in His time.' The problem is that we do not know God's time. Even Apostle Paul did not know His time. The only one who knew God's time was God's Son. He said, 'Your time is always, but My time has not yet come.' And that is our issue. So these are all the things of the heart. There is a very powerful verse I spoke to the pastors on Tuesday,

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

That is where it begins, everything is heart-based, not mind-based first. We are all mind-based people. You want to be holy, how do you become holy? By the Law? It is not possible, it is mind-based. If you want to be holy, (because without holiness no one will see God), the first thing to do is in your heart, every day, 'Lord, I sanctify You in my heart.' Faith is of the heart, love is of the heart, holiness is of the heart. If it begins with the heart, even if you fall you will rise back because your heart will convict you, because it is based on a relationship. People all have mind relationships, they don't have convictions. That is why David is a very special person in the Bible because one thing God says about him is, 'This is a man after My heart; his faith is from the heart, his love is from the heart, his holiness is from the heart, he has sanctified Me in his heart.'

But when your heart is not given to God, it doesn't matter what God says, at some point you will draw a line and say, 'Not further. I am not going any further.' So the Bible is not just cerebral. There is a lot of renewing of the mind. But the renewing of the mind will really not happen until your heart is surrendered. And it is just a simple question of going every day to God. One day you will know and He will know that you have actually surrendered. We are not like Apostle Paul who surrendered the first day itself. We may have to go a hundred times, a thousand times, but we go and say, 'Lord, I give You my heart. I give You my heart.' One day you wake up and you realize that you have given and He has taken. Then suddenly everything will start making sense. All the messages you heard, all the daily devotions start becoming crystal clear. And you wonder, 'What happened?' God says, 'You gave Me your heart and now you understand.' That is how it works.

And she says, 'Let's go.' And she goes. Now we are coming to the finale.

Genesis 24:61-63

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed. ⁶² Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. ⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

⁶¹ ***Then Rebekah and her maids arose***, this is where the question arose from – will I be the Bride or the Bride's maids. So Bride's maids were there. There were probably many girls and many maids in the house. But all of them didn't go with Rebecca. So who went with Rebekah? The maids Rebekah liked. These are not friends, these are slaves. But the ones who were closed to her, whom she liked, whom she trusted. So you see categories in the Kingdom. So they are going. Now they are not coming back. They also will never come back. All of them are journeying in the same direction, but the purpose is not the same. Only Rebekah will get married. So a lot of people will go to Heaven but all of them won't be married to Jesus. Marry in the sense a spiritual union. So we may all be headed in the same direction, but is our objective the same? So there they go, ***and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.*** All these 6 months, 7 months, 8 months journey is all in one line, because they are not tourists. ⁶² ***Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi***, (do you remember about whom you heard in this place earlier?) Hagar. Remember Hagar who said, 'The God who sees me.' and that is where he is.) ***for he dwelt in the South.***

So she is going towards the Promise Land and he has come a small part of the way. That is where we get the picture of rapture. The Bride is taken up by the Spirit of God and Christ comes part of the way to receive her. It is a picture in the Old Covenant. You need to realize, for every doctrine in the Old Covenant, there must be a picture in the Old Testament. And that is why the longest chapter in the book of Genesis is given for Isaac's wedding. Because it is symbolic of Christ and the Church. Because marriage is a mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the Church.

⁶³ ***And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.***

Look at Isaac. This man is an unbelievable man right from childhood, who allows his father to tie him on the altar and all that. He is forty years year he won't look for a girl, no girlfriend, no dating, nothing, 'I left it all to my dad. He is a praying man, he is a godly man. He is experienced, his choice is better than mine. So let him choose for me.' And he will not make a choice; he left it all to dad. And dad has left it to Eliezar. Now he knows that Eliezar has gone. What is he doing? He is meditating. What is Christ doing, till His church comes? What does the Bible say? He is forever making intercession. He is interceding for us, the Church is on the way towards Christ.

Isaac comes part of the way, ***and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.*** that is where we have the picture from Thessalonians, we are not looking at that today.

Genesis 24:64-65

⁶⁴ ***Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; ⁶⁵for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.***

Simple question is this - she has travelled a long, long way. If you know caravan, you know, how they go and travel and they stopped, they sit they light the fire, they eat, they talk. All these weeks and months the conversation of Rebekah is over one man – who is Isaac. Tell me about Isaac. Tell me about Isaac.

When you come to the church what do you want to hear about? How to prosper in this world? Seven steps to promotion? Six steps to healing? Or do you want to know about Jesus? Where is your heart? The whole conversation is about a man she has not met. And she is going down the road, this journey, she has seen so many villages and so many men. She never asked this question, 'Who is this man?' for the first time she is asking, ***"Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?"*** what did he say? ***The servant said, "It is my master."*** Now look at it, what is the first thing she does? She takes her veil and covers herself. Without words her first action is, 'I come under your authority. You are my master. I come under your authority.' That is the first thing she does.

1 Peter 1:8

⁸ ***whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,***

Have you seen Him? No. but do you love Him? That is the question. Has Rebekah seen him? No. does she love him? Yes. Because all she has heard about is Isaac. The stories of Isaac. And Eliezer can tell the stories of Isaac, 'You know my master Abraham? And my mistress, who passed away, Sarah. She was barren till 90, do you know that God visited their

tent? I remember that day, how they fed God. How hospitable! And how God pronounced a blessing over Sarah's womb – 'Next year by this time...' do you know that my master's birth is a miracle? A hundred year old man and a 90 year old woman. It is a miracle, that promised child. Do you know that before his mother died, when he was young and strong, one day the master called us and said, 'Let us go on a journey,' we went on a 3-day journey and then he told us, 'You all stay here, the boy and I will go up, worship and we will come back. I heard the story of what happened. Do you know, my master tied his son on the altar and he lifted the knife to sacrifice him and God stopped him.' He has stories to tell and Rebekah's mouth must have dropped, 'What a man! What a man!'

Do we have stories to tell about Jesus? What a Man! He left Heaven. HE was the Prince of Heaven. There are so many stories of Jesus I still cannot reconcile in my mind, because this body is a body of humiliation. From morning onwards you know that; how many times a day you have to go to the loo. It is a body of humiliation. Jesus was God and He took a body. 2000 years ago there were no modern toilets. Can you imagine what He went through? I am trying to reconcile these things about Jesus. God, the Lord of lords waking up every morning and trying to find a place to relieve Himself. For what? For my sake. You think about it, this is not Someone who had to, but He chose to. Think about one small little thing. 2000 years ago. Think about it.

We have running water, we have everything and flush. Jesus, 2000 years ago, in Bethlehem. The stories of Jesus we can speak. Everything He did was for you and me. Can we tell stories about Jesus? What a Man! What a Man! She has heard all the stories. And when we have heard all the stories and are reminded of those stories, even though we haven't seen Him we will love Him.

Because so many of you are struggling, because you are in love with a face and not a person. That is modern life; you fall in love with faces and then when you find out about the person you don't like the person. So God doesn't give us a face, that is why there are no pictures of Jesus, no physical description of Jesus in the Bible, hardly anything, but what we have is the revelation of the Person. And God says, 'Fall in love with that Person. This is My Son.' and You read the accounts of all the ancient martyrs, who were given the chance to deny Jesus and live. They said, 'How can we deny Him? How can we deny Him?' Did they see Him? No. But did they love Him? Yes.

But we are 20th century media people. Visual people. All these media, media, media pictures, so we have made Jesus also into media Person. And after all that media we still don't love Him. You go into the villages where there is no media and nothing, you tell them about Jesus. I still cannot forget those pathans from Pakistan. I was looking at them when I was preaching, all my life I have never seen a response like that. Two times I preached to them; one was with the housemaids in Singapore and the second time was the Pakistani pathans in Dubai. The pathans were weeping. Do you know what I was preaching to them about? It was about the woman with the issue of blood. They were crying and just crying.

And I am preaching to you in English, which I am fluent in and which you can understand, while I was preaching to them in Hindi and they were crying. The second time was in Singapore, I told you when I went to church I was very surprised, because all were women, only pastor and I were men. I was wondering what is happening, what's wrong with this church? There are no men in this church. Then I realized that these were all housemaids and they were group A, group B, group C and group D, because they only get one Sunday off. So this is the group that has come on this Sunday. And I was preaching in Nepali and they were weeping when they heard how kind and tender and compassionate Jesus is. And this is what we are talking about. We are so worried about our problems and our breakthroughs. Do you have any time left to love Jesus?

1 Peter 1:8

⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Do you know what is written about the Thessalonians' Church to whom the first message about the rapture in the Bible is written? *In much affliction you received Him with great joy.*

I read some of the letter our children write from our underground churches, girls who have been beaten up and raped, they say, 'Daddy I want to hate, but I can't. I want to hate but I can't because I am called to love. Because He loved me. And I have given my body as a living sacrifice to Him.' Have we loved Him?

Awesome right? There she is.

Genesis 24:66

⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

Do you know what Jesus said? "When the Holy Spirit comes He will not speak anything about Himself. He will give a testimony about Jesus." That is what the Holy Spirit does. You may say, 'I don't hear from the Holy Spirit.' Ask Him about Jesus He will tell you. If you really want the Spirit of God to talk to you take your Bible, open it and say, Spirit of God, can You show me Jesus?' then you will see, the words, the books of the Bible, the pages of Scripture coming alive and you will start seeing as Peter said, 'The Spirit of Christ was in them revealing Jesus from the beginning.' *All things were made by Him, for Him and through Him.* This is about Him.

Now we will come to the final verse.

Genesis 24:67

⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Did you see that? **he loved her.** It is an arranged marriage. It is a perfect arranged marriage. But this is an arranged marriage which was based on persons, not on faces. **So Isaac was comforted.** Christ was comforted. He has been waiting for a long time. And if you look at the Middle East you know that time is running out. It is fast running out. And the church has to be ready and prepared. the only way you can actually be ready is by asking God, 'Help me Lord to love You with all my heart, with all my strength and with all my soul. Help me to love You.' That is the way you get ready. That is your preparation. Because we can hear everything in the Kingdom of God but if you really want to understand what the power of the Holy Spirit is, you will realize that actually it is love. Because everything that God has done, both creation and redemption is because God loves. *For God so loved the world.* That is the motivation, that is the power. And that is the same power God gives us.

Why does He say, 'Do not love the world or the things in the world,'? Because the love of the Father will not be in you. These two loves cannot stay together. They are contrary to each other. If the love of the world comes in the love of the father goes out. If the love of the Father keeps coming in the love of the world will go. Amen?

Closing prayer:

Father, this morning, we come to You. We looking into our hearts and we truly, truly see that we are shallow. We do love You, but we do not love You the way we should love You, the way we can love You. Because there are so many things that is between us and You, useless things, irrelevant things. Things which have no value in eternity. But we are clinging onto that. Therefore this morning O Father once again we stand on Your Word by faith and we surrender and we pray, we say to You Lord, 'Circumcise our hearts, circumcise our hearts. It doesn't matter how painful it may be, when these people or things leave our life that are hold us from You. Circumcise our hearts that we may love You with all our hearts and all our mind and all our strength. You do it, we can't do it. Because sometimes we do not even know the things that are holding us back are, only You know. Therefore we give You the liberty, the authority to circumcise our heart, Lord, today, the 22nd of Oct, the year of the Lord, 2023, once again we surrender our hearts to You Lord, circumcise, circumcise, take everything away that we may truly, truly love You. Because that is the only question You asked Your disciples who denied You, 'Peter, do you love Me more than all these?' the only question. He didn't ask, 'Do you remember all My teachings? Is your faith still intact?' He didn't ask him any of those questions, He says, 'If you have to feed My lambs, My sheep I have only one question to you – do you love Me? because love never fails. If you love Me you will serve Me till the very end. You will take care of My sheep, My lambs till the very end. You will lay down your life for them whom I love till the very end. So the only question is this – do you love Me? and if we find the answer we will suddenly realize that the impossible in our lives will suddenly become possible, if we love Him all things become possible.

That is what kept Jesus on the Cross. He has all the power to come down and to destroy His enemies. It was not the nails, it was not the authority of Caesar, it was the love for His Father, the love for us that kept Him on the Cross because He knew that there was no other way for us to come to Him. And the Spirit of God is still in search for the Bride of Christ. Will He find some in this room? And the question He asks is still the same old question – will you go with this Man wherever He goes, whatever He tells, will you go?

We surrender Lord, we surrender. When we do we know that all things will suddenly fall into place in our lives. Therefore we surrender ourselves individually and as a Church, take our lives and use it for Your glory. Help us to be faithful until You come. For in Jesus' 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. Amen and amen.