

What Should Men Do?

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Father we just want to thank You Lord for this day once again O Lord we have come to the time of meditation from Your Word, I pray Father that You would speak to our hearts O Lord, cause us O Lord Jesus to walk in Your ways, teach us Your ways, show us Your paths, lead us into the way of everlasting life. We are completely dependent on You O Lord. Anoint us O Lord to understand Your ways, to receive Your ways, to receive Your Word with meekness, and Lord cause us in our desire O Lord, a desire to change, to want to change and Lord a desire to please You and to walk with You. Help us O Lord, help us, this morning, touch us, speak to our hearts, we thank You Lord, we praise You, we give You glory. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

So, last Sunday, it was straight talk to men and this Sunday it will be more straight talk to men because when Pastor was teaching, last Sunday when I was listening to it online, I was not here, I was listening to it and one verse that just came to my mind when I was thinking about it. **1 Corinthians 16:13** it is in KJV, the King James Bible, it is powerful, this is what it says. It says, watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

¹³Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

I mean it is a powerful word, quit you like men, be strong. I was thinking about it. One of the most convicting messages I've heard in a long time, I mean not in a long time but this is really hard hitting, coming home really, really strong. Whenever you listen to the Word of God, when you see the standards that God requires from you, and when you look at Your own life and how far you are from those standards, you have to be brought to your knees, that is the reason why, one of the last exhortation as to how should men live was, one of the Pastor was talking about was having a personal altar. A personal altar. See, that is something which you cannot neglect because in these days, things are just going crazy, I mean what we were in the last ten years, one decade, things have so radically changed.

I was watching a documentary by one of the English publisher from the United Kingdom, a documentary, it's not a conservative channel but it is more or less very neutral channel. It puts forth arguments from both sides. Now, they were doing a survey in some places in Canada as to how they are dealing with old people. So, there was this older woman, she's now in her late seventies and almost close to eighties. She served the Canadian army and while she was serving in the army, she was in one of the missions that the army deployed her in, she lost her legs and she had to go through an amputation because she was really, really hurt in her legs and she had to go through an amputation. So, she came back but she was physically strong, so what she did was that she did not allow the misery to overwhelm her, so she went into sports, she participated in para-Olympics and she won gold medals for Canada and she really, really served the nation with all of her heart. Now what has happened over a period of time was that during the COVID times her cheques were getting delayed and she has to keep on going to the office and say, please release my cheques and there's a lot of red tape and she was getting more and more delayed and finally, she sent an email to the organization and she said, 'I am seventy-five years old, I have served the nation so fantastically and I'm expecting my cheques to come and it's not been coming now and I'm really struggling in my body to live, I'm really depressed, please ensure that you send my cheques on time.' You know what she got as a response from the government. They said, 'We are so sorry that it is taking such a long time but if you have lost all your hope to live, you have every right to take your own life, and we will assist you.' I mean it's shocking. I mean this is a country which I was dreaming of immigrating to, older people euthanasia. I mean, 'Madam, you have the right to take your own life and we will assist you.'

And she's saying, 'You know what, I served my nation, I put my life on the line, I brought laurels to my country in para-Olympics and this is how you are going to treat me.' I mean we are living in such incredible times and euthanasia is now by the way legal in Canada. I mean we are living in extraordinary times and what I feel honestly, the reason why we see so many problems in our land, especially not in the west, of course it's a Christian nation, is because men have lost the vision that God had given them. Men, it's men who have lost it. I mean I take personal responsibility for it, it's not an indictment on anyone of your personally, we as men have not been men. It is unbelievable the things that are going on in the world and what has happened is, we have become so desensitized to it, the things that would bother us at least

ten years back, don't bother us anymore. What we would want our children not to see, we are absolutely okay just so that they can give us some time to be with our own selves. So, we give them gadgets, we spoil them silly. We have come to that point and why? Because men have not been real men, they have not taken their rightful position. They have fallen from the call that God has for them, miserably. In *Genesis 2:15* we looked at the last time, verse 15.

Genesis 2:15

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

And the Lord took the man, see, this is very interesting okay. By this time, Eve is still not here. He took the man. And what did He do? He put him in the Garden and He gave him two things to do? To tend it and to keep it. And if you were there last Sunday, Pastor gave us a small tutorial on the Hebrew that was used over here. Of course, he talked about truth and truth is 'emet' and the two things for dress and keep. Remember? So, to dress it comes from the Hebrew word 'abad', and then the second word to keep it comes from the Hebrew word 'samar' to guard. Now, by the way, the Hebrew word 'abad', I heard that word so many years back, the Hebrew word 'abad' has got so many connotations. The word 'abad' means to serve. The word 'abad' means also to be a servant from which we also get the word 'ebed', ebed-melech, ebed-edom. So, who is ebed, ebed also means a person who is a servant. The word 'abad' also means to give your ear, remember the guy who loves his master and master says, 'I'm releasing you, the year of jubilee has come, you are free to go,' but he says, 'Master I love you so much, I want to serve you for the rest of my life, I want to become your bond servant.' So, what does the master do? He takes him to the door, takes the ear, takes the awl and pierces his ear through and he says, 'Now you have become my servant for life, voluntarily.' That's how we get the word bond-servant. So, the word 'abad' also means to become a bond servant and how do you become bond servant? It is not bond servant by compulsion, but bond servant willingly, you willingly offered yourself. That's the reason why I like the word in *1 Peter 5* it is interesting, this is what it says in *1 Peter 5:2* this is to the elders, exhortation to the elders

1 Peter 5:2

²Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain and the other translations will use the word 'filthy lucre' but eagerly. Whenever an elder is appointed in the church and the exhortation to the eldership or deacons or Pastors or Bishops or overseer. What does Bishop mean? Bishop mean an overseer. We have completely changed the meaning of Bishop these days. Bishop means the one whose got an oversight over the congregation and how is he expected to serve? Voluntarily, not under compulsion, not for filthy lucre sake. So, he is supposed to be lovingly serving God.

So, when God created Adam, what did He say? 'Do two things, I put you in the Garden, be an abad, meaning be a worshipper, be a bondservant, serve Me willingly, serve Me with love.' Let your work be an expression of worship, let not your work be worshipped but let your work be an expression of your worship because whatever you do, whether you eat or drink or work, what should you do? Do it all for the glory of God. So He says, 'Worship. And then you be a person who guards your flock, in other words, don't be passive, be active, don't be lazy in the responsibilities that has been entrusted into your hands, be a hardworking, active person and serve Me willingly.' And I will tell you something honestly, if men work with this kind of a mindset, you will enjoy your work, you will enjoy it. It will not be a burden.

I was telling Sammy, when I was in the university, I enjoyed, and I never worked for money. I enjoyed what I was doing, I mean it was not easy sometimes. It was tough it was difficult in certain situations and circumstances it was really tough but I enjoyed it. I enjoyed challenges, I enjoyed problem solving, I enjoyed it and I never did it for money, money was never a motivation. My wife used to earn at least four times more than what I used to get, never a problem. This is how I use to convince myself, I mean what I have you don't have simple. This is something which I cannot explain, the joy of problem solving, the high that you get when you do something, when something moves even if it is on the computer, it is your baby, so, that is something, the reason why men don't enjoy is because they don't serve God through their work, it is not an expression of worship. So, it is like a dreary exercise for them, that's a symbol of curse by the way. So, Adam was given this fantastic task of being a hardworking person and also by the way work is instituted by God. So, women if you, whenever, seven women, one man whatever it is, that man, one of the attribute of that man, he should be a hardworking man, not a lazy bum, don't marry a lazy fellow, you will suffer for the rest of your life, he will not be a

blessing and you also, don't be lazy, two lazy people will just make a mess. So, understand this, enjoy. This is not compulsion, you need to understand this is very important. So, what happened, when Adam fell and he just lost the vision of God. He went far away from God and what happens in 1 Corinthians 15 we know that, now, this is recreation, this is what happens in new birth. *1 Corinthians 15:45*,

1 Corinthians 15:45

⁴⁵***And so, it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.***

Now, the last Adam is Jesus Christ of course and after He was resurrected from the dead, He's no longer called the last Adam, He's called the second Man and the last Adam. Second Man, a man means He's a harbinger of a new race. Now, as long as we are in Christ, I mean if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, so who is this new creation, we are of the new kind of race, the second Man race, no longer the adamic race, we belong to the last Adam or the second Man race and, what are we? We are not people who are primarily soulish, we are primarily spiritual beings. So, what happens? We are born again of the Spirit, God has given us a new man inside of us, it is called the inner man, the man of the spirit. And then the inner man is covered with an outer shell, who is that? The outer shell is the man of the soul, the soul which was initially controlled by the old man, the fleshly nature, now that soul now has to increasingly under the control of the spirit, the spiritual man which is there inside of us so that the expression of the soul will be actually the intention of the spirit because ultimately what you express, you express in your thoughts, you express in your will, you express in your emotions, you express in actions and those actions should be an intention of the spirit and out of the soul. So, the first man Adam was a man of the soul, he said, 'My way, what I like, what I think, what I feel.' But the second Man is a person who is of the Spirit and now he's joined to the Lord in the spirit because whoever is born of the Spirit is now joined to the Lord. Now, because he is joined to the Lord, whatever he does should be an expression of the Spirit. So, in order for this man to really, really, express himself, what should therefore happen, is that his soul should be broken and should come under the control of the Spirit. Therefore, in John 12, this is what Jesus tells the disciples, this is what He says, let's see.

John 12:23-25

²³***But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.***

Jesus answered them saying, the hour has come that the Son of man should be glorified and most assuredly I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone but if it dies, it produces much grain or fruit. So, we are all like a grain. Inside the grain is that life, there is an outer shell. We can call that the soul, so what should happen? That soul has to die, meaning, you no longer live for your own self. So, that what is inside should be expressed. So, it goes on to say, this is what it says, in the next verse Jesus says, 'Whoever love his life will lose it but whoever hates his life will gain it' and what is that life? The word for life is of course zoe.

That is how man should live, man should be a man of the Spirit and whatever he does should be an expression of the Spirit. So, in the Bible there are several exhortations for men, particularly for men. So, I'm looking at one verse which has a very important exhortation. I feel, it is very related to how we as men should take our rightful position in the body of Christ and in our homes and society and there is an important four exhortation and I want to look at those four exhortations because they are clear instructions, direct to men, four exhortations and today's teaching will be on those four exhortations. Let's read from 1 Timothy 2 first verse it says,

1 Timothy 2:8-9

⁸***I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; ⁹ in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,***

I desire therefore that men. Okay, so, when he's saying, this is only for men because later he says, ***in like manner also the women***, so that's the clear instructions for men, it does not apply to women, it applies to men particularly. So keep your mind open to this. This is what it says, ***I desire therefore that men should pray everywhere lifting up holy hands***

without wrath or anger and doubting and like manner also the women should adorn themselves with modest apparel with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing etc. so, this is specifically for women, there is some exhortations and for men there are some exhortations and I'm looking at only men. Now, this place everywhere means, the word everywhere is talking about in the church, a place of worship. You will see this particular word everywhere in another place in 1 *Corinthians 1:2* this is what it says in verse 2,

1 Corinthians 1:2

² To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

The church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints with all who in every place. Same word, and this every place, of course the connotation is place of worship, place where people gather. So, this is the house of God, this is a church. Now what is he saying? Men everywhere in every place of worship, every church, what should men be doing? What should they be doing? They should be praying. So, let's read that. 1 *Timothy 2:8* in the NLT. In every place of worship I want men. You will say Paul wants, whenever Paul says, I want, it means Holy Spirit also wants because this is inspired by the Holy Spirit okay. This is I will or I want. This is what it says, I want men to pray, lifting up holy hands to God, free from anger and free from controversy.

1 Timothy 2:8

⁸In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.

So, four exhortations to men, this morning, four exhortations to men. Exhortation number one, men should be people of prayer in every church. Second, men should be people who are pursuing holiness. Third, men should be people who have dealt with anger. How many of you men have issues with anger? Big time, right? And one of the normal default setting is that, and generally what do you family say, 'Papa, patient papa. Don't get angry,' my daughter is here, 'Papa, cool papa.' Then fourth thing, they should not be doubting, they should be men of faith. Four exhortations. First exhortation, men should be prayerers, if I have to use that word. Men should be people who are pursuing holiness, third they should have dealt with anger, fourth, they should have been people who have dealt with all doubt, meaning they should be people with a stable mind, firm mindset. So, we will look at these four exhortations today. That is today's sermon, teaching and meditation.

First thing, men should be people who pray in all churches. Now, one of the things that I have realized in my life. I can sit and read the word, study the word, for long hours of time but one of the difficult things for me to do is to pray. One struggle. But you know what, every movement of God, significant movement of God started with men who gave themselves to fasting and prayer. We have seen Yohan, he worships in Time Square Church. I went to Time Square Church in 2004. I was there two Sundays and I saw the man David Wilkerson for two Sundays. I'm telling you, that was an experience to come under his teaching and his ministry, all three services I was there on the first Sunday and all three services on second Sunday also and every Sunday I was only weeping, it was powerful. You know how his life started, his ministry? He was a Pastor in Pennsylvania of a Pentecostal congregation and he was getting really stirred up because he was saying, 'Lord, this is mediocre living Lord and I'm really not satisfied with my spiritual life' and he was at that point in time, this is his own personal testimony, it is there on social media platforms online. He said, 'You know what, I used to watch a lot of television and watch a lot of movies and one day the Lord rebuked me and He said, you know what; David, if you don't stop what you doing right now, I'm just going to take your anointing and put you in the shelf and that really, really moved him.' So, what he did, he said, 'Lord, I'm sick and tired of this. I'm not going anywhere, so he told his wife, for the next several months, I don't know how long, I'm going to go into the woods with my Bible. I'm not going to come for five hours, it doesn't matter who calls me, don't disturb me.' So, he went into the woods for days he used to pray, praying and fasting and reading his Word and he spent time and time with God in prayer. And after several months, now, he was still in Pennsylvania, this is his personal testimony. He came back and one day in the morning, the newspaper came home and he looked at the newspaper and he saw in the newspaper a few teenage boys who are being brought to trial in New York city, who were involved in gang wars, he looked at those faces and he was moved, suddenly he literally experienced the burden of God in his heart, went to New York city and in the process he met Nicky Cruz and you know the story and the rest is history literally.

And you know how it started, it started with this man shutting himself with God in prayer. I'm telling you something, every significant movement of every man who is being used of God mightily, especially if you look at the exodus from Babylon to Jerusalem, starts with men who gave themselves to prayer. Daniel it says in Daniel 9, he understood by Books that after seventy years of captivity in Babylon that the Jews will go back to Jerusalem and build the temple and seventy years are over and it seems that nothing is happening.

Daniel 9:2

²I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

So, what does he do? He gives himself to fasting and prayer. It starts with that and the moment the exodus if you will from Babylon to Jerusalem starts off with one young man, now no longer young of course, who says, 'Lord, nothing is happening, please Lord do something.' And then if you look at Nehemiah, people come from Jerusalem and they tell him about the situation in Jerusalem and by this time Jews have already come back, they have already built the temple and you know what the temple is still not fortified. You know why? The walls are down. And it says, they are in great reproach. Hanani says, the Jews, my brother are in great reproach and when Nehemiah the cupbearer he's reached the highest point in his life in his career and he's burdened in his heart and he goes for a time of fasting and prayer. You know how many days he prays? One hundred days. Think about it, today is twenty-fourth, I was calculating in the morning. Including today we have seven days left in September, thirty-one days in October, thirty in November, and thirty-one days in December. How many days totally, ninety-nine days are there. Think about it, you go on a regular time of fasting and prayer every day for ninety-nine days, everyday you take one meal off, I'm talking to men. Are you really serious to be men of God? Will you say, 'Lord, I am not satisfied with my life, I am not satisfied where I've come in my career, I see the mess that is going on in people's lives, the walls have fallen down, there's reproach to God's people, Lord do something about it. Take my life. I'm here Lord available to you.'

And you know what the Lord told me, 'Vijay, I'm not a respecter of persons, you pray like Nehemiah, I will do something with your life.' If you are truly burdened and you say, 'Lord, I'm sick and tired with this defeated life, I'm defeated by sin, I'm defeated by lust, I'm defeated by pornography, I'm defeated by wasting my time, I'm not going anywhere. What You are asking of me, what You require of me and what my current situation is, there is absolutely so much of a gap, Lord do something,' and then you give yourself to fasting and prayer, the Lord who visited Nehemiah, will He not visit you? What do you say? According to your faith, let it be done unto you. The problem is, are you interested? It says in *Hebrews 5* how Jesus prayed. Who in the days of His flesh, this is in secret life.

Hebrews 5:7

⁷Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

How? Loud cried and tears, think, take this as a challenge. I'm talking to men, my brothers. You know in my teachings most of the time, I address to brothers, my dear brothers, I always listen to myself, my dear brothers. Brothers honestly, every movement of God starts when men came together and start praying. You know why prayer is so important? Because we men we like to rely on our own strength a lot. We look for resources within our own self but do you know what, God has to bring us to a point wherein all your ideas, all your influence, nothing is going to change until and unless God moves and therefore, Nehemiah prays, 'Lord grant me favor with this man, I am the king's cupbearer, yes I am in a position of influence but unless and until You grant me favor, I will not be able to speak to him,' and one day after hundred days of prayer. You know what it says, the king looked at him and said, 'Why is your countenance fallen? This is definitely sorrow of heart.' You know what it says? Immediately he shoots a prayer to Heaven, by this time you know what, that relationship has been forged between Nehemiah and God, that relationship. Immediately Lord, he shoots a prayer to God, immediately he gets an answer from God.

You know one of the most famous sermons of David Wilkerson if you look at sermon index, do you know what is one of his most famous, his classic, called to anguish. I don't know if you've heard it. 'Called to Anguish.' A man who really prayed and this is one of the things that we as men have to start doing over and over again and if you can't pray for hours, start with fifteen minutes. Fasting is not very difficult for me nowadays, I've practiced over a period of time and fasting and reading the word is not difficult, fasting and praying is difficult. But fast and pray. Ezra 8 if you look at the moment of Babylon, if you see individuals who've been used of God. Look at what it says in Ezra 8, then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to see from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.

Ezra 8:21-23

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. ²² For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him." ²³ So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

Why? Because he was ashamed. He told, our God is able to help us, so he was ashamed to ask help from the king. So, he prayed and fasted. A man given to prayer and fasting and you will see the moment from Babylon to Jerusalem, one of the things that you will see is characterized by men who gave themselves to fasting and prayer. The question is brothers, do you have the capacity inside of you to at least quit one meal a day regularly. Or do you feel like you are dying? Start with one day then start with one meal, start with two meals and then go cold turkey, then seek the face of God because you know what, there is an exaltation to men, men everywhere in all churches, men means, in every church, should be people of prayer, not primarily, people of the world, people of prayer. *1 Chronicles 4*, see, so much of word has gone, still you don't remember.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

⁹ And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. ¹⁰ And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Now, Jabez was more honorable than his brothers and his mother called his name Jabez because I bore him in pain, he causes me pain. And poor man Jabez did not have a father like Jacob to change his name from pain to blessing. So, where did he go? To the highest Court, 'My mother called me pain, Lord, please Lord bless me Lord, enlarge my territory.' Do you ask God these kinds of prayers, enlarge my territory? No, Lord, I'm satisfied with where I am. One of the things I don't like is satisfaction with where I am. See, thirty-fold, sixty-fold, hundred-fold, but what is God's intention? Hundred. That is what I tell my children. Don't be satisfied with high marks, 'Do you know uncle, how many marks I got?' Don't tell me your marks unless it is hundred. 'Uncle, you are too much.'

See, God's intention is also like that only. Some thirty, some sixty, some hundred, that is what Matthew said, Mark said, but Luke a doctor, he said hundred. You see hundred, that is God's intention for everybody. Hundred-fold blessing. Isaac, in the land of famine, he sowed and he reaped a harvest, hundred-fold and we brothers just like Isaac are the seed according to Promise. Uncle, what is wrong, hundred? What will you do with hundred?' People just already give up. At least you try, try, try. I tell children, why do you give up even before you tried it? I am like one answer bank to my children. 'I am not getting it papa, tell me.' Aare, baba, try, try, try, fail. We live in the time of solution manual, ChatGPT will give us everything now. How to write code also it will give you. Write a Matlab code as to how to transfer file from this place to this place. It brings it out. Our days, you have to go to the manuals, you have to use google. No longer google anymore. You're living in solution manual generation.

We had an old professor at our university, his name is P.R.K. Rao. So, whenever we used to go and ask him, sir, I've trying these problems a lot sir, I'm not able to get it sir, how do I solve it. He says, 'I will give you a very simple solution. In IIT there is a Banyan tree, there are two Banyan trees in IIT, go under the Banyan tree and meditate he says. I am not going to give you the solution.' I'll tell you something, there is a joy in trying. The process itself will give you pleasure later on. My student is understanding. The process itself. I remember when I was in Montreal, we had one assignment which was given by one of our professors, tough assignment. So, I looked at the problem, I'm not getting it. So, I just memorized the problem and I went to the church, there was a church over there, not a church, church, meaning a Catholic church, a beautiful place, huge garden. Turned, rotated, rotated, rotated like this literally, just spent time and thought about it. Suddenly it clicked, and just go back and then solve it, my goodness, the joy. Try it.

Now, this is in your own strength. But you know what God says, 'I will be there with you and I will struggle along with you.' He is not going to make it easy by the way. He is not going to make it easy but in all your struggles, He is with you. He will give you the strength but try. Look at Jabez's prayer; Lord bless me, Lord enlarge my territory Lord, let Your hand be with me Lord, please keep me from evil Lord and let me not cause anybody any pain. The word is actually harm is again, cause pain, because the mother said, 'this fellow is the reason for all my pain but Lord no Lord, something, my life has to matter Lord but I can't reverse this curse but You on the Cross became a curse for me' and I'm being transformed.

And I proclaim that everyday over my children every day in the night. Through the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have passed from under the curse and into the blessing of Abraham whom the Lord blessed in all things. That is our prayer every night. Through the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have passed from under the curse and into the blessing of Abraham whom the Lord blessed in all things. Speak that out, if you are a man, speak that out over your children, over your house, over your wife, over your own life. Men should be men of prayer. My life has to matter Lord, otherwise what is the use of me, like Pastor was saying, when you are children, you are a burden, the next stage is you are not a burden, third stage you should become a blessing. When will you become a blessing? When we become men and when we become men of prayer and I want to be a blessing Lord. Men of prayer. Acts 13, you know how the explosion of the gentile churches happened? Acts 13 this is what it says. Now the church that was in Antioch, there were certain prophets and teachers Barnabas, Simeon, who is called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who's been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch and Saul. What is common between all of them? They were all men.

Acts 13:1

¹Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

They were all men. I'm telling you honestly, leadership is for men, spiritual headship and leadership is for men, don't shirk from it. So, all men they came together. I'll tell you something. You know when we started off as a church, so many of us had the desire to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and wanted to speak in tongues. So, we were actually seeking and then one fine day Pastor said, next Saturday, fasting and prayer we used to have fasting and prayer second Saturday those day because we still didn't start Pastor's Conference. Next Saturday, fasting and prayer, God is going to visit us and many of you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and you will speak in tongues. You know what, by that time, I was so desperate, I used to see my brother in the left hand and the sister in the right, everybody speaking in tongues and it is not coming to me and I used to say Lord, this is something I'm not going to miss, with all of my heart I was preparing myself, asking Pastor, Pastor how should I come, should I come fasting Pastor? What should I do? 'Vijay, just come, just be there. That is most important than anything else.'

You know how the first Church was baptized? When they came together, what did they do? They prayed. And in those days Pastor used to give us an exhortation. He said, 'If you want to be used in the Church in any ministry, if you do not come for fasting and prayer, the Lord says, 'I'm not going to use you.' And so, we were very serious. Now, I don't know if you guys are serious any more but those days we were like, we wanted that gift. So, come Saturday, expectancy and we had the upper room those day and we were all praying and the Lord visited us and many of us got the gift but several men after so many exhortations, they did not come for the meeting. And Pastor recorded all of our actions, that time when you started speaking in tongues, my goodness it was two three syllables, I was going crazy and I had one friend of mine called Ajay, he already got baptized in the Holy Spirit before and so after I got baptized in the Holy Spirit and I called him and I said, 'Ajay.' He said, 'Hi Vijay, how are you doing?' and I started speaking in tongues and he said, 'O Vijay

you got, you got it.’ He said, ‘Wow, Vijay, I was also like you full excited’ and Pastor recorded it and showed it to that brother who missed church, I’m telling you I could see, he broke down with tears in his eyes, I missed this opportunity, I missed this opportunity. I’m telling you my dear brothers and sisters, after several months, he left the church, he’s gone.

And I tell you something, that guy, the reason for him to fall away was his wife. I’m not going to name names, he was weeping and he said, ‘Pastor I missed this opportunity. I did not come even though it was a possibility for me to come I did not come.’ I’ll tell you something certain men, six or seven men started praying and fasting, it says, they were ministering to the Lord and. So, how do you minister to the Lord? You know something, when you fast and set time apart for God, what are you doing? You are ministering unto the Lord. Do you know that my dear brothers? The Lord ministers unto us but you ministering unto God?

You know the other day my dad was in the hospital and he said, ‘Vijay, for the first time I was without food for 36 hours and I knew that it was not easy. I know what fasting is.’

I’ll tell you something, you will not know the joy of fasting and prayer unless you fast and pray. Simple. I’ll tell you, some people miss their opportunities. Miss their callings. Look at what it says,

Acts 13:1-3

¹Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” They have already been called. ³Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

I will tell you something, many of you have already been called with a specific calling, but unless and until you give yourself to fasting and prayer, that calling will not be utilized. You will go in this rut like the children of Israel, 38 years in the wilderness; complaining and murmuring, complaining and murmuring. But if you are like Nehemiah and if you go down on your knees and say, ‘Lord! Lord, 100 days Lord. This years, 100 days Lord, I am going to make a commitment, Lord. I am going to make a covenant with You Lord. I am going to eat one meal a day and I am going to seek Your face Lord, because we men should be men of prayer. Lord, how You put a burden on Nehemiah and called him into ministry and You used him for the glory of God, Lord here I am. I am available here, O Lord.’

How many of you men are available this morning? Show me your hands this morning, without shame. Men! Men should be men of prayer, everywhere. Don’t be passive, don’t be lazy. Don’t let condemnation and past failures cripple you. You know, this is what I tell God, whenever I failed, whenever I’ve sinned, I say, ‘Lord, I’ve sinned. I do not know how You are going to deal with me because of my sin. But one thing I have done. I have already made my decision – I have nowhere else to go other than to You. Going back into the world is not an option for me. Quitting this job and going somewhere else is not an option for me. I have come to You. There is no other option. I have burnt all my bridges.’

That is how the outer man is broken, in fasting. You go on a fast, intense fast. You know, you will see how strong your flesh is. How it craves for food. My goodness, one of the things that is so difficult for me is to get off of sweets. Boy! Especially Boondi laddu. Even yesterday I was looking in the sweet shop and my wife is looking at me. I was like, ‘Just Boondi laddu, 250 gms.’ And that day pastor was like, ‘Someone gave me Boondi laddu Vijay.’ And I was sick by the way, I was in the office, I was feeling so sick I just slept on the floor. The main door was open and pastor just came in and put a nice packet of Boondi laddus on the desk there and he left. I got up and I looked and I saw, boy! Elichi boondi laddus! Pure ghee! How many did I take home? Zero. How many did I eat? All. Then I was so guilty about it and I was like, ‘Lord! What is this. Man!’

Then I go to Avinash’s home for Bible study. The Bible study is over and the snack comes to my table – three boondi laddus. I was like, ‘Lord, what is this?’ “I am testing you.” Boondi laddu! I look at aunty, ‘Aunty!!? No aunty.’ ‘Please, take just one, son.’ One? Really? It will not happen. I have a sweet tooth, craving for sweet. I think between brown sugar and white sugar, white sugar is more addictive. I don’t know. My goodness! In our home there was a compulsory question – after a meal eat a sweet. All Eathakotas are given to that. So even if you don’t have sweet, do you know what we will

do? We will take jam and bread, spread the jam and eat that sweet. Then we are satisfied. See, then you will know what your addictions are. Your cravings.

That is what the Lord told Derek Prince, 'You know, you are a guy who is addicted to chocolates. If you eat chocolates like this you will die of diabetes very soon. You see, unless we go through a period of fasting we will not know our weaknesses. And fasting does that. It shows all your irritations and your cravings. All your irritations come out. When you go home, the whole day you have fasted and your wife has not prepared the meal that you wanted her to prepare. you know what happens? Immediately you get so upset, righteous anger comes. My wife will say, 'Please don't fast. When you are fasting you are worse.' You see?

Let me tell you something, honestly think about it. 99 days left in 2023. Repent! Revive! Resist! And the purposes of God are standing before you. What are men going to do, is the question. What is your answer going to be? See, unless and until you make a decision to do it nothing is going to happen.

See, fasting was not instituted by man. Men did not suddenly decide to fast, because men will never fast. Our belly is our god. God said, 'Moses, come. I have to give you the Law.' Moses went without any preparation. I mean preparation meaning he must have thought, 'Okay maybe He is going to give me the 10 Commandments. How long does it take to write down 10 Commandments.' How long? Tell me. Just a few minutes. He must have thought, 'I will just quickly and come down. I am an engineer. Meaning I've trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, I know how to build and I know everything. No problem at all.' But for the 10 Commandments he was there for forty days and forty nights. Who decided the fast? God. And you are not even going to drink water, by the way. And for seven days do nothing. Just be there. Think about it. For men to do nothing for seven days. I mean especially for me, it is crazy, it will drive you nuts.

I was ill few days, after 2-3 days I was so frustrated and I said, 'I am getting out of this house. I don't care about this cough.' But pastor said, 'You have to love your brothers. Don't give it to others.' But still you can't! For men to wait for seven days? "Come up to the mountain and be there." It starts with fasting and prayers. Every movement of God started with individual men who came together and decided to fast and seek the face of God and after that miracles after miracles. The hand of God came upon them. And notwithstanding all the opposition because they prepared themselves with fasting and prayer, they were able to finish the task that God entrusted into their hands. In their personal journey as well as the journey that God had decided for them.

1 Timothy 2:8

1. Men should pray everywhere

I should be a man of prayer. Start 5 minutes, 10 minutes, increase it slowly. And if you are not able to pray with understand any further then ask God for the heavenly gift of speaking in tongues. And blessed is the man or the woman who has it. Use it. And those who don't have it don't criticize those who have it. The greatest anomaly in the church is – Paul says, 'I speak in tongues more than any one of you,' and therefore he had the authority and the knowledge to criticize the Corinthian Church for the abuse of spiritual gifts. Am I right? But you don't speak even one syllable in tongues but you will criticize people who are speaking in tongue. What is this? What are you doing?

2. They should be pursuing holiness

I should be pursuing holiness. Seriously. There should be an increased awareness of impurities in your own flesh and a desire to live a holy and a pure life. So what should men be doing? They should be praying everywhere lifting up holy hands. Now what do hands signify? Your work. Adam was called to work, ABAD, service. Right? Your hands signify your service but those hands should be holy hands. Meaning, your service should come from a pure heart. A holy intention, a pure intention. Your intension should be pure, your motive should be pure and you should be a man who has been set apart, completely for the purposes of God. Holy hands means, these hands have been sanctified and set apart for God and God only. These hands and this life have been set apart for God only.

There are two things in holiness: set apart for God and also clean and holiness go together. Cleansing yourself and holy living go together.

Psalm 141: 1-2

¹LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. ²Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Meaning, my prayer, let it be acceptable to You. And my hands which signify my work let it be pleasing in your sight.

Then it goes onto say,

Psalm 141:3-5

³Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. ⁴Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; (you see that? I don't want to give myself to practicing iniquity along with men who work iniquity. I want to be in the company of saints) *and do not let me eat of their delicacies.* ⁵Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; it shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it.

Point here is holy living. Do you know how holy living starts? I was asking myself this question – how do I grow in my life of holiness and purity? Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bare false witness. These are all big commandments. Now holiness actually starts with the little commandments. I'll give you an example. Daniel purposed in his heart that he will not defile himself. Meaning, I will set myself apart for God. How did he do it? Let's see.

Daniel 1:5

⁵And 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.

Delicacies, delicious food in other words. And of the wine which he drank. Food, drink and training. Food for the body, training for the mind, and ultimately you have to serve the King. Similarly God also has something for us. But Daniel said something, 'King's delicacies I do not know.' In *Leviticus 17* it says that we should not eat anything which has blood in it. Because life is in the blood and I have given blood for the atonement of sins. So don't eat anything with blood. I do not know what the Babylon culture is. In many of the Babylon cultures they mix the blood along with the food that they ate. I am telling you honestly, in many of the places you eat steak in North America, they don't strain the blood completely. Do you know that? There is still blood. That is the reason why it is juicy.

I like what Zac Poonen says, many people in Babylon, Daniel's contemporaries, they must have said, 'What dude? These are small commandments. Big commandments are – you shall not commit adultery. Is he asking you to commit adultery? No, right? He is asking you to do something terrible? No, right? Come on! It is a small thing.' Do you know what Daniel said? 'Sorry! The way I keep myself holy is when I obey the little commandments.'

Men, how you keep yourself holy is when you obey the small commands. Now what is small command? For example: you, as the head of the home, should not be the cause for your children and your family to come late to church. It is a small commandment. And sometimes in love you can teach a lesson to your family as well. If they are causing you to be delayed over a period of time, leave without them and book a cab for them. Then they will get the lesson. After awhile, if you become the cause of delay they will start instructing you. Isn't that a small command? Or is it a big command? It is a small command. You are not saying it with conviction, that is the problem. *Keep the Sabbath holy.* So holiness comes by making that 'time set apart for God' as the highest priority in your life. Think about it. This is a practice.

So Daniel says, 'These are delicacies. No.' first is about food and the next is about drink. ***And of the wine which he drank.***

Daniel 1:8

⁸But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Why should we not drink wine? Why wine? I think Daniel was one guy who said, 'I don't even want to taste anything which is not kosher. I don't want to taste it. Because ultimately I will be playing with snakes. And when a venomous snake bites you you will die. Why are we afraid of snakes? What is that one concern that it will do to us? It will bite us. It will strike me with its fangs and it will send venom into my body and I will die. Apparently the most venomous snake is the black mamba. And the Taipan, which is found in Australia. One bite and within 2 minutes you will die, if you have not been administered an antivenom. A king cobra has got sufficient venom to kill 20 elephants.

Now whenever you are playing with all these, wine and pleasures, these vices, don't even go near it, don't even taste it, because ultimately what's going to happen?

Proverbs 23:29-30

²⁹ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly;

³² At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.

Do you know how he is describing sin? It seems so beautiful for you, the redness of the wine, the smell of the win, the smell of whatever it is. **³² At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.** You know the family of vipers in North America, you have the rattle snake. Rattle snake is very poisonous. In India, rustle's viper. King cobra and rustle's viper if they bite you are gone. If you are not administered an antivenom case closed. Think about wine like that.

I want to overcome the fear of reptiles, so I have been watching a lot of YouTube videos of how they milk snakes. These fellows they just catch the snatch the snake by the head and bring out the fangs, and when the fangs come out they press the fangs into a bottle and collect the venom in the bottle. And from that they make antivenom, and painkillers and so many other medicines. And I look at these guys how confidently they catch these snakes, they are very careful and they put that thing into the bottle and they extract the venom. I am looking at that and I was like, boy! And then he says, 'This venom, 10 ml of this will kill you.' God says that it is the same thing, with any vice; it seems very, very, tasty but it will kill you.

My parents, when we were growing up, they told us, 'Vijay, if you smell drug you will die.' That is how they scared me. And then they used to show us pictures of people who were in terrible condition in the ICU. And my mother and father, my father showed me the newspaper and said, 'Vijay, look at this, look at this. This is the end result of the guy who tasted the drug. He is gone.' So from that time onwards I stayed far away from the drugs. Now we did it because we were scared. But there are other vices which they did not warn us about.

I'll tell you something, every vice starts with an invitation. We will come to that later on. *Proverbs 31* is written by King Lemuel. The proverb of King Lemuel. Do you know what the word, 'Lemuel' means? 'Set apart for God.' Lemo means for God. Lemo El means set apart for God. The one who belongs to God. He is the one who is holy, sanctified. That means you and I.

Proverbs 31:1-4 NIV

¹The sayings of King Lemuel—an inspired utterance his mother taught him. (In other words prophesies can be taught. And who is instrumental here? We do not know who King Lemuel is. Many say it is King Solomon. Some say it is Hezekiah. We do not know, but this is what the teaching is.) **²Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb! Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers!** Now this is a mother who has been praying and praying for a godly son. Not just for any son, but for a godly son. it is like Lemuel and Samuel go together. Samuel means, the one whom God hears. Or rather the one who always hears God. And Hannah said, 'Lord, if you give me a son, he is going to be set apart for you.) **³Do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings. ⁴It is not for kings, Lemuel— it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer,**

What do young people have? Full energy. Very difficult, right? See, young people playing football and you and I (old men) playing football is different. Especially, for example if Sameer and I go and play football with young people. What

will happen? With full excitement we will play, because the adrenal is there we will play. But after awhile we will be limping, everything will be aching. We will go home and ask our wives to massage, 'Please press my leg. Press this leg, press that leg.' The recovery process is very, very, long. But young people? They will [play, they will go home, they will sleep and then the next day they are back to playing. For us, the recovery after a long basketball game, if you ever play, we are gone. So, young people you have a lot of energy and you have less recovery time.

You all have lot of energy. I will tell you something, you all have atom bombs basically. But you are using that energy in stupid things; absolute, worthless, useless, stupid things. I am talking about young brothers.

³ ***Do not spend your strength on women.*** It is ironical, if it was for Solomon, that fellow did not listen to this. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines; 1000 women and still he had a lot of energy until he got old. ⁴ ***It is not for kings, Lemuel— it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer,***

Proverbs 31:5-9

⁵ ***lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.*** (in other words you will lose you sobriety. You will lose your sense of judgment..) ⁶ ***Let beer be for those who are perishing, wine for those who are in anguish!*** ⁷ ***Let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.*** ⁸ ***Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.*** ⁹ ***Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.***

Who has taken away your strength? Women and wine. WW. And t he last W is wealth. WWW – wealth, women, wine. It is a world wide web. It is a web that has been cast all around the world to trap men, my dear brothers. I will tell you something, it is to trap men. Because if the men are touched, and if they make a decision to live holy lives the entire society is going to change to trap men. I will tell you something, if your grades have gone down there is a girl in the equation for sure. What happened? 90% in intermediate, UG 1st year, 1 semester, rarely passed with 60%. What happened? Girl has come into the equation.

I am telling you, honestly this is the story of so many boys. Where are they spending their time and energy? 'Baby I love you. Baby I love you. Baby I love you. Baby I love you. I can't live without you. You are my everything, you are my all in all.' And that girl is not interested in God at all. She knows that you have been trapped. Seven years, because of the love for Rachel it was like few days. But what was his actual testimony? 'Night I did not have sleep. Day I did not rest, I was working hard. Night and day I worked for this woman.' 20 years of his life gone. Why? It is because one girl came into the equation. I am telling you. You see your marks. I will check your progress. After few exams, suddenly I see a dip in your grades. That when I know you have fallen in love. I don't have to prophesy, I have so much of data. I have a chat GPT on me. I can immediately tell that someone has come into the equation and has divided your attention.

Boys! Boys, boys, don't waste your life on stupid things. I'll tell you something, every vice starts with an invitation. By the way, God is so fantastic, He will already warn you before-hand what is going to happen; before that invitation comes God will say, 'There will be an invitation. Be careful!' I am not saying this, let me show you from Scripture.

Exodus 34:11-13

¹¹ ***Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.*** ¹² ***Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.*** ¹³ ***But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images.***

¹⁴ ***(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),*** ¹⁵ ***lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,*** ¹⁶ ***and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.***

See, the word 'invitation' is already there. Where is this being given? In *Exodus 34*, after Exodus it is Leviticus and Numbers. Now let us see what happens in *Numbers 25*. This is Phinehas' episode. This is after Balaam has come and given his fantastic idea to Balak as to how to trap the Israeli men.

Numbers 25:1-3

¹Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. ²They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

Invitation is going to come. So what happens? Before you go to college, your mother and father will instruct you, 'Son, you are going to get an invitation very soon – come to this party. Come to this party-party.' Let me tell you something, the doors for pornography were opened because an invitation has come. I am not joking. Invitation. In hostels there will be an invitation, 'Friends, country men, etc, there is going to be a screening today in my room. Everybody is invited.'

You see, later on you become an addict. Later on you can't live without it. But it starts with an invitation. Now those invitations come on your WhatsApp – we invite you to become a member of this club. Invitation. Be careful about invitations. Nowadays people are opening coming into your offices and inviting you to their 'clubs', to their fraternities. Come to our fraternity. You know something? I am talking about the top schools in North America, the very 1st years, the children who enter into the freshmen year of college are given an invitation to join the secret society. Do you know that? It happens in many top universities in North America. Invitation. My dear brothers and sisters, don't take this thing lightly.

So what happened? They went. So what do you do? I want to be a vessel of honor. I want to preserve a testimony for God in my generation. So what do I do?

2 Timothy 2:20-22

²⁰In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

In order to do that what should you do?

²²Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

²²Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. I like this translation. It stimulates desires for which you are not ready. Run away. Instead pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love and peace. And then, ***Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*** Whose company do you enjoy. Then I know what kind of living you are interested in. see, if you are interested in people who are always interested in movies and girls and so many other things. And you don't enjoy the company of people who are like, 'You know what, I want to do something for God. My life has to matter for this generation. I should live a pure life, I should preserve a good testimony. Wherever I am I should be a testimony for God. They should ask me the reason for the hope that is in me. And I should have the opportunity to share the Gospel and witness about what God has done in my life.' If that is your attitude then you will go with people who have the same mind set. And you will enjoy their company. You will not enjoy the company of people who are not interested in godly things.

Whose company do you enjoy? Understand this. Evil company corrupts good behavior. Good behavior is not transferrable, by the way. What is transferrable is corruptible. 'Oh, but Jesus was a friend of tax-collectors and sinner and harlots etc. what do you mean?' I'll tell you what. Whenever Jesus was with them, do you know what they said? When Jesus said, 'Zacchaeus, I want to come to your house.' Zacchaeus looked at them and said, 'Oh Lord! You want to come to my house? I'll do one thing, Lord, half my wealth I will give to the poor. From whom ever I have taken wrongfully, what will I do? I will give back four-fold.' "Salvation has come to your house."

Imagine Jesus says, 'Vijay, I want to come to your house and I want to stay in your room. I want to use your computer.' 'Lord! Let me cleanse my history. Let me sanctify my computer.' You will not say, 'Okay Lord. Let us watch this thing together.' You will not say that. That is not what 'Friend of tax collectors and sinners' means. Understand this. Men. I am talking to young men. And older men too.

Pursue. ***Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*** Enjoy. I mean have a good boundary around you. Especially your relationship with the opposite gender, be very careful. Out guards around you. Be careful. And if you have a reputation of people saying, 'He acts very strange, he is very uncomfortable around us.' It is alright. It is a good reputation to have. That kind of reputation is good. Flippant and flirty behavior, just stay away from all that. Keep yourself pure. (You are looking at my face. I know it is hitting you. I'm sure.) that is the reason why, you know what, Proverbs say? 'I do not understand the way of the eagle in the sky, the way of the snake on the rock, the way of the ship in the water and the way of a man with a maiden.' Everybody is trying to cover their tracks. But will I not see? Will God not see? Understand this, a pure testimony in these last days, it is an exhortation for men.

My dear brothers and sisters, especially brothers, I will tell you something, some of you are addicted to pornography. Addicted to movies and pornography. The unfortunate thing is, nowadays even girls are addicted to pornography. It is a fact. You can't deny it. And we are called to live a holy life in this generation. Of course you can't do it in your own strength, but you are saying, 'Lord, I am available. Cleanse me, purify me.'

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NLT

²³ Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ²⁴ God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

John 17:17-19 NLT

¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

That is exactly what Jesus did; Jesus gave himself as a holy sacrifice. Pastor was praying this morning, he said, 'Cursed is the man that hangs on a tree.' You know where it comes from? *Deuteronomy 21:22*. And before that, you know about whom it is mentioned? It is mentioned about a rebel; a rebellious son. This fellow who will not listen to his father and mother. And what should the father and mother do? Take him outside and stone him at the gates. Do you know what the problem is? In many churches the gates have fallen. The pulpit is the gate, where judgment takes place; judgment according to the Word. Do you know what it says? – *take him to the elders of the city*. The elders of the city should pronounce judgment, and you have to stone that fellow to death. And after you kill him what are you supposed to do? Take that body and hang it on the tree.

But thank God for Jesus. Do you know what He did? He took the place of the rebel in the tree. That is exactly what he says. I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so that they can be made holy by Your truth. Jesus gives Himself as a holy sacrifice. That is the reason it says in *Hebrew 10*,

Hebrews 10:14 NLT

¹⁴ For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

I like the word 'holy'. I want to emphasis the word 'holy'. Holiness with God and peace with men. And you can say so many things about this. One last thing I want to mention. *1 John 1*, if you have failed in this area,

1 John 1:5-7

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

He will make us holy. The two agents: the Blood of Jesus Christ and the Word of Christ both will cleanse you, make you holy and grant you a clear conscience, and the very Truth of God will become convictions in your life and will empower you for holy living.

- Men should be praying everywhere
- Men should be pursuing holiness
- They should have dealt with anger

One of the most difficult things for men is that they get angry. I mean you ask any wife, one of the things that she will say, 'My husband is an angry man,' in many cases. Recently for past 1 year my wife is looking at me and saying, 'Vijay, you are getting irritated for small, small things these days. What has happened to you? You get irritated and angry with petty issues.' You now when people say certain things, initially you might react but later you should respond. You should ask, 'What is going on Lord? Why am I angry?'

You see, I will tell you something, anger is fantastic if it is used in the right way. My professor PRV Rao, in one of our classes he said, 'If you, young people, are not angry when you are young you will never be angry in your life. And you should be angry for the right reasons.' He is a Gandhian by the way. I like him. Everybody who is a Gandhian I subscribe to his philosophy. He said, 'If you guys are not angry when you are young at the injustice of the society you will always be passive for the rest of your life.'

And therefore the exhortation in the Bible in *Ephesians 4*, pastor was talking about this yesterday in the Q & A.

Ephesians 4:26-27

²⁶ ***"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil.***

So, you should be angry. Watchman Nee, in his book, 'The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit', this is what he says – Jesus never says, 'Be loving and not sin,' 'Be humble and not sin,' but He definitely says, 'Be angry and do not sin.' why? The closest thing that will happen to you when you are having the emotion called, 'Anger' and very close fellow next to anger is the fellow called 'sin'. Two fellows are there, sin and satan.

Genesis 4:4-6

⁴ ***Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?***

That means, very close to anger there is a sin that is coming, very close. He wants to desire, he has a desire to master you but you have to master him. So, in other words, you should be angry. But the point is if you are not angry for the right reasons you will be guilty of the sin of omission, but if you don't express the anger in a proper way you will be guilty of the sin of commission. So it is very, very important to be angry and men have this emotion called, 'anger' and that has to be directed in the proper way. So look at how you direct that energy in a proper way. First you need to understand that this is what God intends about anger, this is what He says about His own anger.

Exodus 4:6

⁶ ***And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,***

That is what Tim Keller said, 'No anger is not good, blow anger is not good, slow anger is required.'

Look at what it says in Proverbs. I am just giving you some verses and then I will share as to how you practice this.

Proverbs 16:32

³² ***He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.***

That means he gets angry but very slowly. In other words whenever he gets angry he uses that energy and he directs it in a proper way.

Proverbs 14:29

29 whoever is patient has great understanding but the one who is quick tempered is folly.

Proverbs 17:27

27 the one who has knowledge uses his words with restraint, but whoever has understanding is even tempered.

That means whenever he has got temper he controls his temper. He uses that energy in a proper way. Anger has got energy but it has to be used in a proper way.

Proverbs 19:11

11 Discretion of a man deffereth forever; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

In other words, do not get angry because you have been sinned against. Get angry for the right reasons. So what kind of an anger should we have?

James 1:19-20

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

So what is the kind of anger that God allows? If the end result of that anger is a righteousness then that is the anger that God wants us to have. Did you understand? Where should that righteousness be established? In your own life. If the end result of your anger is righteousness then that anger is allowed by God. Otherwise it is not allowed by God. Let me give you an example, from *Genesis 49*. This is the prophecy or the curses I should say that Jacob pronounces against his two sons. Simeon and Levi. You know the story of Dinah. Dinah is messed up and Simeon and Levi, they kill the entire city called Shechem.

Genesis 49:5-7

5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. 6 Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

They went one step ahead, they finished the Oxen as well. Now let me tell you something, what happened to the Levites? Do they have an inheritance in Israel? No. the Lord is their inheritance. Yes. But you know what, they are not even given any part in Israel, they are given only towns. In every place, they are scattered throughout all Israel. Now what happened? This is a curse over Levi. So the Levites are listening to Jacob's pronouncement. They say, 'Lord, what is this?' Simeon also heard it, Levi also heard it. And Levi is thinking, it is there in his conscience, 'I will not have an inheritance in Israel? I will be scattered? But I want to get an inheritance.' So ultimately who is going to be the Levites' inheritance? The Lord Himself. 'I don't want to be interested in the land. I want the ultimate inheritance. I am an angry person. So how do I get that inheritance? You see? It is there in their consciousness.' In his anger what did he do? He sinned, he finished off the entire city.

Look at what is says in Deuteronomy 33, this is the prophecy that is pronounced by Moses over the Levites.

Deuteronomy 33:8-10

8 And of Levi he said: "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, whom You tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah, 9 Who says of his father and mother, 'I have not seen them'; nor did he acknowledge his brothers, or know his own children; For they have observed Your word and kept Your covenant.

10 They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, and Israel Your law. (Where? They will be scattered all over Jacob and they will be the people who will be teaching the Law to Jacob and Israel Your Law) They shall put incense before You, and a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar.

What a fantastic promise. How did this happen? I'll tell you what happened? When Moses comes down Mount Sinai, he looks at the twelve tribes, Levi is there, a cursed pronounced over his life because of his anger. His nature is to get angry. And then Moses looks at them and says, 'Whoever is on the Lord's side come.' Levi comes. Moses says, 'I hope you are just not on my side, but also on the Lord's side.' 'Yes, we are on the Lord's side.' 'I know you fellows are very angry. Today we will do one thing, use your anger for the right reason. Take the sword of the Word of God and cut off every relationship in your life which caused you to sin, do not spare.' Do you know what they did? He takes the knife and finishes off everybody who has become a stumbling block in their life. Were they angry? Absolutely. But did they sin? No.

Another example, what should the end result of your anger be? Righteousness. *Numbers 25*, this is my favorite character. A bunch of men totally compromised over here. They do not know what to do. They are scratching their heads as to what to do. God already told them, 'Take the elders and hang them.'

Numbers 25:6-7

⁶ And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁷ Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand;

Phinehas, what did he do? He was angry at sin. He takes the sphere and finishes them off. Look at how God records his action,

Psalm 106:28-31

²⁸ They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices made to the dead. ²⁹ Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, and the plague broke out among them. ³⁰ Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped. ³¹ And that was accounted to him for righteousness to all generations forevermore.

What should your anger ultimately produce? Righteousness. What is the spiritual lesson for us? It is not that you take the sword and kill all the people who are sinning, like Saul. You take the sword upon your own self and cut off every relationship however painful it is which causes you to sin. That is how you express your anger. Look at what it says in *Nehemiah 13*, Nehemiah, he takes it to a different level all together.

Nehemiah 13:25-26

²⁵ So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God,* (look at this guy, this guy who has got a burden, he is ruthless. He went and slapped those fellows cursed them, pulled their beards, etc) *saying, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves. ²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.

²⁸ And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me.

²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

This is how he expresses anger. Now this is what we call the ministry of whipping. And in a church there should be both whipping and weeping. Look at another man who expressed his anger in a different way. This is *Ezra 9*, it is the same story, Nehemiah went and pulled other people's beard and slapped them. Ezra, along with whom Nehemiah is working, by the way Ezra and Nehemiah are working together. So Ezra also heard of the same situation, look at how Ezra responds.

Ezra 9:1,3

¹When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites

³So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.

This is another guy who expresses anger in a different way. He pulled his own beard, he did not pull other's beard. He did not cause them to weep, He wept. Now, both these things are important in a church, the ministry of whipping and the ministry of weeping. Both these things are absolutely important. There should be some people who will use the whip, there should be some people who will weep. Whom do you want to be, is the question. I will tell you, whoever wants to be an Ezra, God will ask them to be a Nehemiah. Whoever wants to be Nehemiah God will ask them to be Ezra.

'I want to be Nehemiah and pull other people's beard.' God says, 'Don't worry, I will call you to be an Ezra and weep for other people.' For those who want to be like Ezra 'No, no. I don't want to interfere in other people's lives. I don't want to confront them,' to them God will say, 'Come on! Take a stand. You are too timid. Confront them. Rebuke them.' So we are not going to choose what we are going to be. But this is how they express their anger. How do they express it? What is the end result of it? Righteousness and holiness. Men should be angry, at what? Sin. Men should be angry at wasted lives. Men should be angry at people who have been given incredible talent and energy and those who are absolutely whiling away their time and their energy on useless pursuits. They should be angry. Are we doing that? The problem is that we do not get sufficiently angry the way God wants us to be angry. We are very passive.

I will tell you how important this is for men. You know what? If God can get men, He can get the world. You know what God tells Ezekiel? 'I look for one man' so we looked at three things.

- Men should be men of prayer
- Men should be people who pursue holiness
- They should be men who have dealt with their anger

And finally

- They should be people who should be people who are not men of doubt, but people who are certain, men of faith. No unbelief. No unbelief at all. And therefore what should they be doing? They should be spending time in the Scriptures.

Let's look at the last verse for the day and then we are going to stop.

Luke 24:36-39

³⁶Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” ³⁷But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. ³⁸And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Men should not be people who doubt; they should be men of faith.

³⁹Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

⁴⁴Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

So what is the antidote for doubt? Understanding of the Scriptures. So what should men be? Men should be men of the Word. Absolutely men of the Word. That means they should have no doubt about the attributes of God. They have no doubt about the faithfulness of God. They should be people of the Word.

Four things I have told you:

- Men should be men of prayer
- Men should be pursuing holiness
- Men should be people who have dealt with their anger
- Men should be men who are mighty in their scriptures

Do you know what it says about Apollos? Mighty in the Scriptures. Why did he become mighty in the Scriptures? I will give you one reason; first of all he studied the Word. Second, when somebody came and explained to him, he did not argue. He did the exact opposite. You know what it says about Apollos? Apollos was a man mighty in Scriptures and he only knew up till the Baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila heard him speak. Do you know what they did? They took him aside, separately, and they explained to him in a more proper way. So what did he do? He did not argue with them, he looked at the Scriptures, he looked at their evidence and he said, 'Yes, you are right.' And he became even mightier in the Scriptures.

Two things about the man of God; first of all he is a man who loves the Word. Second thing is that he is teachable. That is how you become men who have no doubts. 4 things I have told you today about men:

- Men should be men of prayer
- Men should be people who are pursuing holiness
- Men should be men who have dealt with anger
- Men should be people who are mighty in Scriptures. Men should be men of the Word.

So the order is very important. First it is prayer, then Word. You see that order? Prayer and then Word. Sometimes we interchange the order. Men should be men of prayer and men should be men of the Word. Men should be people who love holiness. Those who pursue holiness in this day and age. And men should be people who express their anger which produces righteousness in their lives and not cause them to sin and not give space to the devil.

So four exhortations this morning. And women, pray for men and they be men like this and don't become a stumbling block for them. That is the reason for women it says, what is mentioned about women? For men it is anger and doubting. What about women? It is about their clothing. Men should pursue holiness in their attitudes and in their thoughts. Women should pursue holiness in their dressing. Did you get that? I gave only one word for women and so many words for men. I should give a word for women as well, right. You should wear good clothes and godly clothing.

Yesterday, my wife was showing my daughter an outfit and saying, 'Why don't you wear this?' (I am not boasting about this, I hope she is not hearing this). It was a sleeveless dress. She said, 'Mama, you wore this when you did not know Jesus, I don't want to wear this. I only want to wear something which has sleeves.' And I was happy. But my wife was trying to convince her and she said, 'No.' I was just observing her, I didn't say anything and then I looked at what she is wearing in the morning and I was happy, 'Good! She prevailed.'

So this morning shall we all stand in the presence of the Lord? And men make a decision. You should be angry, but that anger should lead to righteousness. Anger at sin, anger at compromise in our own lives. Anger at false doctrines. Anger towards things which causes us to sin and other people to sin. anger. That kind of anger is allowed by God. That will never cause you to sin, in fact Jesus will commend you, that, 'He was zealous with My zeal.' Amen?

Let's pray

Closing prayer

Father, we just want to thank You once again. So many things you are teaching us through Your Word. And I pray Lord that we will become men of God's own heart. We will fulfill Your purpose in our lives, in our personal lives, in our family lives and in the church that you have placed us in. we will be men after Your own heart. To that end I pray that you would bless each and every one of us. We thank You, we praise You, we give You glory. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.

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