

# Straight Talk to Men!

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*Father, this morning we come to You, the Author of Life. And Your words are Spirit and life. We need life. As death spreads all around, in so many ways. You come, always, to give life. Even this morning I pray that there would be an impartation of life, God's life, the overcoming life. Let everyone receive Your life, through the Word, that You will use me as a vessel to speak today. Let yokes be broken, ancient altars be broken. Let there be strength and healing and deliverance and the love of God to be imparted in the hearts of Your children. We believe, we believe, we confess our faith in You, because You said that all things are possible to him/her who believes. So we confess that we believe You Lord. We believe Your Word. We believe. Speak this morning, Father. For in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

To lighten the atmosphere, one of the jokes of old times. Sometimes you have to repeat even the jokes because when you don't get new ones you have to go back to the old ones.

There was this little boy who disliked going to church. There was no way parents could get him to church. One morning, before they could grab him he ran out of the house and climbed up a tree and he sat down there. There was nothing they could do to bring him down. So the mother, in desperation, called the priest and the priest came, he went down to the tree and looked up at the boy. He didn't say a word, he just he just drew the Cross with his hands three times. You know that is what Catholic priests do. And the boy came down. The mother took him to church. Later at home she asked, 'How come we tried everything and you didn't come down. But when the priest came and he signalled with his hands three times you came down?' he said, 'I taught the priest was saying, if you down come down I will cut the tree down.' So it doesn't matter what you understand, the boy came down.

So this morning we will go to 2 Timothy 4, and we will read from verse 1 onwards.

## **2 Timothy 4:1-4**

***<sup>1</sup>I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

Paul is writing this to Timothy, but God is writing this to all His servants. So sometimes you do not understand the pressure that comes upon the servants of God because this is a charge from God. ***<sup>1</sup>I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*** we have been looking at running a race. We are looking at rewards, in the *revelation studies* on Mondays and Fridays. We have reached Thyatira the fourth church – *he who overcomes God says, I will give you authority over nations.* What is prophesied in *Psalms* 2 about Jesus, He says, I will share with you; the authority to rule nations.

So we are looking at a race. Last Sunday Pastor Vijay brought science over there and he talked about how the earth, the speed in which the earth rotates and revolves. And we are not even aware that the earth is rotating, right? Sometimes people are not even aware that we are hurtling towards that Day, when God will judge the living and the dead. And it could happen any moment. God's people are not aware that at breakneck speed the whole of creation is moving towards its destiny. The Day of Judgment. And therefore the urgency. So God says, 'Therefore I charge you, Timothy.' Paul says, ***<sup>2</sup>Preach the word!***

What should I do? Preach the Word. When? In season and off season. There is no season for the Word. All seasons. Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season. ***<sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*** When you preach for two hours, even when they fall asleep, continue preaching with long suffering. Some may snore, shake them and continue preaching. Some may

drool, wipe them and continue preaching. Long-suffering. Why? What is the reason? Because in verse 3, <sup>3</sup>***For the time will come...*** the time is here when people will not endure sound doctrine. They will not endure. So we thought about running the race with endurance. To run and complete that race, to finish that race, do you know what you need? You need the endurance to sit under sound doctrine. It is not easy. And what will they do who cannot endure that? ***but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*** you do not need endurance to listen to them because they are fanciful teachers, they will tickle your ears. 'What are your desires brother? Name it brother. Claim it brother. Messages are very short, very sweet, so appealing to the flesh. And people jump and dance and scream and do all that. You look at that, but you do not realize that actually there is no sound doctrine there. No doctrine there. And in the midst of it, God is asking every generation to arise and endure sound doctrine.

Do not be part of those who do not endure sound doctrine, why? because ***they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*** They will turn our ears from truth, that is the danger. And that is the most dangerous thing. Because God is looking and seeking for worshippers who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

So the question is – how do we prepare every day for that Day, as if today could be that Day? there will be no time to prepare because Bible says, 'At the twinkling of an eye,' so you cannot prepare on that Day; you have to be always prepared. Always prepared. I still remember, those days when I was in the North east, 20-25 years ago, when I was AFCA was all over Assam and the army was controlling the movements and every. It was a civilian government but the army was controlling because of insurgency and I had this permit to minister among the soldiers and they gave me a pass so I could go there. I used to go to different regiments, and one of the places I used to go was at the core head-quarters itself. That was in the evening. And I would go to the barracks where the drivers were. And most of them were tamilians and they were on fire for God. It would just take 5 minutes, in 5 minutes the dining hall became a chapel. They would bring a white sheet and spread it over and before you know they are all seated over there and here I am preaching in Hindi, Malayalam and broken Tamil and I can only hear their cry, 'Andavareh!' then suddenly, one whistle, and you would see within 2 minutes they would put on their uniform, buckle their belt and salute, 'Praise the Lord pastor!' and they are gone. From a service to duty, just gone like that. The service is over and I leave.

That is what the Bible is saying, you don't get time. You are always prepared. And to be prepared there is something which you have to do, you have to endure sound doctrine. When you are founded on that doctrine nothing shakes you; persecution doesn't move you. Remember, the church in Jerusalem began under sound doctrine. They gathered daily. We cannot gather daily, so we give you once a week, enough for seven days.

They gathered daily for the apostles' doctrine and then when persecution arose and the believers were scattered, probably after a couple of years, what happens is that they went everywhere preaching the Word. Why? It is because they were founded on sound doctrine. They endured it. So when persecution came, they didn't fall away. And that is what God is talking about. For what will happen is they will turn their ears away from truth. And turn to myths, fables. Multitudes, multitudes will make this choice, because there is a demonic behind it. *1 Timothy 4*, talks about the demand,

#### **1 Timothy 4:1**

***1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,***

That is what the devil does. There are doctrines which are actually empowered demonically. They are very powerful. It will grip you. And multitudes will go. But they are deceiving. At the core of it is a lie. It is not truth. It is a lie. It will deceive you and what happens? People will fall away from the truth. People will fall away from the faith. So there are powers behind it and there are people who will go,

#### **2 Timothy 4:3**

***<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;***

It is not that they will leave the church. They will find another church which suits their desires. It is just like how you pick your restaurant according to your palette. Otherwise there should be only one kind of restaurant in Hyderabad. Right? But why do we have so many kinds of restaurants? It is like me, my tongue is so tuned to Indian cuisine, and that too south Indian cuisine. I think I still remember, when we all went to a family vacation in Singapore I was the one who went to Google maps and found Saravanaa Bhavan in Singapore and ate dosa, while others were freaking out on all kinds of animals, known and unknown. Why do we have so many? It is because our taste buds are different. But it doesn't work that way with God's Word. It doesn't work that way with God's Word. Sound doctrine. It is the same.

Do we all have different Bibles? Or are we given the same Bible? Only one Book. Only one Book for everybody. And that is what God is talking about. Be careful. And the problem is, you turn from truth to a fable. What is a fable? Or a myth? It is an account passing as truth. Fabrication, it is not truth. But it passes across as truth. And in Greek the Word is *Athia*. Truth versus illusion. And so many people are living their lives on illusion. Not on truth.

And what does the devil want? The devil wants us to move away from truth. Understand that, that is what he wants. Truth is a very interesting word in Hebrew. The word in Hebrew for Truth is 'EMET' (I don't know whether my pronunciation in Hebrew is correct). Hebrew has 22 plus 5, let us say all together 27 letters in the alphabet. And this word 'EMET' has only 3 letters. The first word is the word Aleph. Alpha in Greek, A in English and Aleph in Hebrew. That is the first word. The second Word is the word 'mem', the third letter is 'tav'. Now it is interesting, EMET has the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet, the last letter and the middle letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Did you get it? Hebrew is not like our languages; it is a very pictorial language. Basically the word for Truth, the first meaning about Truth is – it is the beginning, it is the end and it is the whole.

The Bible is a continuum; from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 it is a continuum written by the same Person. So fables and myths are people who leave the Bible aside and pick on verse and build a theology around it. That is a myth, that is a fable. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. So it has to be in continuum. Sound doctrine means it can stand the test of Genesis and the test of Revelation. You do not add or subtract. You don't pick and choose, 'Oh! I love this promise.' Your life is build on a promise and not on the Word of God, the whole Word of God. The first definition in Hebrew is that it is a continuum. Aleph, Mem and Tav. The first, the middle and the last letters. That is not the whole story.

The second lesson we learn from the Hebrew word 'EMET' is that Aleph stands for God. It stands for the infinity. So God is truth. Right? We know from *Isaiah*, Isaiah says, 'God is truth.' Jesus comes and says, 'I am the Truth.' Then He says, 'When the Spirit of Truth comes...' then Jesus says, 'Father, sanctify them by your Truth, Your Word is truth.' And the Church, Paul says, is supposed to be the foundation and the pillar of Truth. Aleph. God is Truth. So not only is truth a continuum, not only is what is true is true for all times, there cannot be confusion. God only created us as male and female, it is truth for all times, it doesn't change. And sex was only meant to be between a man and a woman. It is true for all times. It doesn't change, because it is a continuum. Not only is it a continuum, but God is Truth. God is Truth.

The third pictorial meaning of the Hebrew word EMET is the strong arms of a Father carrying His son. That is truth; when your life has been founded on sound doctrine, on truth, it can stand the stress of any test. It is a very personal relationship with the person of Truth. That is why in *2 Timothy 1:12*, Paul is able to say,

### **2 Timothy 1:12**

***<sup>12</sup> For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.***

***for I know whom I have believed...*** not in 'what' I have believed. He is lying in a roman dungeon, waiting for his execution and he says, 'I am not ashamed.' Why are you not ashamed? Because for him truth is not just an idea, a set of principles, but he says, '***for I know whom I have believed.***' That is EMET. ***For I know whom I have believed.*** It is more than an idea, it is a Person. The strong arms of the father carrying the child, and therefore I am not ashamed, I am not afraid. ***And am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*** Truth without that Person can always be contradicted. But God is a Person. So truth is a doctrine, but the doctrine is the doctrine of Christ; He is a Person. ***He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*** He is confident of that day, when that

day comes he says, 'I know I am secure, because I know in whom I have believed.' That is the third meaning of the Hebrew word, EMET – a Father with strong arms holding His child. And that is what Jesus said, 'I am the Truth.'

And the fourth dangerous aspect of that word EMET, **אמת**, is if you take aleph א out, you only get MET. If you take God out you only get MET. Do you know what MET is Hebrew means? Death. You take God out, all you have is death. And that is what the devil is trying to do from the beginning. You know what he says? He just takes God out. Then it becomes your truth and my truth, but the end of it is death. Keep that in mind – you take God out of truth, what you get is death, not truth. Adam didn't die immediately, but he died. Eve didn't die immediately, but she died.

So the devil is subtle, he is very subtle. The first time the word, 'subtle' is used in KJV is – the serpent was more subtle than all the other creatures. And when he comes to speak his whole intention when he comes to speak is to remove God out of the equation. He begins by saying, 'Did God say?' and what do you get? Death. In *Genesis 2:17* this is what God had said,

#### **Genesis 2:17**

***<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you<sup>[1]</sup> shall surely die."***

#### **Genesis 3:4-6**

***<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*** In a serpentish, snakish way all he did was remove God out of the picture. God said, 'You shall surely die.' He said, 'You will not die. Don't listen to Him. Don't listen to Him, just take Him out of the picture, you won't die' ***<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.***

She was the first one to have itching ears and she had a new teacher. *They will gather around themselves teachers*, because they have itching ears. And she moved from truth to a myth. You will become like God. ***She took of its fruit and ate.*** You need to understand, truth is not tasty like myths. Every time I have noticed in all these years I have preached, in any part of the world, country, village, city, whenever I start a story everybody sits up and they are listening, because it is a story. It is tasty. But when I go back to scripture everybody slouches again.

30-35 years when I used to teach, when the lecturer or teacher was not there. You went to another class which you did not teach, all the students would say, 'Sir! Tell us a story.' And many churches are story-telling places, they tell stories. 30 years in the church and they are still hearing stories from the Bible. Can you endure sound doctrine? Because there is a snake over there and he found that the woman had a itching ear. And he changed the story around and he made a myth out of it, 'No. that is not true. This is what is true; if you eat this is what will happen; your eyes will open and you will become like God.' Isn't that how everything is sold? Till today advertisement is always aimed at the itching ear and the glittering eye. That is why you end up with things which you never need.

They say, the best salesman is the one who can sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo. Eskimo is sitting in his ice-igloo with a refrigerator wondering why he bought it. It is because the salesman was good. Think about all the things in your house – do you actually need all of them? So who sold the bill of good? Think for a minute. So there he is. In the beginning,

#### **Genesis 1:31**

***<sup>31</sup> Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.***

That is how Adam and Eve were created. The entire world, environment and everything was created God said it is very good. Adam and Eve were not robots, they were created with the freedom to choose. They could either live by God's definition of what is good. Or choose for themselves by eating from the tree of knowledge of evil and good. They have 2 options. We all have two options. First option, go by the Word of God. There is only one Book in this entire universe which diagnosis the problem of man and gives the solution. There is no book, no other book diagnosis the problem of

man – sin, and diagnosis the solution – the Son. No other book. That is why this is true. And this is the only Book that is true. It diagnosis everyone's problem, whatever situation, whatever you are going through. The problem is sin and the solution is the Son.

So what Adam and Eve had we have the same choice, either you can choose God and He becomes your life and what He says is the truth. Or you can choose your own. And every time you and I make our choice that is outside the principles and the written Word of God, we have become God. What did we do? From EMET we removed God. And it is just a matter of time it will bring death. It will die. It doesn't matter how wonderful it looks then, it will die. Because for truth to be truth there has to be God in the beginning. That is why the Bible is a spectacular Book like no other book. It just simply states the Truth – *in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Everywhere we have to choose. Adam went to option 2, ate from the tree, now he and Eve and rest of mankind are arbiters of what is good and what is evil. And man died.

#### **Proverbs 16:25**

<sup>25</sup> ***There is a way that seems right to a man,*** (because he is the arbiter of what is truth) ***but its end is the way of death.***

Why? Why is the end of it the way of death? Because he took something out of the equation. What did he take out of it? God. He took God out of the equation. So we have to come back to truth. If any man is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, all things have been made new. But all things don't just pass away. It has to be passed away. Do you know what old things are? They are things built on lies. What are the new things built on? Truth.

If you are really in Christ Jesus your beginning was in God, in truth.

#### **James 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> ***Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.***

That is our beginning. Our beginning was by truth. Our first beginning, born in sin and shaped in iniquity, is a lie. We were born in a lie. Adam's lie; the adamic nature. We were born of a lie. And our father, whether you like it or not, was the devil. The devil was a liar and a murderer from the beginning. You are born again because you received the Word of Truth. And our fatherhood changes. Who is our father now? The Lord, who only speaks the Truth and He is the Truth. And He is the giver of life. *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life.*

So our beginning is with EMET; truth. And our growth can therefore only be by truth. And we cannot stand, like Pilot, before Truth and ask, 'What is truth?' and go to perdition. When truth was standing right before you. And Jesus made a statement to Pilot, 'Everyone who is on the side of truth hears Me.' if you want to hear God's voice in any situation first take a stand for the truth, 'Lord, I will receive Your truth. It doesn't matter how painful it is, because ultimately it brings life and not death.'

You have to stand for truth, because that is how it works. So we talk about restoration. There are many prayer requests for restoration, believing for restoration. How do you want restoration? You have to go back to God. You have to go back to the beginning. You have to go back to truth. When Jesus was asked certain questions, especially connected to marriage He would always say, 'It was not so in the beginning.' Right? So Bible is a very interesting book because you have 50 chapters of the beginning. The first book is called the beginning; Genesis means the beginning. That is why from the beginning I have majored on Genesis because if you can know the beginning then you will understand the middle and the end. And now we are majoring on Revelation. These are the two books I have taught in my life continuously. One is Genesis and the other is Revelation.

Last Sunday Pastor Vijay talked about a good start. A good start is always good, half the race is won with a good start. So everywhere we have to go back to the beginning. What is the beginning? How was it in the beginning? There are two chapters Genesis 1 and 2 before the fall and two chapters at the end Revelation 21 and 22 which are after everything is made new. Only four chapters. All the rest in-between is the fall and all about how God is trying to restore man.

But the question is – whenever you want to restore, like these famous paintings of Pablo Picasso, Michelangelo, their paintings in these art galleries, after many years they will restore it. It is a huge expensive work because it has to be restored without spoiling it. So when you are restoring it, you are restoring it back to the way it was originally. You cannot restore something just like that. If you are restoring, you need to have a template. This is how it was in the beginning, now it is all crumbled down, can you restore it back?

So when you are asking for restoration for anything you need to ask – how was it in the beginning? What does restoration want? So you have to go to the beginning. Thank God in our church we have only two genders; male and female. So you have to go to the beginning. In the beginning there was God and then God created man in His image; male and female He created them. So let's go to the beginning. First you have to accept the truth; there are only two genders, male and female. Then you will not struggle with gender dysphoria. Honestly, it is not a laughing matter anymore, tomorrow your child may grow up and come and say, 'I believe I am a female' or 'I am male'.

So it is no longer a laughing matter. Now almost 20% of young adults in US are identifying with that. What went wrong? In the foremost Christian nation in the world, what went wrong, that you did not know even your beginning? That you were not grounded in this truth, that there are only two genders? What went wrong? Where did you go wrong? So what were you hearing? Fables? Myths? Marriage is between Adam and Eve. What went wrong? When two men marry and two women marry what went wrong? We are not talking about things happening in India, we are talking about things happening in Christian nations. Where did you go wrong? How did you go wrong? You went wrong because you took Aleph out of truth. You took God out. When you take God out your truth is actually a death trap. It is a death trap when you take God out.

So today, ladies can listen, but I will mostly speak to men. Do you know why? It is because God made man first. So let's talk to the men first. *Genesis 2:15* is where man's direct interaction with God begins.

#### **Genesis 2:15**

***<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.***

He has created man, he has been created in God's image. Woman also is created in God's image, both share God's image, but in the order man is created first, order is important. Man is created first, then God takes him and puts him in the Garden and gives him two duties; to tend and to keep it. So all men, so many unmarried men sitting over here, get the truth. You probably are living in the last generation, if you swallow a lie it will be too late. There is this urgency always connected with the last generation, like I told you most of the Bible is actually written to that generation. That is the last generation, the warnings. What the world is going through now, the previous generations did not go through. So to the older generation so many things which you are going through look so strange. 'What is this gender problem?' 'What is this homosexual problem?' 'What is this bisexuality?' these are things which never entered into our minds. We lived in a different generation.

What is this – struggling with porn? There was no porn. So you all are a different generation. And warning are sometimes always targeting at this generation. And therefore all the men sitting here, young and old, married and unmarried, go back to the truth. Because when will be judged, you will stand there before God as a man. It doesn't matter what your dysphoria is. And He will judge you by the man He defined man as. Not your definition, or the culture's definition. And the first thing He tells about the man is two things. He puts him in a place, let us say your home, the Garden; to tend, to work and to keep it. And Hebrew word is Abad, which actually means – to work, and to serve God and to serve one another. It is a priestly function in the Hebrew. This word, 'tend' is a priestly function. I have put you over there. First thing you do is function as a priest unto God and unto man. You are a priest; you serve Me and you serve one another.

That is what you are, it doesn't matter whether you are a doctor, or an engineer, or a computer specialist, or whatever your thing is, know your identity first as a man – who are you in God's eyes; you are a priest. You function as a priest where God has placed you. Who do you serve? You serve God. He is the arbiter of truth. You serve God. You don't violate His laws. If there is a horizontal pull you don't change the vertical. So Joseph maybe a slave in Potiphar's house. But he is serving his God and serving one another and the master is prospering and the master realizes – his God is with

him. And then Mrs. Potiphar is a horizontal pull and he refuses to change the vertical because he knows who he is in a gentile house. In a gentile nation. He is still functioning as a priest. As an unmarried man I am still a priest; what I do is above.

When you are running a race you have to run by the rules, because if you do not run by the rules you will be disqualified. So if you are a man, run as a man. And the first question you need to ask is, Don't look at all the magazines and all the movies. Cut them out of your life and ask God - What is a man? Who is a man? How do You define me? God says, 'The first word for you is ABAD. You are a priest. You serve Me and you serve your family and then you serve one another.' Think! Think! Otherwise we will go into fables.

And the second thing He asked is to keep it. The Hebrew word is 'SHAMAR' which means the watchman. You are asked to watch. You are asked to function as a priest to serve, a serving priest and you are asked to be the watchman of your garden. First, as a young man watching over your own life. Joseph watched over his life. Daniel watched over his life. These were all single men. There are a lot of single men here. They watched over their lives. Yet they served in the courts, gentile courts.

So EMET, you learnt about truth. You take Aleph off you get death. You bring Aleph in and you get life. God tells a man, 'You have two functions; ABAD and SHAMAR.' Function as a priest, always be aware who's you are and Whom you serve. Over and over we told you about when Daniel is put in the lions' den, the king comes in the morning and says, 'Daniel, servant of the most high God Whom you serve continuously.' Why? because he knew who he was. He knew his identity – what a man is. Serve God, serve family and secure your home. Guard your home from predators. That was Adam's job. His job profile. And that is everyone's job profile. In *Genesis 2:18* comes the introduction of the woman,

#### **Genesis 2:18**

**<sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone' I will make him a helper comparable to him.'**

A helpmate is a woman. I am not going to talk about woman today but look at that one verse for a second, that one verse is your job profile. Who are you? You are a helper to your man who has these two functions – ABAD and SHAMAR. That is who you are. What is your profile? 'When the time comes, I will assist him in serving his God and I will assist him in protecting that garden; our home. That is my profile.' God-given profile. 'I am not the mate, he is the mate, I am the helper. I am not the head, he is the head. But I know who I am, I am the assistant, I am the helper.' It is not a degrading word, because the Holy Spirit is called the Helper. And the Holy Spirit is the One who is always helping the Father and the Son in their work. If you know your roles, some of your prayers will be suddenly, quickly answered and some of your prayers will be cancelled, because you will understand, 'Oh! This is why my prayer was never answered. I didn't realize that my prayers were not according to EMET. It was according to MET. Thank God, He didn't answer it, because if He were to answer it the end of it would have been death.

Like I said, Adam didn't die the day he sinned; he died years later. But he did die. Because if you take God out of the equation you will die; your marriage will die, your home will die, your career will die. There is a way that looks right to man, but the way of it at the end is death. You cannot change it. Because if you want life you have to bring God in. so the question is – what did God say? This is what God is talking about. And the enemy comes, when the enemy comes he doesn't go to man, he goes to the woman. He doesn't go to man, he goes to the woman. *Genesis 3:6* says,

#### **Genesis 3:6**

**<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree as good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.**

Though he goes to the woman, though he is having a conversation with the woman, the husband is with her. And he is silent. This is the first fault of the first man. He is passive. He didn't protect. He didn't intervene. We don't know why. but he was just quiet, he stood there and listened to the whole conversation and never opens his mouth. The only time he opens his mouth is to eat the fruit. He didn't say anything. He forgot his God-given responsibility of SHAMAR – I am to be the watchman. He didn't. The priest, and the watchman, is right there. The devil sold a fable, a myth, and Eve swallowed it. Adam swallowed the fruit, he didn't swallow the myth. That is what is strange. You go to *1 Timothy 2*,

### **1 Timothy 2:11-14**

**<sup>11</sup> Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. <sup>12</sup> And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. <sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup> And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.**

Now, is this EMET for you? Sisters? Do you think God is weaving a fable here? Or do you take it as truth? You see, that is what I said, truth is not tasty. But it will relieve you, it will save you. This is God's Word. Do you know what he tells? Sisters, *Learn in silence*. A lot of women are silent but there do not learn. And a lot of women learn but they are not silent. Either is not the solution. God says, 'Learn in silence.' With some submission? No. *all submission*. **<sup>12</sup> And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man**, basically, He is saying, 'I do not permit a woman to teach where she exercises authority over a man.'

Do you believe that this is the Word of God? Then how can you have churches, even in this city, where the pastor is a woman? Ask these questions before you go to churches. It doesn't matter how fanciful those churches may look like. What does the Word of God say? Is this EMET? If you take God out of it you get MET. Glamour and glitz don't change the Word of God. It is forever settled in the Heavens. If you go by it you will live. If you take God out you will die. I will die, we will die.

**<sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve.** The order comes here. **<sup>14</sup> And Adam was not deceived**, but he still ate.

Did you see that? He knew the truth, he never wavered from the truth. But he still ate. So actually he is at more fault than the woman. The woman was deceived, Adam was not deceived. He still ate and fell into transgression. A lot of men are like that, they know it is wrong but they will keep quiet. They won't say anything. This Adamic trend continues for 2000-4000-6000 years; they don't say anything. They either keep quiet or they go along with the woman. That is what he did; he went along with the woman. You failed in your responsibility. I am talking to men, Adam was not deceived. The Bible is very clear, Adam was not deceived. For 4000 years until Apostle Paul came and the Holy Spirit spoke through him, people did not know that Adam was not deceived. Then people realized, 'Oh my gosh! We never knew that Adam was not deceived.' He knew what he was doing. Young men, married men, older men, you may not be deceived, but the question is – are you holding onto Adam? Are you are priest? Are you holding onto Shamar? Are you are watchman?

### **Matthew 13:24-25**

**<sup>24</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.**

The watch man was sleeping. When watchmen sleep the enemy did not pluck out all the wheat and sow tares. He just scattered the tares among the wheat. When the watchman was sleeping. Truth mixed with fables. We have swallowed myths, we have mixed it together. Remember, the last of the last days? The status which Daniel saw. And the feet which are 10 Kingdoms but the feet are mixed with iron and clay. Do they mix? No. the wheat and tare are growing together. And everyone sitting here, probably me too, we've got things truth and fables mixed together. When we were sleeping he was busy sowing tares. Ideas.

What was he supposed to do? He was not supposed to sleep, he was supposed to be alert. You are supposed to be a watchman, alert, guarding over your own mind first. Because if a young man does not guard his own mind, then when he gets married how will he guard his home? First he has to guard his own mind, right? We have to guard our own mind. That was his job profile. And there is an order: Adam was formed first. From there comes authority. Order also has authority. We have the council of ministers in Delhi. But then there is the Prime Minister and probably takes all the single decisions by himself and all others can't do anything. We have a council of ministers here and then there is the Chief Minister, in order he comes at the top. In the order Adam comes first. He has been given authority. But authority in the Kingdom is not like the authority in the world. Even when the authority in the Kingdom can be absolute, it comes with great responsibility and an enormous accountability. Authority in the Kingdom comes with two things: one, you are responsible. Two: you are accountable.



Remember, who has the conversation with Satan? Eve. Who takes the fruit? Eve. Who eats first? Eve. Who does she give it to? Adam. But when God comes whom does He question? Adam. He doesn't question Eve. Only fourth question is to Eve. He doesn't say, 'Eve, Eve, where are you? I saw you.' No. He asks, 'Adam, Adam, where are you?' 12-13 generations later, Abraham, the father of faith who obey the call and went 10 years in the Promise Land. Sarah is getting upset, she says, she bring God over there and weaves a fable – 'God has restrained my womb. So let us go by this way, there is Hagar, my Egyptian maiden, and have a child through her.' And he listened to her voice, has a child, Ishmael. It is a mess in the house, she mocks the mistress and the mistress turns nasty, the girl runs away, God has to meet her, send her back. All kinds of drama happening there. 13 years later. In *Genesis 17:1*,

**Genesis 17:1**

***<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.***

Why didn't He say that to Sarah? It was her idea; she swallowed the lie of the culture through which the devil spoke, she started the whole mess. No. God says, 'I hold you responsible.' He didn't ask Sarah a word. Nothing to Sarah. He said, 'Abram, you walk before Me and be blameless.' Sometime later Jesus comes with two angels, He has a wonderful meal in Abraham's house, Abraham 99 year old is running here and there and preparing everything and serves. And when they are all served God asks Abraham the question – 'Where is your wife, Sarah?' he says, 'Inside.' And then God says, 'At the appointed time, next year this time, your wife Sarah will have a child.' And then Sarah laughed. Look at Genesis 18,

**Genesis 18:13**

***<sup>13</sup>And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'***

Whom did the Lord ask? Abraham. So your wife has unbelief and she laughs, but God will still ask you – 'How come you did not transfer your faith to your wife? Earlier when I came you laughed, then you believed. Now you are not laughing, but you have not been able to transfer your faith into your wife. Why is she laughing?' even when your wife laughs at God's promises God will only ask the husband. Understand how it works, what does authority mean? Authority means that you are responsible – I am responsible to see that my faith is transferred. I am accountable when she does not believe.

That is what it means to find a helpmate who is compatible. I believe, like Narnia, all the animals could speak. That is why when the serpent spoke Eve was not scared or anything. All the animals could speak and God brought all the animals to Adam and said, 'You can choose, you can name them.' But he found none comparable to him. You should find a mate who is comparable to you. The one who will listen, the one who will heal, the one to whom you can transfer your faith. The one with whom when you talk about the promises of God does not laugh. Young men and young women, when your time comes how are you going to make your choices? What are you going to make your choices for? If you have already made your choice and you are already married it doesn't matter, now change according to EMET. That is what restoration means – I will be a man after God's own heart. I will be a woman after God's own heart. I will go under God's order because in that there is life.

If I take God out of the picture in any decision that I make, at the end of it will be death. It will die. So we are talking about a race. When you talk about a race you have to first know who you are. Because we have gone to the other extreme of wonkiness where men and running women's races and coming first and showing off their medals. What is there to show your medal when you are a man, born as a man and now saying that you are a woman and running in a women's race and coming first? We are talking about race. If you are a man, run as a man. If you are a woman, run as a woman. If you are a Christian woman, are you the head? Are you pulling the strings? You will be disqualified. It doesn't matter how great your work may seems to men and women, you will be disqualified because you did not run according to God's order. And if you are a man, passive, sitting there are allowing her to walk all over you, you will be disqualified. Though you may have a very temporary kind of a peace saying, 'I don't want to create any conflict.' You will be disqualified because that is the first rule – know who you are. Get back into order. Let there be order in My courts, is what God says.

Order in everything, when you are running a race. There is so much confusion, absolute confusion in the U.S. nobody knows who they are. Why is there so much confusion? One reason – you took God out. So if God has to bring restoration you have to recalibrate your entire thinking, your life according to God's Word. First thing is that just go to the beginning. *In the beginning*, how did God do things? In the beginning, what was man? What did He say? How was it? He created a garden, He planted all these trees, He created man and breathed into his nostrils, made him a living soul, put him in the Garden, gave him a job to do, a work to do and then told him, 'Serve and watch.' Then he allowed him to choose.

The man was looking, looking, looking, naming, naming, naming, he couldn't name anybody that was comparable to him. God put him to sleep and took a rib out, created a woman, brought her to him. And then he said, 'Out of me, woman.' Comparable. Every conflict, in every marriage can be resolved in 5 minutes. Every conflict can be resolved if you go back to the Word and see what God says. Your conflict resolution manual is the Word of God – 'I have exalted My Word above all My Name.'

What is your conflict? It is over His Word. What did God say? Your conflict will be resolved. 'This is my problem' what did God say? 'This is my other problem' what did God say? It is over. If you are married to somebody who does not believe God says, 'Just keep your mouth shut. Don't say anything.' Especially to the wives He says, 'Just keep your mouth shut.' *When they see your reverential behavior*, because you are standing on the truth and you hear the truth, you love the truth and you are walking according to that, then they will be confronted by the truth because you cannot deny the truth.

It was the pressure of the crowds and Pilot went back and forth, back and forth because he sees that this Man is innocent. Finally he said, 'Bring me water and a basin, I am washing my hands off this.' Many were there and Jesus did not open His mouth, He was silent. And God is telling us something – truth can be silent. Think about it.

#### **Proverbs 22:6**

***<sup>6</sup>Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.***

Restoration, recalibrate men, in your mind set.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

***<sup>4</sup>"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! (there is no conflict or confusion among them) <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***

***<sup>6</sup>"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.***

#### **Ephesians 6:4**

***<sup>4</sup>And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.***

Do you know that all the instructions were given to the fathers? You young man, if you don't read your Bible today how will you teach the Bible to your son tomorrow? You have no daily devotion, you never wake up early to pray, there is no prayer life, no praise life, no Word life, what are you going to give to the next generation? What are you going to build on? What is your foundation? Because it is all told to the father. It is not outsourced to the mother by God. Though the mother is a very powerful influence the actual command is given to the father. Not to the pastor, not to the Sunday school. It is at the home, that is a basic unit. That is why the devil hits the home, because he knows if he can destroy the home he can bring a nation down. He doesn't have to go anywhere, just hit the homes.

So young girls, unmarried girls, when you are thinking about marriage are you picking up a man who has a very vibrant spiritual, devotional life? A man who prays? A man who knows his Word? A man you know who loves God? Because you

can have compatibility outside too. 'He looks good, I look good, we are a nice match.' Yes match! Then you both will light like matches one day. Or 'He thinks this way and I think this way, it is the meeting of minds.' Yeah! After sometime you will be mindless. What about the Spirit? When we were born again didn't we become spirit-beings first? That the Lord, God of peace shall first sanctify you wholly, your spirit, soul and body and keep you blameless until the coming of the Lord and He shall do it. So aren't we spirit first? Did we check the spirit?

Young ones, don't go wrong. You don't have time. Are we spirit first? Or are we soul first? Or are we body first? Are you getting married for a photograph, which you can frame and hang? Or are you getting married to write a book together, 'Meeting of soul-mate'? They work well, without God it works well, but at the end of it is death. Lot of non-Christians marriages work well but is there life, the life of God? No.

So what does the Bible say every where? God says, 'I will hold the man responsible.' A home where there are mother and father and where the mother is not in conflict things will work, but the minute the conflict comes things will start falling apart. That is why we keep telling you, 'No conflict, no conflict. Resolve your conflicts and this is what it says and this is the easy Book (Bible) to resolve your conflicts, because the children need to grow up in an atmosphere where there is no conflict. And if there is conflict, because children being children and being flesh, they will always go with flesh, it is a natural attraction. He/she will go with flesh, they won't go with the Spirit, how can a child go with the Spirit unless the child himself is spirit? And most children are not spirit, they are flesh. That is why there should be no conflict. But these decisions should be made now. Because, please remember, the devil has 6000 years of experience of messing up humans. And there is nothing new under the sun.

You may think, 'I am special,' not you are not, I am not, none of us are. He knows us all. He knows how to circumvent through anything unless it is built on the Rock. The Rock is Emet, truth; where God is there in the center – in the beginning, in the middle and in the center. And you have a real, personal, vibrant relationship with God so that when the storms come, when the floods rise and it is pouring all around, your house is still standing because He is holding you up. The world calls it social problems. So they have social workers to deal with social problems. This is a statistics from 5 years ago, so it has only gone up. 63% of all suicides come from fatherless homes. 80% of rapists motivated by misplaced anger come from fatherless homes. 40% of children now do not live with their biological father. 85% of children's behavioral problems come from fatherless homes. 90% of homeless children come from fatherless homes. 71% of children who do not finish school come from fatherless homes. The world calls it 'social problem', but God says, 'I will tell you the problem. The problem is fatherlessness.

Do you know where God puts the problem? He points straight to the point and says, 'You know what the problem is? The problem is fatherlessness. It doesn't matter what the state calls it or what the system calls it. The solution is here (in the Word of God). God says, 'Do you know what is happening all around? I am telling you if you see these videos of these mobs of youth attacking the department stores and looting and stealing all the stuff away. I promise you, go check with them, 9 out of 10, or 10 out of 10 come from fatherless homes. That is the truth. The fatherlessness come under various templates: negligent father; unknown father; absentee father; silenced father; silent father, all kinds of templates are there. That is why I said that I am talking to men today.

Do you know there is one Hindu contesting in the republican primaries, Vivek Ramaswamy, the youngest ever, he is 36 years old. He will not make it. But I am saying, he is one of the contestants in the Republican Primary. Do you know, when he was asked – what is the problem in America? He said, 'Fatherlessness.' Can you pin-point the actual problem American is facing? He said, 'Fatherlessness. There are no fathers.' And that is the problem. And we are talking to men. What are you going to be? What will you rise up as?

Women, what will you be? A help mate? Or check mate? A help mate who will help your husband to raise up these children whom you dedicated unto the Lord? 'I am a help-mate, I know what my role is. I am part of his 'abad'; helping him in his priestly function. I am part of his 'Shamar'; I am part of watching over my children.' Or are you the source of all the trouble? Man, are you the source of all the trouble? Get God out of the picture and what will happen to the children? We are talking about children. Honestly, I sit there and boy, the church is full of children, we have more children than adults in the church. And more and more are coming, little ones, little ones, little ones. And most of them

are girls. Do you know the statistics? Most of the teenage pregnancies, the girls come from fatherless homes. The question to be asked – where are the fathers?

God has restoration in His mind. But to be restored we need to go to the original template. In the original template God comes and asks the first man the first question, 'Where are you? Absconding? Hiding? Silent? Passive?' 'Adam, where are you?' the second question – 'Who told you? Who sold you this bill of goods? Who sold you this myth, that you can be free without Me? That there is life without the Giver of life? Who told you? Men, women, children, before you receive anything into your head, ask this question – who told you? Where did you source your information from? Because God has restoration in mind, but He cannot restore until we go to His own template; until we go to the beginning.

The last verse in the Old Covenant, *Malachi 4:6*,

**Malachi 4:6**

***<sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."***

So there is something, God says, 'I will do in the last days.' I will turn, I will turn, the template has to be turned. The children have to go back to their fathers. The fathers have to go back to their children. There has to be a raising up of fathers so that the children can go back. And mothers suddenly realize, 'This is my role, not to be a stumbling block but to direct them into their priestly function.' It is not about the world, the goods, the materialism, the jobs, the careers, none of these things are worthy it, if you lose the children in the process. Because the state is more interested in fixing financial problems, stabilizing the market, climate change and all. God is not interested in any of these things. He says, 'If you fix the home everything else will get fixed on its own. If you don't fix the home but you fix everything else, it will still collapse. Because I created the home. That is a basic unit.' God says, 'There has to be reconciliation between man and God, and the fathers and the children.' The fathers have to turn back to God, then the children will turn back to their fathers. And mothers, don't become a stumbling block; become the help-mate.

What the devil does is, a powerful weapon the enemy uses is to redefine God's template. Two-men families, 'Of course we love each other.' There is no truth in the love. God says, 'Speak the truth in love.' Two women raising children.

So we are standing exactly where Adam and Eve stood 6000 years ago, at the cross-roads: one leads to life and the other leads to death. And like Elijah said, 'Choose this day whom you will serve – Yahweh or Baal.'

**1 Kings 18:21**

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

Every generation stands at the same cross-roads where Adam and Eve stood, 'Will you go with God? Or will you go with God? Or will you go with this fable? What will you choose? Which direction will you go? Men? Because we are so concerned about the material security. As important as it is, we forget the pattern in the Garden. The devil just used words, he didn't use anything else. Get just used words. He just sold lies as truth. And it started the first rebellion in the home and ended up in death. Because ideas are seeds, they are always produced after their own kind. We don't realize the day we are living in. every song, every movie, every chat, every twitter, I don't know how many social media things are there, they are just going viral. Every video carries a message, a seed. You know what they are doing? They are sowing tares among the wheat.

I will give you two examples, okay, just two examples. I didn't see but some of you may have seen a Disney movie called 'Frozen'. Disney went broke so they are going broke. Where did Disney begin and now where has Disney ended. I will not put you under guilt by asking you to show your hands, all those who have watched it. From your smiles I can make out how many of you saw it. And then there is this character, (I am not mentioning the character because somebody else is here with the same name as that character's). so this is how they inspire children, sold as inspiration – 'It is time to see what I can do, to test the limits and break through. No rights, not wrongs, no rules for me. I am free.' What is Disney

selling? Rebellion to the children. 'You don't have to listen to anybody, there is no right, there is no wrong. You make your own choices.' 'I did it my way.' Do you know what they are doing? They are training children in lawlessness.

The amazing spider man, (So many spider men and spider women here), Andrew Garfield, at the Awards, this was his statement – 'It is a spirit that says we are all made perfectly and we all belong. So I dedicate this award to the countless LGBTQ who have fought and died to protect that spirit.' You want spider man? Do you know that there is a generation that is absolutely indoctrinated because there is no movie, no media, nothing that is sold without an underlying message. You may forget the movie but the message has sunk in. do you realize?

"Watchmen! Watchmen! I put you watchmen on the tower."

Do you watch before your children watch? Do you read before your children read? Or do you just blindly subscribe and give them everything, 'Read! Broaden your mind.' Do you watch before allowing your children to watch? It takes two to tango – father and mother, your children are small, they shouldn't watch anything which you haven't watched. I don't think when my children were growing up I ever let them watch anything which I haven't watched first. I didn't let them read anything which I haven't read first. Even their little storybooks I read them first. But if you are in conflict you will not care. Because most men will say, 'I am putting the bread on the table.' But watchmen, watchmen, didn't I tell you that there is something much more bigger than that? When I put Adam in the Garden I didn't ask him to put the bread on the table; I asked him to watch. Because I already put the bread on the table. Are you watching? These children are precious in His sight. They are precious. I said during the dedication, they are the most precious gift you will ever receive in your life time; your child. And when we stand before God He will ask you, 'Did you watch? Did you pray? Did you fast? Did they see you? Did they see you being consistent? Did they see you consistently? Did they have a template?

It doesn't matter what the children did or where they went, they may grow up and they may go their own way, but Job's children always saw their father; when their feasting was over, he always called them and they saw their father at the altar praying. They saw him. They were only two things common in Job's household – the partying of the children, and the sacrifice of the father. The father's sacrifice was always there, that template never changed. Once they grow up you can't do anything but when they grow up they need to realize that there was always a template.

Young men, unmarried men. Married men, they need to see your template. We are not talking about being perfect, we are not talking about that. We are talking about with all our frailties and follies we still love God. We are men after God's own heart. We love Him.

When was the last time your children saw you with your Bible open? And young men, when was the last time you saw yourself with your Bible open? Habits are not going to be grained immediately in one day. These are godly disciplines, as Paul says. *Physical discipline is good, but godly discipline will last this time and a life time to come.* Questions, questions. *If the foundations are destroyed what will the righteous do?*

Now I am not talking to people where your father doesn't believe. In that case the mother takes that place; the help mate actually takes that place and the family revolves around her. *The faith I saw in Lois and Eunice and in Timothy.* Because the father was Greek, he never went to the synagogue; he was not interested in God. But he had a very strong template. What is that strong template? The strong template was his mother.

We all welcomed Yohan over there. Yohan is an orphan and his mother is a widow. The strong template his saw was ultimately his mother. And ultimately he turned around and came back because he saw a steady face in his life; his mother. So mothers can be a very powerful templates in an unbelieving home. Children have to see something. But the question is – what are they seeing? So where are the watchmen? Where are the fathers? Do you know all the time when Jesus talked, one thing that He consistently taught over and over and over again was about His Father. 'My Father' 'My Father' 'My Father' 'Why are you worried? Why are you anxious? Don't you know your Father?' Teach us to pray. 'Our Father'. It was always about the Father.

Do you know that one of the primary purposes of the incarnation in *John 1:18* was that Jesus could show us the Father. This is how the Father walking around looks like.

You see, the template has been messed up over 4000 years of fables and lies and tyranny and parental abuse, toxic masculinity. You can name it whatever you want. Jesus says, 'I want to change all those templates and give you the real template and show you what the Father is. Do you know what My Father is like? He is like Me.

**John 1:18**

***<sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.***

He says, 'If you ever want to know the Father, the Father is like this. I have come to declare the Father.' You see, if you do not know the Father there can be no restoration. Final verse in the Old Covenant is about restoration, because fathers have to be restored. But to have the fathers restored we need a template, because Adam fell and the template has gone, but the second One arose and His name is Jesus and He said, 'I and the Father are the same.' The Father who loves us, the Father who cares for us, the Father who provides for us, the Father who guards us, the Father who disciplines us because He loves us and not because He is angry. Jesus modeled the Father before us to the point when the disciples say, 'Show us the Father,' He said, "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father." In *1 Corinthians 4:14-16*, do you know what Paul says?

**1 Corinthians 4:14-16**

***<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. <sup>15</sup> For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> Therefore I urge you, imitate me. <sup>17</sup> For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.***

He is telling his Church, 'You know what? I am writing to you as a father to his children. I am not writing this to shame you. You are my children. Imitate me as I imitate Christ. As Christ imitated the Father.' Because when fathers neglect the enemy is waiting to adopt our children. If we fail to instruct our children, the enemy will. Most modern day children are fathered by Google and mothered by Swiggy. Where do you get your information from? Who is the source of your instruction of what is right and what is wrong?

So don't complain, 'Don't father was not a believer and the mother was not a believer.' The question is – what are you? You can't keep on passing the buck. What are you? Joseph could have made the excuse – 'My father was married four times, and there is so much chaos in the house. These 10 brothers hate me.' but he chose not to go that way. You want to talk about dysfunctional family? Joseph came from a dysfunctional family and he was the only orphan, he didn't have a mother. Yet he turned out straight. Why? It is because he went to the template and held on to God. The God his father had instructed him about. He refused to judge his father but held on to his father's God as he was instructed by his father.

If the foundations are destroyed what will we do? Young men and young women who are unmarried, what will you be? Girls, when it is time for you to get married, whom will you marry? What kind of a man will you choose?

We won't finish this message today. If Jesus doesn't come back this month we will finish. But if he comes back this month, half a message is better than no message.

Do you need restoration? Step 1,

**1 Kings 18:30**

***<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.***

All men, married and unmarried, look at me. That is where it begins – do you have an altar? Did you ever have an altar? It is okay, there is no condemnation, start today. If you had one and it is broken down then repair it today, because that is where it all begins. You need to have an altar.

**Genesis 8:18**

<sup>18</sup> ***So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.***

It is a new beginning, literally the new creation after the flood, everything is new. They are all coming out. First the people come out, then the animals come out. Look at verse 20,

**Genesis 8:20**

<sup>20</sup> ***Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.***

Do you know what his first act is? The first time the word 'altar' is mentioned in the Bible – *Noah build an altar*. First thing first – build an altar. Start waking up in the morning. According to your shift-timings. I am not giving you a hard and fast rule. But I am saying, men and women, married and unmarried, you need to have an altar. If you never had one, build one. If you had one and it is broken down, start repairing it. 'Come near me,' said Elijah. The country is in chaos, there is famine and people are dying, there is confusion and they are all waiting for rain. They are waiting for restoration and Elijah says, 'The altar of Baal is all polished and the altar of the Lord is broken down.' Oh look at the school books, all worn out because they used it over and over, but look at the Bible, untouched. Look at the music videos, you watch over and over again, you subscribed to 15 different worldly channels, but your song book is never touched. The altar of Baal is flourishing while the altar of God is broken down. You are jumping and dancing and doing everything but there is no answer from here. And the God who answers will not answer until you repair the altar. That is where it begins. Repair your altar.

First thing Noah did is that he built an altar. In *Genesis 12:7*, Abram entered the Promise Land, God has been waiting for this man for years to enter into the Promise Land. He enters and God appears.

**Genesis 12:7**

<sup>7</sup> ***Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.***

You read the book of Genesis, Abraham builds 5 altars. Wherever he goes he builds an altar. That is what his children and his grandchildren saw. Our grandfather, our father, is a man who worships God. When He fails he goes back to the altar. When he starts he starts from the altar. They saw both sides.

Do you remember the man called Lot, who prospered and at the end of it was death? It is because there was no altar in his life. Therefore when the children had to make choices they made choices according to Hollywood because that was all that was there in their house. There was no altar. Lot also had children. But they knew no altar. So when they had to make choices, they made choices according to the system in which they grew up. And they were daughters.

Abraham's son Isaac, he built one altar.

**Genesis 26:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> ***Then he went up from there to Beersheba.*** <sup>24</sup> ***And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."*** <sup>25</sup> ***So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.***

Look at it, it is a very, very, powerful verse. Look at the order in which it is put. That is not how we do. <sup>25</sup> ***So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there.*** He did not pitch his tent first. That is what we do, we pitch our tent first. Isaac built his altar first, then he pitched his tent. Do you know what the symbolism is? God comes first, not the place, my not job, not my prosperity. Nothing else comes before God. He built his altar first and then pitched his tent. ***And there Isaac's servants dug a well.*** That is Beersheba.

Men and women, first thing in the morning, don't pitch your tent. Go to the altar. Don't go to FaceBook. Don't go to social media. It doesn't matter how loving the people are. There is nothing wrong about any of these people. But does

God come first? That is the question. Do you want prayers answered? Do you want God to intervene in your situation? Is there an altar? Jacob's first encounter with God is in a dream. The minute he wakes up,

**Genesis 28:18**

***<sup>18</sup> Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.***

He made that pillow into an altar. How many of you have made your pillar into an altar? David did. His pillow was soaked with tears. That was his altar. Jacob had an incredible experience. For the first time God is directly speaking to him. The next thing he did, his mother had given him some hair oil. He took it and poured it and made that stone into an altar. His immediate response – God is in this place. And then years later,

**Genesis 35:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup> So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. <sup>7</sup> And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.***

Templates are there, for men and women, especially for men. As the head of the house, as the priest, you start, you gather the family together, you lead. There is a personal altar and then there is a family altar. Start now.

There is Ravi and Ashwathi, beautiful start, they have just been married for 10 days now. Start now. Noah built an altar. That is the first act of a man who was shut down in that ark for weeks and months and over a year. He was shut in this thing floating around. First thing he does after coming out is he builds an altar. But during Noah's time or a little later, the subsequent generation,

**Genesis 11:4**

***<sup>4</sup> And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."***

There is Noah building an altar. And there is this generation building this tower. Isn't that what we talk about everywhere we go we see cyber towers and Burj Khalifa, towers, towers everywhere. And we boast about it. Isn't that what you are doing? Are you building an altar? Or are you building towers? There are two kinds of people in this world – those who build towers; those who build names and those who build altars. Those who build towers are building a name for themselves and those who build altars are glorifying the name of God. Much ministries are towers, they are not altars. So many ministries out there in the name of God, it is not an altar. It is a tower. They are building a name for themselves. And you can put that into your child right from now – build a name for yourself! Work hard! Work hard! You need to be better than your peers. Work hard! Build this tower and make a name for yourself.

Or are you building an altar? What did Isaac see his father doing? What did Jacob, growing up, see his father doing? What did Joseph see Jacob doing? They built altars, not towers. When you build an altar you are saying that God is the center of your life. When you build a tower you are saying that you are the center of my life.

All men sitting here, especially men, and then the women, every day you are I wake up to a construction project. Either building a tower or building an altar. What are you building? Restoration has to take place. If restoration doesn't take place you will not be part of the restoration, you will be part of the curse. *'I will turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers. Lest I come and curse the land.'* So it is not an option. It is a necessity and the onus is upon men and if the men aren't there it is upon the women. Build an altar. Even if your children are old and gone out of your hands, they are not interested, they are the lost generation, eat and drinking, buying and selling. That is the last generation, that is what they are doing, eating and drinking. They are always checking on apps, where to order food from; what is the new drink in town? What is the new flavor? Eating, drinking, buying and selling. I didn't say that, Jesus said it.



### **Job 1:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> ***And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.*** (they had appointed days for feasting. It went in a circle, never finishing. What can the father do? They are all grown up and married, they are gone, he can't do anything. But there is one thing you can do) <sup>5</sup> ***So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them,*** (in those days, when father said something the children listened. These days they won't listen, but you can still pray. His altar never changed) ***and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.***

His altar never changed, his prayer-life never changed. When your kids are not going the way you taught them it doesn't mean that your altar breaks down. No. your altar is always there; you are still offering sacrifices morning and evening. You are still interceding; you are still standing in the gap. Because, God says, 'I will ask you for an account one day.'

So start now. If you are going to get married one day and you are going to be a father one day, start now; better have an altar when you are young. So that you will know what to do. Job never gave up. So that first thing to do is, first things first, what will you do today? Not tomorrow, but today, men, women, boys and girls, married and unmarried, what should you do? Build your altar. Start today. Pick up the Bible, this is Truth. This is Emet. If you take God out, all you have is death. It is just a question of time. If you bring God in, this (His Word) will set you free.

So solution to all the problems lies very close. Close to the home, close to the heart.

### **John 8:32**

<sup>32</sup> ***And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."***

You shall know the Emet and the Emet shall set you free. Then Jesus prayed a prayer in *John 17:17*, His high priestly prayer. He is praying as a Father to the Father. He is our Father, the Shepherd of our soul. And He is praying to the Father,

### **John 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> ***Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.***

'Sanctify them, Father, set them apart.' That is the only way we can be set apart for God. It is by the Truth of God's Word, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So as I close (I didn't finish but I am closing) remember the Hebrew word 'Emet' has three letters - אמת first is א, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Second is מ, the middle letter in the Hebrew alphabet. And then ת, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. You put them together and you get the truth. Start reading your Bible through. Start studying the Bible through and ask God, 'Speak to me, Lord. I don't want fancy tales by preachers who tickle ears. They take one Scripture alone and they build their foundation on it. Truth is whole; it is a continuum. Secondly, א Alef is God. If you take God and put Him there in the beginning.

Do you remember in the Epistle according to John? He categorizes people in the Kingdom into three categories – children, young men and fathers. What was it about the fathers? Only one thing, nothing else mentioned – they knew Him from the beginning. What does it mean? God was always there in their beginning. God was their Alef. God was there. They would always ask this question – what did God say? What does God want me to do? And the third picture, is the picture of strong arms; a personal relationship with God as Truth; the Person of God; a strong picture of a Father carrying His son. Do you know what it says about Benjamin? The little one who never speaks, who never sins against the father nor sins against Joseph. Benjamin was never recorded speaking in the entire book of Genesis. Yet when he is served he is given 5 times more; that is grace. Do you know what is written about Benjamin? *The beloved of the Lord rides upon His shoulders.*

You see the pictures of fathers carrying the little ones. The one little, he/she, is on the top of the world and they are not afraid at all because he knows the strength of those shoulders. That is Emet; a personal, strong relationship with the person of Truth – Jesus of Nazareth. A story from the middle ages. A believer, strong believe, committed believer, a soldier and his wife, newly married wife. They were crossing a lake in a boat, and the storm came, the boat was going up and down, water was getting in. The soldier was very calm, but the bride started panicking more and more and then she started getting angry, 'How come you are so calm? You don't care!' familiar words right? He took his sword out and held

it close to her neck, then he looked at her and asked, 'Are you afraid?' she said, 'No.' Why are you not afraid? 'Because I know you love me.' Then he said, 'That is why I am not afraid of the storm because I know He loves me.'

That is Emet. You can be hit by a wind from the devil that brings your house down and kill all your children, he can bring down fire and destroy everything that you have and yet you will say, 'I know my Redeemer lives.' That is Emet. That is Emet – the Father who loves you. That is why Jesus says, "Perfect loves casts away all fear." 'I trust in His shoulders, in His power, in His strength. That is why He slept in the middle of the storm. And when they woke Him up and said, 'Don't you care?' He rebuked the wind and spoke to the sea, and when everything was still He asked them this question, 'Why are you afraid? Where is your faith? Don't you trust Me? Don't you trust My Father? Don't you trust Me?' That is the truth that will set you free.

As he was sitting in a stinking dungeon, in a Roman prison, probably in chains, definitely in chains, eating meagre rations, having all the church in Asia abandon him, one Epaphras alone is searching and finding him. And Paul is able to say, 'I know in whom I have believed. And I am well persuaded.'

Let me ask you this question, children, men and women, fathers and mothers, married and unmarried – are you well persuaded that He is well able to keep what you have committed into His hands, until that Day? Do you have that Emet in your life? Otherwise you won't survive in this storm that is here and the storm that is coming. Every generation that came through it is because they knew God that way. And Christ came so that you would know God that way. That is why when they said, 'Teach us to pray.' He said, 'This is how you need to pray – Abba, Daddy, my Father. It changes everything. That is the solution for world's problems and all the world's problems are centred into one thing – fatherlessness. Answer: let the fathers arise. 40,000 in Ephraim and Ephraim turned back on the day of battle. No fathers, one father is there; a woos called Barak. That is when Deborah, a mother, arose. And she said, 'Barak! Barak! Fight! God is for you. Fight for your children. Fight for the generation.

God is calling out to the young men over there. Start today. Prepare or repair your altar. Build your altar. Pick up this book, put on a worship song. You don't have to sing, you don't have to be a great worshipper to worship God. Just sing along. There are plenty, I am discovering new singers because I am tired with the old ones. Theophilus Sunday; Nathaniel Bassey, new ones, all from Nigeria. They are wonderful singers. I sometimes ask God, 'Lord, give me a worship leader who leads like Peter, has a voice like Praneeth, Scripture like Pastor. Vijay and pray like Bro. Wesley. He said, 'I will give you four, not one.' Each worship leader has his own way and is gifted. You all can be worshippers even if you cannot sing and sing-a-long. You can all be a good student of the Word, because there is One who teaches and there is an anointing that teaches all things.

Build your altar today. Let there be no more fatherlessness in the house of God, because God is the Father. Ultimately at the end of the story – Heaven came down and glory filled my soul. Literally Heaven comes down to earth and the Father is with His children He has got this huge handkerchief to wipe away every tear and every sorrow. There is no more death, there is no more tears. Why? Because there is only Emet – Truth. no more lies. No more fables, no more myths. Only truth and therefore Life forever more.

Shall we stand? Shall we pray?

*Closing prayer:*

*Father this morning, we come to You Lord. Who else can we go to Father? You are our Father. To every child who is sitting here who may not have a father-figure in their life You are still there. They may not be able to speak it out but You are there, a call away. "Behold I stand at the door of your heart and I knock," Jesus said, "if you open. I and My Father will come and fellowship with you."*

*God is knocking today at somebody's heart. 'You have run too long and too far but I have never left you. I am still pursuing you.' If you open that door of your heart, Jesus and the Father will come in and life-long eternal fellowship will begin today. Don't close your heart. You are welcoming the most gentlest and yet the strongest Person ever. The most loving, the most compassionate, yet the toughest Person ever. Our Father, who loves us with an everlasting love. And even angels are amazed.*

*Invite Him in today. And those who invited Him years back and walked away, come back. Like the prodigal son turn back. The reason he turned back was because of his father. He said, 'In my father's house...' he was hesitant, he didn't expect much, but the reception he got when he came back was mindboggling, because that is the love of the father. 'Cover my son with the best robe. Cover his feet. Restore his sonship, kill the fattened calf. Let us celebrate, because my son was dead but he is alive.'*

*If you are coming back today, there is celebration in the Father's house. There is singing and dancing in Heaven, because the prodigal, the son, the daughter has come back. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. All around the world Lord, so many orphans listening, I know Father, from New York, to Egypt, to Afghanistan, children are listening who have lost their parents, abandoned by their parents. Lost to war and death and disease. You have a Father. You are no longer an orphan. 'I will not leave you orphans,' is what He said. 'I will send Somebody just like Me.' The Spirit of the Father, receive Him today. Let there be no orphans in God's house. Let Him teach you what the true template is; Who you are in Christ - What is a man, what is a woman, what is a husband, what is a wife, what is a father, what is a mother, what is a child.*

*Don't listen to the fables of Disney. Don't listen to the myths sold by the world. At the end of it is death. Listen to God, because there is life. Touch every individual, every home, comfort. Bind up the wounds, strengthen those weak knees and hands that are laid down. Let hands be lifted up in praise and in adoration. Let every hand bless Your holy Name. We bless Your holy Name. We bless Your holy Name. Let every tongue declare, 'O Father, my Father, Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever.'*

*Thank You, thank You Lord. I didn't know, Lord I didn't know it is my Father to whom belongs the Kingdom and the power. Thank You, thank You Lord. Thank You. We just thank You. May the Son of righteousness rise over everyone with healing under His wings. And even the one who came in most discouraged go out like calves fed at the stalls. Thank You, thank You Father. Let restoration take place in every life, in every family, every marriage, every home. We just thank You, we praise You. We worship You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the everlasting Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with us now and forever more. Amen.*