

How Does The Kingdom Work?

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Father, this morning we come to You, the Author of our faith, Lord Jesus, and the Perfector of our faith. The Author of our natural life and the Author of our eternal life. You are everything. And as Peter said that day, 2000 years ago, that You alone have the words of life. We have come for life, we have come for knowledge, the knowledge of Your kind of life. Therefore I pray that You would give us attentive ears, so that one day we all can have the tongue of the learned, and the unction to lift up those who are weary, who live all around us. They are all around us, the masses, weary. It is to them You said, 'Come to Me all who are weary.' But today, it is to us that You send them, but if we do not have an attentive ear we will not have the tongue of the learned to lift them up. Therefore, Father, I pray that every time we come to Your Word we will incline our ears to You and we will focus on You and we will determine that we will not be distracted by any other concern, because we are in the presence of our King and our King, in His goodness and lovingkindness is granting us an audience and is willing to speak to us. So help us to hear. Help us to believe. Help us to obey, because You said, 'If you are willing and obedient you will eat the best of the land,' and that land is Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

So Jesus said, 'Come to Me, (it is a personal invitation) all who are weary and heavy laden I will give you rest.' And that rest is found with only one Person and in one place; that place is called the Kingdom of God. Okay? Not the earth, but the Kingdom of God. So there is a King and His Kingdom. So the invitation, remember the promise, is about the Person. And where this Person is the Kingdom of God is; where He is there the Kingdom is, because when the King comes He brings the Kingdom with Him. So that is what we are learning.

The doctrine of the Kingdom of God, because every kingdom, every country has their own laws, their own doctrines. The doctrine of the Kingdom of God. Our attitude towards the King, it is very important; our attitude towards the world, which is in opposition to this King and this Kingdom. So we should ask questions – When I leave from here and go through life through the next one week, and then come back again to the church, if the Lord tarries to come, or if we are still alive, am I taking the Kingdom to the world? Or when I come here, am I bringing the world into the Kingdom? What am I actually doing? When I go somewhere, am I taking the Kingdom, where I work, where I study? Wherever you go – are you taking the Kingdom? Or is it the other way around? Are you bringing the world into the Kingdom? That is life. For the Bible is the only, true, continuing story of a King, His Kingdom and His people. And everything that Jesus taught, everything was connected to the King, that is His Father, and to the Kingdom. We have seen that. Let us refresh our memories.

Luke 4:43

⁴³ but He said to them, "I must preach the Kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Why was He sent? To preach, to teach about the Kingdom of God. And that is what He did for three and half years. Then, we read again, the last 40 days when He was on earth, post-resurrection,

Acts 1:1-3

¹The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ²until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Did you get it? In His three and a half years of ministry and the last forty days of His ministry, everything that He taught was connected to the Kingdom of God. Because perception matters. Like I said, we do not see the same way because our perception matters. Even if three people were to look out of the same window, though what is outside is exactly the same, you don't see the same way. You will see according to your perception. So if you don't read the Bible, keep it in mind the King and the Kingdom. What you perceive may make no difference in your life. It is about the King and His Kingdom.

Matthew 13:10-11

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

Parables, do you know what a parable is? A parable is basically a story with a meaning in it. And if you can remember, if it is still there in your memory bank, we read lots of stories. But we did not get the message; we just enjoyed the story. In English we have the Aesop’s Fables. In each of the stories there was a message, but we didn’t get the message. In India we have the Panchatantra, in each of the stories there was a message. You heard the stories, you enjoyed the stories but you never got the message. The purpose of the stories was to put across the message. So, to the crowds Jesus told them stories. He told them stories and they were amazed.

This is what happened to me 30-35 years ago, I don’t remember how many years. I had my assigned classes, and then if any teacher was on leave, absent, and I was free I would be sent into that class. The first thing all the students would ask is, ‘Sir! Please tell us a story.’ Because that is what they wanted to hear. What do children want to hear? They want to hear stories. So Jesus told them stories and they enjoyed the stories but they understood nothing, they didn’t get the message.

¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

So they asked Him, ‘Why don’t You just give them the message? Why do You tell them stories?’ That is what they are asking, ‘Why don’t You just straight away give them the message? Why do you always tell them stories?’ He said, ‘The reason is this - **“Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”** He says, ‘In all the stories that I am telling them there is a mystery of the Kingdom. They will hear the story but never understand it. They will eat nicely, leave the leftovers there, get up and go. You will distribute and you will pick up the fragments because you are a different group.’

Get this very clearly. Now, if you come to verse 34 and 35 He will elaborate on this.

Matthew 13:34-35

³⁴ All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, ³⁵ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

Question – what was the secret that was kept? What are the things kept secret from the foundation of the world? The Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God was kept a secret. Connected with the Kingdom was the King, the coming of the King, the Second coming of the King, the Cross, everything was a mystery. And you need to ask yourself this question – how is that, from the time the Law was given, probably around 4000 years ago, that the Jews who have memorized the entire Torah are not able to see the King and the Kingdom? Why is it that they are not able to see? And to us, why is that we don’t see? I hope we see. Are we getting the picture? Because our perspective will determine.

For God to open anything you have to be committed. That is what discipleship is. Entering into the Kingdom of God is one thing, but a disciple is somebody else. A disciple is somebody who has counted the cost and has committed himself/herself to the cause. That is why it has been given to them and not to the others. Look at another statement that Jesus makes.

Matthew 13:11-12

¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

This is the principle, this is a law on which systems work. But we don’t like principles like this because we are very democratic in our thinking.

{Let me put it across in a way where even little ones will understand. I don’t know about your classroom. I know only about my classroom when I studied all the days of my life, right from LKG to Post-Graduation to EFLU, if you ever dare to chew gum in a class you would be in trouble. Show some reverence. If your throat is dry or something you can take ‘vicks’ that is okay, but don’t sit in the church and chew like goats. Remember

there is a separation of the sheep and the goats in the Kingdom. It is not nice, remember where you are. Meaning if you would show more respect to your classroom and to your teacher in the secular realm, how much more should you show respect and reverence to the King and His Kingdom. Just simple things so that you get it.}

So this (Matthew 13:11-12) is an idea. You need to understand the power of ideas. Ideas are very powerful. But an idea is useless without power. Ideas are very powerful, but ideas are useless without power. Let me explain to you 'an idea'. This is how capitalism works. Capitalism is an economic theory. This is how it works. A person has an idea, but the idea is useless without power. So if he has to empower this idea he needs finances. So what he does is that he will try to get a loan from the bank. First, that is what he will try to get, a loan from the bank. He won't tell them everything, he will just say, 'I have a business proposition,' and they will check his collateral and everything and give me a loan. And then based on that he will try to work out his idea. Now if he doesn't get a loan, he will try to get a financier; a person who says, 'I like your idea and I will give you the money, but I want 50% of your company. 30% of your commission.' This is the way in which capitalism works.

So you need to understand how it work. There is a person who has got a brilliant idea, but he doesn't have the power, so He seeks power. He brings it for whatever terms. You have a person, you have the idea and he will start what is called a company and he will hire employees and he pays the employees a salary. If his idea works and works well he laughs all the way to the bank with the profits, which is called rewards. The employees who worked for him, they did not have the idea, they were not willing to take the risk, because borrowing is a risk. So they only traded security because they did not have the idea or t he guts to take the risk. So all they get is a salary. This is how capitalism works. Now people get very upset and say, 'How can Bill Gates make that kind of money?' It is because that was his idea. Microsoft was his idea, and the other guy. 'How can Steve Jobs be a billionaire?' It is because that was his idea. But if you remember their stories of old days they were all engineers in MIIT or somewhere else. And then Bill Gates came out and they all got together and started it and it became one of the world's largest companies.

This is how systems work. Communism is an inversion of this. That is why no communist system has actually progressed ever. If China goes up economically, it is because they put away communism, except in controlling the masses, and they brought in capitalism, then their economy grew. When you think about Russia, what can you think about which Russia has produced? Nothing, only weapons. Nothing else. Think about it! When you think about Russia, what is the product from Russia which you can find in any market, anywhere? Answer: Nil, nothing, because communism produces nothing. But because they want to dominate the world they invested and invested in arms. So you need to understand how systems work. And you need to realise that only capitalism has actually brought prosperity.

Why did I say that? It is because, if you want to put it in Human terms, classroom terms in which we will understand, the greatest idea ever brought, was brought by a person called Jesus Christ. And it was called the Kingdom of God. The question is this – you have an idea, powerful idea and He is giving us an idea of the Kingdom of God. The question is – are you willing to take a risk? Let me put it in economic terms – are you willing to take a market risk?

Luke 18:28-30

²⁸ Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." 'You sold us something. It was very powerful what You told us. You sold us something about this mysterious Kingdom of God that was hidden from the beginning and was revealed to us. You sold us something. And we are willing to take a risk, how much? We have left everything to follow You.

See, when we talk market terms everybody understands. What does He say?

²⁹ So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life." Now He talks about profits (I am using economical terms) ³⁰ **who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."**

The Kingdom of God is both an idea and a reality. Jesus is talking like a business man and He does talk, in many places, like a business man. and He came down and He lived that Kingdom life before us and showed us the power of that life. And one of the issues we face is that we have heard much of the King. That is what we hear and we should because it is all about the King. All the songs we sing is about the King. But the problem is we have heard or learnt, or searched and sort very little about His Kingdom. So we saw how on the Sermon on the Mount, in *Matthew 6:33*, He is making life very simple.

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

He makes it very, very, simple. That is one thing what we try to do in a classroom, when you are teaching the students you don't go by the highest common factor, you try to go by the lowest common factor, we simplify. Please remember, the disciples are not PhDs from any university. These are simple fisher men. So to be educated is not necessarily that you went to a high league university. To be educated actually depends upon who you were with. Remember, the Sanhedrin was shocked listening to Peter and John and they realized that these are unlearned men but they were with Jesus.

So please understand, I am reformatting your hard disk. I am reformatting your hard disk with Kingdom knowledge. It doesn't matter where you study what matter is who you are with. So He reduces life and makes it very simple, one verse. You hold onto this and on this you build your life, start reading and understanding this one verse, He makes it into seven principles in this one verse.

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

That is why I wanted it in the KJV and not NKJV because the problem is that when you translate, sometimes one word is lost and when one word is lost then one principle is lost. If you read the other versions you won't see this – ***Seek ye. 'ye'*** is missing. Then it becomes general. ***Seek ye first.*** So the first thing He does over there is that He brings across the principle of time. We all operate on time.

That is why you see, my watch is always before me because I now that we are all at the mercy of time. I look at it and I know that I have 45 minutes left. For me it brings joy, for you it brings torment, depending on what you are looking for. We are all at the mercy of time. The urgency of time. On one side that is the only thing that makes us equal, because that is the only thing common about all of us; we all have the same amount of time each day. Not in life; in life we don't get the same quota of time; all of us don't die at the same age, no we don't. We die at different ages.

Then the urgency; now we have a lot of little ones sitting over here, the reason is this, in this first row these three sitting over here are around 10 years old. Now they are 10 and I am going to be 60, you look at them and say, 'Oh! Compared to me they have 50 years left.' Not so. If Jesus comes today they have just a few hours left. If Jesus comes by the end of this year they have just 6-7 months left. So when we come to the end of time there is an urgency, your age is irrelevant, because everybody will get only the same amount of time before He comes. So as the end gets closer and closer, and if we happen to be the generation that He comes, that means everybody's time is the same; your age is irrelevant. And that is why we have to be careful. Because sometimes we connect age with our own age and say, 'Ah! That is a little child, she's got so much time to grow up.' No. You do not know. So the principle of time. Because we have only a certain amount of time given on earth where we are bound by time. For two things; one, to become that person that is suitable for that particular Kingdom. Not for this world; here you can be anything, but not for that Kingdom. You have to be a particular person and the model that we are pointed to is Jesus Christ. We have to become like Him, that is the inside work and to fulfill His purpose, not your purpose. Two things and we only have a certain amount of time.

So the priority of time. The second is because time is limited, and it is like money; once it is gone you cannot get it back, therefore the only way we can profitably use time depends upon our priorities. Like I said that is why we bring money over here. The example that I was using in the other church was this – imagine, I am a father and I'm alcoholic, I can make 30k a month. So in the beginning of the month when I get my salary my priority is different. I am controlled by something else. I put away one-third for liquor. So how are you spending your money?

Now let's say I am another man, a father. I also make 30k, so my priority is 'Oh I have to pay the rent because the family needs a place to stay. Two, we need provisions. Three, we need to pay the bills and the fee of the children. Those are the priorities. Now the third person; this is a Kingdom person. So if I am a Kingdom person and I get 30k. As soon as I get 30k I have to give back to the Kingdom. That is priority. Even before the Old Covenant came it was called the 'Tithes' and

it is acknowledging that God comes first in your life. So I don't give tithes at the end of the month, I keep it for the beginning of the month, before the expenses for the others have begun.

Now this is all done in privacy. Let us say, the first Sunday is the 4th and you get your salary on the 31st. but on the 31st you put it away without touching it. This is between you and God because this is about the Kingdom. So you need to realize that our priorities will determine how we spend money or time.

The principle of priority, the principle of time. Then comes the third one, that is '**ye**'. The 'But' is used before that because He is saying, 'Don't be like the other people who wastes their lives running after things that are free in the Kingdom. Don't be like the pagans. The pagans do not know God as their Father; they do not understand how the Kingdom works so they are running after free things. And you don't be like them and waste your life. The third principle over there is the principle of seeking. Now please understand we have all these people seated over here, from the first row to the last row. When it comes to seeking it is not a cooperate call. In the Bible it is always an individual call. Husband and wife cannot seek together. It is not possible. You can do so many things connected with the Kingdom. You can have family devotions, you can worship together, you can pray together. So many go to church together and listen together. All those things, but seeking is a very personal, individual thing.

That is why from Abel onwards till the last book of the Bible, to John who wrote the book of Revelation, it is individual. And these are the individuals who sort the Kingdom that way. And God will speak only to those who seek. He cannot speak to those who do not seek. So age is irrelevant. Even if you are an old man, or you are a young child. I gave you two examples. In *Exodus 3:4*, remember? Moses is there in the wilderness, I believe lots of shepherds were there with their flocks, there was a rare sight over there, but they all just looked at the rare sight and just walked passed it. But Moses turned aside, and the Bible says,

Exodus 3:4

⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

That is when God spoke, otherwise God will not speak. It is very important. The difference between God speaking and we searching is that if we keep on searching without God speaking we will waste so much time. That is what happens if you don't have a teacher in the classroom. You try to learn on your own, you will crack your heads with Math, calculus and trigonometry, algebra. And on the other hand when the teacher who knows it all comes and does it on the board you will be surprised, 'Ah! It was so easy?!' but you did not know it.

That is how it is when God doesn't speak. But here you have to seek.

1 Samuel 3:3-4

³ and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, ⁴ that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

It is the boy's choice. Now this is the temple, it is a large place, so many people there, so many rooms. Remember this is all at Shiloh before the actual temple has been built. But still it's a pretty large place for 12 tribes to come and do all their rituals. So there is a temple, priests, Levites and so many people. Meaning you can choose where you want to sleep. And there was a little boy who chose a particular place where he went into the tabernacle to sleep. Second, he slept very close to the Ark of the Lord. And Samuel was lying down. And God saw – this kid is seeking and the Lord spoke to him. So you can be 80 years old, or you can be 8 years old, if you seek, *Jeremiah 29:13*

Jeremiah 29:13

¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

The problem is that we do not seek God that way. We seek God for answers to our prayers, our needs, that is how we seek God and we get things. This is the difference. God showed His ways to Moses and His deeds to the people of Israel. And people never knew God. Why? It is because they never sought God for God Himself. Don't get caught in that trap.

So the principle of the individual. This is the principle of individual; it is a personal choice. That is why we have this strange, powerful, scary stories in the Bible in one line – *Enoch was and then he was not*. And the Bible says that he walked with God. and then you look at him, he had a father, he had a mother, he had siblings, he had a wife, he had sons, grandsons and this dude alone went up. What happened over there? ‘Lord, that is not fair!’ God will say, ‘He sought Me. others didn’t seek Me. He sought Me with all His heart so I took Him, to My heart.’ That’s all! Simple explanation.

So the principle of individual, the principle about seeking. Remember the first question Jesus asked in the Book of Jonh? *‘Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world’* two of the disciples started following Him and Jesus stopped and turned back and asked them, ‘What do you seek?’

So there is a principle of time, the principle of priority, the principle of the individual, the principle of seeking, and then comes the big one, that is – *seek ye first the Kingdom of God*. that is a big one. It will take all of eternity and all of this life to understand how the Kingdom of God works, because we know now, in an age where knowledge has increased, all the knowledge that has increased is about what God has created in the visible realm. And we realize that it is not possible to know everything. So what we do is what we call as, we specialize. So we have Dr. Richard, Dr. David, Dr. Beulah sitting over there and they are doctors in a particular field of medicine. But if you go to Dr. David you see that he went into Radiology, he narrowed down to a particular area. Every organ, part, inch of our body has been divided by them, because the knowledge is too vast. The knowledge is too vast, nobody is able to learn it all. So if that is the knowledge of this created, visible world which is passing away, what do you think about the Kingdom of God which is forever and ever? Forever and ever; the first and the eternal Kingdom which rules over everything else.

So God says, go to school, study, but put the Kingdom first. Learn how the Kingdom functions. Understand what the Kingdom is. And then you come to *Matthew 6:33* He brings the principle of righteousness. And He says, **‘His righteousness’**. So that is the sixth principle. Time; priority; self; seeking; Kingdom; Righteousness. And then He brings in the Kingdom the principle of how provision comes. So when you think about Kingdom, please remember, there is a King. King means, ‘He is Lord!’

If you have your own house and you are not a tenant, what do you call yourself? ‘Landlord’ meaning you own it. That is where the term comes from, ‘lord’. So He is the Lord of lords. We didn’t get it, on the Day of Pentecost what Peter said which cut their hearts was, ‘This Jesus Whom you crucified, God has made Lord and Savior.’ We receive the Savior and ignore the lordship. That is our problem, in this world that is our problem. So capitalism was put across only as an idea. But please remember the wealth belongs to God, not to us. Please understand why, these are all dangerous. Because we can read Scripture which we have read a thousand times and see it differently today.

Luke 18:22-24

²² So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, (who is that? A rich, younger ruler. A very good dude.) “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” ²³ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. (then look at Jesus’ statement)

²⁴ And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

The more wealth you generate, the spirit of ownership starts coming in, and you forget that you own nothing; everything is His and you are just a steward. When Jesus said, ‘Leave and come, follow Me,’ he refused because he taught that he owned it all. He didn’t realize that he owned nothing. Keep these things in mind. So when God says, *‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you,’* it is a very simple, powerful statement which God is making, and because He is making, it is true forever.

So He brings Kingdom there. He brings government there, because you cannot have a King and a Kingdom without the government. If you have a government then you need to have laws. You cannot have a government without laws. And the laws produce, or the keeping of the laws produce, what is called, righteousness. Understand this, it is a simple thing, it is a classroom. Today is teaching, not preaching. Preaching is for the crowds, teaching is for the disciples. If you sit like a disciple you will understand. Get the difference.

So usually, normally, all of us encounter, (I am talking to people who are sitting here and those who are listening online) all of us encounter three kinds of government. Government means anything that governs which has laws, because if you don't have laws you cannot govern. There are three kinds of government. One is the government of man. so right now we have the government of India overall and then the government of Telangana. Two governments; the government of India and the government of Telangana.

The second government is what we call the government under which religions operate; religions have their laws. Then the third one is the government of God. I will give you an example to see, so that we can check our heart to see how we can fall under all three governments. Like I say, let us leave the poor Hindu alone. Let us make ourselves as the examples. So let me look, okay I will pick on Stanley.

Stanley started from his home, he had his helmet, he came on his bike; security plus the law. With his bike RC is there, license is there, pollution certificate is there, insurance is there. Four things, if you have these four things and you wear your helmet, when you drive what you have is that you are right with the government of Telangana, you have to also drive properly. When you see the cop and the red light there is no issue. So what does it produce for you? It produces peace. Because the fellow who does not have these things and he see the cop's vehicle with the lights blinking he has no peace. You need to have peace with the local government. How is it produced? By keeping the laws. Im just using a simple example.

And then he comes in to the church. Imagine this is a religious place; in fact it is a religious place in the eyes of the government for which I am the priest. So Stanley comes in before time, priest is happy. If it is like a typical church or a temple he will leave his slippers outside. The priest is happy. He comes and he worships, the priest is happy. He put in his offering, the priest is happy. He sits and listens to the sermon, or the bagan, the priest is happy. So now what does he have? He has peace with religion because he kept the laws. But then there is God. God knows that he has fought with Akhila and come. God knows that when the offering bag came he didn't put in the tithes. Now the problem is that you do not have a righteous standing in the Kingdom of God. this is how people get ducked by the State Government and religion. So Jesus said, if you go back to *Matthew 6:33*, He made it very, very, clear – ***Seek ye His righteousness.*** See that you have a right standing with God.

So God says that you are bringing your offering and you realize that your brother has something against you, you should put in your offering but first keep it there, run and make peace and come back. What are you trying to do? Have a right standing with God. Our problem is that when we don't seek this righteousness automatically we slip into default mode which is called religion. And God hates religion. He hates religion because religion gives you a cushion and in that cushion it takes you all the way to hell. That is why I said, Jesus did not bring religion; He brought government. So God says, 'You have to see that you have a right standing with Me. if you have a right standing with Me what will happen is in any situation, in every situation, however terribly the government is against you, however terribly religion is against you I guarantee you peace. That is why I said the most powerful portions in the Bible is in the book of Philippians, chapter 4, where a man is lying in chains and he writes to us – *rejoice in the Lord, again I tell you , rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all because the Lord is at hand, and he says, make your prayers and supplications with thanksgiving and the peace of God will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:4-5

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men, the Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Let me ask you this question – who put him in prison? The government through religion. So this man has no peace with government, the government has no peace with him, religion has no peace with him, but he is surrounded by joy and peace because he sought the righteousness of God. and God says, 'This is what you need to seek; My Kingdom and My righteousness.' Because He says, 'This is how you know, the Kingdom of God rules over everything else.' It is provable. That is why I say that my favorite chapter in the book of Acts is *Acts 16* – how could these two people worship there in prison? They were manifesting the power of the Kingdom because they had joy, they had peace.

So please understand, when we are talking about righteousness you do not get it right because the Kingdom of God is a matter of the heart. It is not a matter of outside things. You can be right with the government, you can be right with religion, but that does not mean that you are right with God. And the only thing ultimately that matters is being right with God. If you want to see an Old Testament example, go to *1 Samuel 16:7*,

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Now let me tell you exactly what is happening over here. Prophet Samuel, the figure in Judaic religion comes over there and says, 'Get your family all sanctified, tomorrow God is going to do something.' So the first one to come out is Eliab. He is right with the government because he is a soldier in Saul's army. He is right with the government, tall, strong fellow who is a soldier. He has sanctified himself outwardly, standing before the prophet who represents religion. He is right with religion but he is wrong with God. He is right with the government, he is right with religion, which only looked at the outside thing, but he is wrong with God and God says, 'I've refused you.'

Later, a young boy will come, he has got nothing to do with the government, the government doesn't even know him. But he is right with the government of his father, because government is always there; his father asked him to go and take care of the sheep and he did that, so he is right with the government of his father. Religion looks at him and outwardly he does not look religiously kosher, but he is right with God. And God tells Samuel, 'Arise and anoint him.' Understand how it works, because if we do not understand the King and the Kingdom, we will enter the Kingdom but we will struggle.

So the question I want to ask you is that – how have you come here today? I didn't say that at the end of the service I will check the papers of your vehicle; that is not what I asked for. The question is – are you right with the King? The only one who can make you right with the King is the King. So He says, 'Come to Me! I will give you rest!' then He says, 'Learn of Me, be a disciple.' if you study the four Gospels what you understand is that Jesus loved people but He disliked crowds, because you can only preach to crowds, you cannot disciple them. You can only teach disciples who have committed themselves to a cause. Who are disciples, in any area? Disciples are people who have committed to a cause.

That is why, remember, when Pastor Vijay gives these examples from his engineering college during his teaching days at IIT he will say, 'No auditing in my class. I only want disciples.' Let me ask this question – if God were to do a miracle in this hall right now, if He were to say, 'All disciples will turn blue and all the others will turn pink.' How many of you will turn blue? Think on those lines, because the Kingdom, the mysteries, the secrets of the Kingdom, is only given to the disciples. And if you do not understand Kingdom and live that Kingdom life you will struggle through life. And you will not receive a rich welcome into the Kingdom of God.

Two sons in the same house, the results were out. One fellow got first rank and the other fellow just passed. One fellow comes through the front door, boldly, swinging his certificate, while the other fellow slips through the back door and runs up without being noticed by anyone. That is why the Bible says that you wouldn't want to be ashamed at the Lord's appearing. So understand. You have to come as a disciple and sit as a disciple, even when you do your personal study of the Bible. Understand how the world functions and how the Kingdom functions because many things are similar, but that doesn't mean that they are the same. In the world what comes first is knowledge. That is why we say knowledge is power. But knowledge is useless without understanding, that is why children will say, 'I didn't understand.' And the fact, the truth about all of us, or most of us, including me, is that we passed many exams without understanding, because we knew, what is called the Indian trick of, by-heart. Physics, chemistry and all that we memorized and passed with good marks, but we didn't understand it. Many things I am understanding now, 'Oh! We studied this in school. Okay this is what it meant.' We have mark sheets to prove that we are excellent but that fact is that we have knowledge without understanding.

If you look in the Bible all this is there. The book of Proverbs will talk about knowledge, understanding. But it is still not enough, what is wisdom? Wisdom is the application of it. You have knowledge, you have understanding, but if you don't apply in God's eye you are still a fool. You have to apply it. Now when it comes to God's Kingdom what comes first is not knowledge, what comes first is faith. Because you are dealing with a Kingdom which you cannot see. It is invisible, you cannot see this. We begin with knowledge in this world because we can see. And if we can see and if we can work on something then we can understand it. The ones who are best at it are the Chinese, because what they use is called reverse engineering; America makes a product, they will take it and work backwards and before you know the duplicate is out in the market and it works better than the American one, because they were able to do reverse engineering.

Now let me tell you about China. What product do you know that is in the world market that is authentically Chinese, other than the Chinese food? Nothing. Absolutely nothing; everything they have put in the market is from the USA and the western world using reverse engineering. But you have to accept the fact that they are able to dismantle everything and find out how it works and then make it.

God says, 'You can understand the Kingdom of God.' and if you understand this King and how His Kingdom works, He says, 'Your life will change.' But He says that the first thing you need is faith, because this is not a visible Kingdom where you can breakdown things. You can try to put it under a microscope but you will not see the Kingdom of God. you can use NASA's best telescope but you cannot see into the Kingdom of God.

So that first thing you need is faith. Trust in this God. Then you need knowledge. Then you need understanding, then you need wisdom. That is how it works. Please understanding, because in the world it is not faith. I don't need to have any faith in my teacher but I can learn from him/her. In the Kingdom of God it doesn't work; it begins with the King and the Teacher which is the Holy Spirit. And for that you need faith. So we will see terms like visible, invisible, temporal, eternal; it is all because there is a Kingdom that is eternal and invisible. So if you read the first three verses of Hebrews 11,

Hebrews 11:1-3

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

What does it mean? It means that the things that we see are not made by things which are visible. It is talking about laws. We do not understand this verse but we actually obey this.

Now let me ask you this question – why am I walking like this? Because I am obeying a law which I cannot see, this is called the law of gravity. Can you see that law? You cannot see it. But we do not realize that there are laws which people discover and then find out and then apply it. Because if you only know the law of gravity you will never fly a plane. There is another law which can break this law and therefore you have aircrafts. But can you see the law of aerodynamics? No, it is invisible.

So God is saying, 'What is invisible is what that controls the visible.' So He is coming and telling us, this is what you need to understand how the Kingdom of God works because the Kingdom of God controls everything. So Jesus primarily came to reveal two things – His Father, the King and second is His eternal Kingdom.

Now pay careful attention, because we are going into theory. Life is practical but if you don't know theory you will struggle in life which is practical. So we saw earlier, in the Kingdom the King's Word is Law. It is not that way in a democracy. We make the laws. But in the Kingdom the people do not make the laws. So whenever you think Kingdom, or nation, please understand, the first thing that comes is what we call the constitution. Constitution is not law. Constitution produces the laws. Constitution establishes the terms, the conditions and the rights of a life in a Kingdom or a country. In turn, the constitution has to produce laws with the purpose that all those terms, conditions, rights are preserved and protected and the freedom to accomplish it. Understand that. If you watched the news last week, the Supreme court struck down a law. It was the electoral bonds laws. They struck it down. They said it is incompatible with the law of the land.

People are buying bonds and your names are never revealed it goes to the political parties. He says, 'IN the democracy we have the right to information.' So they struck it down and given SBI a deadline of 15 days to reveal the names of all who bought those electoral bonds and then in 5 days publish it in the election commission of India. So in another 15-20 days we will know who bought whom. So what happened? The Supreme Court said that it is unconstitutional. So the law and the constitution are not the same. Constitution produces the laws.

In the Kingdom, please understand, in the Kingdom the constitution is the will and the testament of the King and His subjects. Like I said, in a democracy or a republic, the people contract with themselves. They plan and decide what they want to happen to them. So right now they have started saying, which is a fact of history, that those two terms in our Indian Constitution called 'secular' and 'social' should be taken off, because it was introduced by then government during emergency; it is not part of the original Constitution. It has to be removed. The two terms 'secular' and 'socialist'. So when you are making your own constitution, you can keep changing it, amending it because it is a contract of the people, for the people and with the people.

So you have the first amendment in the constitution, the second amendment in the US constitution – the right of free speech, the right to bear arms. These are constitutional amendments. It is not easy to make an amendment to the constitution, it is easy to make changes to the law. To amend the constitution is very difficult because you need around two-thirds majority and these number of states have to agree before you can change the constitution. So need to understand why the current government is gango about trying to capture as many states as possible, even where they have no presence they want to capture Kerala, Goa, small states like Sikkim, because you need those states to amend the constitution and take it into a particular rashtra. You cannot do it unless you amend the constitution. So you need to understand, because we are all living under governments. So to change the law is not so difficult. Many laws have been changed in the last week through the parliament, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, but to change the constitution is not easy, it is very difficult.

So democracy is constitution by the people, of the people and for the people. In the Kingdom it doesn't work like that. In the Kingdom the people have no say in the constitution. It is the will and the testament of the King towards His subjects. Please understand that, it is very important to understand, the people have no say in it. Instead a King tells you what He wants, the Kingdom constitution, by the King and for the King's pleasure. If you have doubts, read *Ephesians 1:9-10*,

Ephesians 1:9-10

⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

which He purposed in Himself, ... no consultation with anybody. That is what I said, if you don't understand Kingdom, you won't understand verses like this and you will revolt as a republican and a democrat. 'This doesn't sound fair.' God says, 'This is not democracy. This is not the republic. This is a Kingdom.'

¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. Did you see that? So the King makes the constitution; the constitution is His will and His testament. Therefore we hear statement in the Bible saying, "I AM!" "I know" "I have" "I will" God keeps on using the, what we call, "I" "I" "I" – first Person.

The Kingdom constitution states the King's desires for His people because our King is the most loving, righteous, and gracious King ever. This is the best constitution you will ever get in life. Are you getting it? You don't get it because our constitutions are all flawed. By men and for men and then other men come and change it. While His constitution is the best because of who He is. If you have doubts when Israel is in captivity, listen to what God tells them from His heart,

Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

He says, 'If you understand Me and understand My Kingdom and understand My will, understand My testament, then you will realize that I am always thinking good thoughts about you. I want to prosper you, I want to do good to you.'¹² ***Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.***¹³ ***And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.***

Now we saw the connection to that. We only read verse 13, we never read verse 11,

You see, it has got to do with the heart. Once we have understood this King and His Kingdom we will start searching for it. We realize, wow! What a flawed constitution we have in India! What a terrible constitution they have in America! On the other hand, what an awesome constitution! What a great King! I am going to seek this with all my heart. Then you will seek, then you will pray. God says, 'Then you will seek, then you will pray when you understand who I am and what My desire for you is.'

So the Bible is the constitution of the Kingdom of God for man. It is the will and the testament of the King. Now I used two words – Will and Testament. They are both similar but they are not the same. A will is what is in a person's mind; His desire, His intent. The testament is the physical documentation. So if at some point in time I write my will, it will be written – 'The final will and testament of me connected with my wife and my children'. It is physical. As long as it is in your mind and it is not written in the paper you cannot contest it; you cannot do anything. Children fight over it. So when my father died, he just died. He left nothing, no will, nothing. There are five children. Thank God we were all five good children, therefore we did not fight. So what did my mother do? She said, 'You stay at home.' She frog-marched all four of them, because they are in all four parts of the world, she took them all to the registrars' office and she wrote a will with their signatures saying, 'We give it all over to the youngest one' including the mother. Everybody signed in saying that 'this, we handover to the youngest one. We do not want any portion of anything that the father has left.' Otherwise they will be fighting.

So there is a will, it is the intent desire of somebody's mind. The testament is the physical documentation. So the Bible is called the Old Testament and the New Testament; the physical documentation of the desire, the will and intent of the King for His children. Got it? Now will we start reading the Bible differently? That is why Jesus will come and say, 'IN the volume of the Book it is written about me, 'Lord, I have come to do Your Will. This is Your testament for Me; physical documentation.'

Because if you don't understand the King and the Kingdom this (Bible) becomes a religious text. This is not a religious Book. As far as I understand the Word, religion is only used twice in consecutive verses by James saying. '*This is pure and undefiled religion...*' that is the only time the word 'religion' is used in the Bible. '*...to visit orphans and widows in need and keep yourself undefiled from the world.*' The only time the word 'Religion is used in the Bible.' Religion is not used in the Bible, because it is not about religion. It is about a King and the Kingdom.

So a will that is kept in one's mind cannot be defended in court. 'No, my lord. My father told me before he died...' where is the documentation?

There was this Indian lady, Arundathi Roy. Her mother Mary Roy is the one who went to the Supreme court and won the case that all daughters should have equal property rights along with the sons. It opened a Pandora's box in Kerala. The Supreme Court said, 'All sons and daughters have equal inheritance.' Daughters who were married donkey's years ago started going to court saying, 'We want our property.' Fighting over the property which the sons have taken, now they have children and grandchildren as well. You need to understand, this is how the law works. That is why my mother was a smart woman, smarter than Mary Roy and Arundathi Roy, she marched all four and said, 'Write it down. It is all for the youngest one.' Once it is given you cannot take it back. So I, on my part, told my mother, 'it is all in my name but as long as you are alive I will never sell it. That is my commitment to you. He built it for you and you shall have it all the days you live.' That is why it is unsold and I lived in rent all these years. It was given to me 30 years ago, I never touched it. I never touched it, because you need to realize, these are not legal documents alone, there are relationships. So you have the will that is written, the physical document, which is the testament. Now you can disagree and fight over it, so what you do is that the court will appoint, what is called as, the arbiter (only lawyers will understand). Arbitration courts – how to decide when people fight, how to settle it.

In this (Bible) case, the Bible is the testament of God to His children; the Father to His children and the Arbiter is the Holy Spirit. That is what it means that the Bible is not for private interpretation. What you have, how you can have it, when you can have it is decided by God's arbiter, the Holy Spirit. So be careful with the Arbiter.

So when it comes to humanity, us humans. When it comes to us humanity, what did God do? If we don't understand these things we will not give value and time to things which we should give value and time. What He did was He limited Himself; the God who is unlimited towards this visible and His creatures who are made in His image, He limited Himself by His Word.

So Hebrews 1:8 will talk about position, right? It will say,

Hebrew 1:8

⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

Psalms 119:89

⁸⁹ Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

So God has spoken, it is forever settled, He won't change it. The same Psalm in verse 152 will say,

Psalms 119:152

¹⁵² Concerning Your testimonies (basically means His statutes or His laws), I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

So understand there is a God, there is His throne, His Kingdom, His Word is His Will and His testament, His laws and His statutes is forever. It will never change. God will use these two terms, what is that? 'As long as heavens and earth...' so many parts of what God has spoken will only change in *Revelation 21*. Till the end of *Revelation 20* they will continue because the old earth is still there. So get these things very, very, clear.

So when it comes to the Kingdom of God, who is God? He is the King. Who are we on earth? In function, we are kings and priests. In the Kingdom we are kings and priests, but in the world we are not that. In the world we are what we call as ambassador. We are ambassador, meaning we represent another Kingdom. We do not represent the world. Because if you don't get this picture clearly we will start looking like the world, talking like the world, acting like the world, behaving like the world and we cease to become an ambassador. That is why we say, don't be worldly. Because we represent another King and another Kingdom.

Now ambassador is a position of a Kingdom child in this world. I don't know how many of you watch news, but it is sometimes interesting to watch news. Last week was full of court cases. It was interesting to hear the arguments live. If you ever ask an ambassador a question, not presidents and PMs and politicians. Ambassadors, if you ask them, 'Sir, what is your opinion about this?' He will never say, 'This is my opinion.' He used very measured words. IFS training is different; they are trained how they should speak. He will say, 'My government's position on this is this...' that is how he replies. He will never give his opinion. He has no opinion, his opinion is irrelevant, because he is representing another government here. So if you were to ask an American ambassador or a British ambassador or any ambassador in India, 'Sir, what is your opinion about what is happening?' he will never say, 'My opinion,' he will say, 'My government's position is this...'

Question - When you are faced with a situation, do you know your Government's position? So when Jesus was asked, He said, 'It is written. That is My Government's position. It is written. I am hungry and you are saying that I can... but I have no opinion about that. It is written, this is My Government, My Father's Government's position in this situation. See, if you don't understand all these things you will never read the Word, you will never understand the Word, you will not understand why the Word is so important to function in this world as a Kingdom person.

Often my wife will ask, 'Honey, what do you think?' and my usual answer is always, 'I don't think.' Strange, right? People will ask, pastor, what do you think? I say, 'I don't think.' It doesn't mean that I don't think; basically what I am saying is that you are asking me for my opinion. But I don't have opinions, I have only positions. Please understand, that position will never change. That is why He says, *'Heaven and earth will pass away but My Word will never pass away.'*

So if someone were to ask you, 'Sir, what is your opinion about same-sex marriage? I don't have an opinion, I have a position. It is always between a man and a woman, always. Why? That is the position of my Government. And it will not change. So many, many, churches on earth are fake because they don't represent the government of God. they do not represent the government of God. Because in a government, an ambassador, he doesn't have opinions, he just presents the position of his government that sent him.

So God says, 'There was something that happened, earlier you were people of this world, aliens and strangers to the Kingdom of God. Now when you are born again you became aliens and pilgrims here and you became citizens of that Kingdom. But when you were citizens I didn't take you out. I left you here and you are My ambassadors.' Your purpose is to reconcile people back to God, but you need to have firm positions about everything, not opinions. Strong convictions about the government of God. that is what God meant by – many are called but very few are chosen. Why? it is because very few people have fixed positions and they vacillate according to popular pressure.

Jesus refused, the disciples refused, if you look at the Old Covenant, the Old Covenant there were people who always refused because they represented another King. So God comes and says, 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but not a dot from My Word.' So, it is our ignorance or our arrogance if we question God. either it is ignorance or our arrogance when we question God, because when we question God we are questioning His governments, His laws, how He has created everything.

And Job did question God. Of course, I told you last week, he was hit by a perfect storm. East wind, north wind, south wind, west wind, everything together hit him. Children gone, property gone, wife said, 'Curse God and die' he had the kind of friends whom you should never have, who came and blamed him for everything. And he had boils from head to toe, sitting there and scratching himself and questioning God.

When he questioned God, God answered him. Finally God answered him and listen to what God's answer to a righteous man, Job,

Job 38:1-5

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ²"Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? God says, 'You are talking about My Kingdom. You are talking about My laws. You are talking about how My Kingdom works and My counsel. Do you have knowledge?'

³Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

Honestly I still don't understand; they say the earth is round, not flat. I don't understand. How can the earth be both round and flat? If it is round how come we don't fall off the edge? How can the earth spin so fast and yet be steady? I don't understand!

So God is asking this question – 'Hey dude! Brace yourself like a man. I am going to ask you a few questions.' ***⁴"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?***

God is asking these questions, that is why we need faith. Now look at verse 33,

Job 38:33

³³Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God's dominion over the earth?

Do you know the laws of heaven? It is a very important question. If you do not know the laws of heaven how do you enforce God's dominion on earth? How can you live a Kingdom life on earth? How can you live a Kingdom life on earth when everything is contrary to that Kingdom? Do you know the laws of God's Kingdom? Do you know how those laws work? Do you have faith? Do you believe when I tell you something and you act on it? Then the Kingdom dominates on earth. God is asking a very powerful question. So Jesus Christ, among the many things He did, He came to show us the way. He says, 'Learn of Me. I am meek and lowly, learn of Me. look at me, I submitted to the laws of My Father and His Kingdom. And look at My life.'

This is exactly what he says in Joshua 1:8,

Joshua 1:8

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

This Book of the Law... these are laws on which the Kingdom of God is established in the lives of people. This Book of the Law shall never depart your mouth. For it not to depart your mouth what should you do? **but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.** He says, 'If you do these two things – you think on it and act on it and speak on it, three things you have to do, what will happen is you will dominate earth. you will bring the dominion of the Kingdom of God upon earth in your life. That is the way it is. For every law if you want to overcome it there has to be a law that supersedes it. Like I said, you have the law of gravity, if you want to defy gravity, then you need the law of aero-dynamics. If you don't have the law of aerodynamics you cannot defy gravity, it will pull you down.

So God says that the Kingdom of God rules over everything. God says, 'And in My Book I have given you laws. These laws are connected with life – how My people should live. It is fixed, it never changes.' The laws of marriage will never change, the laws of family will not change. Laws for the husband will not change. Laws for the wife will not change. The laws for the children will not change. It is fixed forever. How long? As long as there is heaven and earth, it will never change. If you try to change it, not only will you not be able to dominate but the other side will dominate you. Be careful, there is another Kingdom.

So we need to understand, we need to always go back into the Word and see what God has said. Align yourself to that because otherwise we will be overcome.

So this is what He is talking about – **the Book of the Law.** What is that? The will of God and His testament. It is called the Old Testament. God spoke to Moses for forty days and he came back with two tablets of stones in which it was written. So the will, when it is written down and codified it becomes a testament. He says, 'Keep it in your mind. This is for you and your people.' These are Kingdom truths, these are Kingdom principles. We are not going back to the levitical law, please don't misunderstand it. No, that is not what it means. But every law that God had given even in the Old Covenant, its truth is revealed in the New Covenant. So don't live by the Law because the Law will not set you free. It will give you a certain level of security and peace but freedom comes from the truth. That is why Jesus will come and say, 'You know, it was said... that is true, that was the Law, but I will tell you, this is what it meant. You know this is what was said,' where is He pointing to? To the Law. He says, 'You do not know what it meant. So this is what it means. So if you keep what it really means then you will be absolutely free, because that is the Kingdom Law.'

So if you don't understand the Kingdom, we will not have confidence. People don't have confidence, people don't have boldness. What knowledge gives you is boldness and confidence. Even in the world, you have a board exam, let us say tomorrow. The one who has studied very well is confident, why? It is because you have studied and you have that knowledge. But if you did not your confidence levels go down. In the same way, God says, don't worry about that, in life you need boldness and confidence. And to have boldness and confidence you need to have two things, one, you need to know your God as your Father. And you need to know how His Kingdom works so that you have a right standing with Him. After that you can have boldness.

The Bible says that when the Sanhedrin saw the boldness of Peter and John and knew that they were unlearned men. Where did their boldness come from? Because if you do not know, you do not have boldness and you don't have confidence. Now let us look at one simple area, a very important area in our Kingdom life, which is called prayer.

1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, if you are not in Him you have no confidence and many people who don't pray at all are not in Him. They don't pray because they don't find the need to pray because they are not in Him. If you are in Him you will pray. And this is the confidence we have in Him and if we ask anything according to His faith. Where is His faith? In the Word, in His testament. And the Holy Spirit is the Arbiter who will explain to you – if you are asking Me in this way. No that is not what it means, that is not what it intended. Or you are asking right but your attitude is wrong; you are asking for yourself and in the Kingdom nobody asks for themselves; they ask to bring glory to God. So don't get it wrong. My Son never asked that way when He was walking on earth. And every time He asked the Father answered because always He was trying to glorify the Father. The Holy Spirit is the Arbiter of the Will.

if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Now let me ask you this question – when was the last time you heard the word 'petition'? Where is petition used? In the court. Supreme Court passed the Law; 3 bench Supreme Court passed the Law and immediately government goes and files a review petition – 'We want it to be reviewed by the full bench.' So petition is a legal term used in court. So there are many kinds of prayers, there is one kind of prayer which is called petition. Supplications, petitions, they are not the same.

Isaiah 41:21

²¹ "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob.

So what is God saying? 'You are coming to Me in prayer, right? Present your case. Bring forth your strong reasons.' He says, 'Give Me reasons. Don't just weep and howl and cry. Don't waste your tears. I am not moved by tears. I am moved by arguments. Imagine you hire a lawyer and you are fighting a case which is a life and death situation and the lawyer goes and cries and howls in front of the judge, 'Your honor! Pleeeaaaseee!!!' What will the judge say? He will order a 5-minute recess and say, 'Please compose yourself and come back with your arguments.' The only time tears have meaning is when you are pleading for mercy. 'Lord I goofed up! My name is goofy. Please have mercy. Have mercy! Mercy, mercy, mercy!' that is one thing. Now don't confuse that with petitions.

So when you are in a crisis, when you are in a real, real crisis you should be able to bring your petitions before God. We are looking at how the Kingdom works. That is why we study the Word. Let me give you a powerful example from that same book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 38:1

¹In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

Now, he should have listened to that, but okay. He changed the whole verdict. Let's see how he did it.

² Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, ³ and said, (present your case. Bring your reasons. He is presenting his case) "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

He presented his reason and then he wept. He was saying, 'Why should a man die before his time? Why should I die before my time? Give me a reason why I should die? Did I walk wrongly before You? I have walked before you.' He is not saying that he walked behind God, he says, 'I walked before You.' That is what God had told his great-grandfather

Abraham, 'Walk before Me and be blameless.' He says, ***"Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight."*** And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Immediately you see,

⁴And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, ⁵"Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. ⁶I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city."

God says, 'Go tell Hezekiah I have added another 15 years to his life. I have heard his petition because his reasons are sound.' Did you see how the Kingdom works? This is not religion, it is a government. With the government as well, we go to the collector's office and give our petition. We are asking for something. We gave our petition in the collector's office – 'We are a church. We have these many members, this is what we are and we give our petition, please give us a marriage license to conduct our own weddings.' They accepted the petition and it went to the government and the government sanctioned it and it came back to the collector's office and we got our license. We had to submit our petition. But when we submit our petition we have to give our reasons.

I am speaking about one thing, because when you look at the Kingdom we understand the Kingdom as the government and the Government has a constitution, constitution produces laws, and if you walk according to the laws you have a right standing with the government. Now, we are talking about the Kingdom of God and God says, 'If you have asked according to My Will you have this confidence that I hear you.' You have this confidence that He hears your petitions. My question is – how do you go to court without knowing the law? That is why I am always fascinated by law, right from my childhood I read all the Perry Mason's books, my father had a pile of them on law. So when the other case was going on in the Supreme court of the US I listened to the whole thing LIVE. It was interesting to hear the arguments of each lawyers. And all the nine justices asked pointed questions and the lawyers had to come with reasons.

What is Jesus called? He is called our Advocate. What is the Holy Spirit called inside? He is our Advocate. The Holy Spirit is our Counselor, our Advocate on earth and Jesus Christ is our Advocate in Heaven. But if He has to argue for us, please give reasons. 'Give Me reasons.' And when we don't understand this we are missing out on the most powerful entity ever called the Kingdom of God working in our lives. This guy just got 15 more years, just like that. He should have died that day or the next week. God just said, 'Add another 15 years to his life, because I've heard His reasons.' so everything we have to start seeing in the light of the King. That He is holy, He is righteous, He is loving. These three things don't take it away from the King, because this King is not like other kings.

You can live in a kingdom of this world, in an actual kingdom of this world and never, ever, personally meet the king in your entire life. That is how nations lived for centuries, until media came. When media came people start seeing their faces. So one of the most watched program in the old days was the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. The Royal wedding, the coronation, the burial of Diana. Why? People are able to see all this. But even today, in Britain there are still thousands of people who have never personally met their king. In this world you can live like that; in a kingdom you enjoy all the benefits and never meet the king.

Not so in the Kingdom of God, because even the entry begins with the encounter of Jesus. That is the difference. You cannot enter into the Kingdom unless you had an encounter with the King and received, with your whole heart, His work for you on the Cross. That is why the Bible says, *'He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.'* And therefore they were outside the Kingdom. So Jesus will say, 'The children of the Kingdom of God are outside but many will come from east and sit at the table with Abraham, because they refused the King.' So here it doesn't work that way. That is why we have to be very, very careful because you don't compare one-on-one here. Because the beginning of salvation is that you have received the King. *As many as who received Him.* You have to receive that full work of the King in your life. We enter into the Kingdom as His son and as His daughter. God only has sons and daughters. And anyone who ceases being a son or a daughter the only identifying mark is that He withdraws His Spirit. He just withdraws His Spirit.

What is the only proof on earth for a family? Blood. What is the family proof in Heaven? His Spirit. That is why it is told that you will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Born of the Spirit. That is the proof that you are a child of God. So don't confuse these things. So when you read the Word of God you have to read it, if you haven't already started, with a

different eyes – this is my King and I am part of the Kingdom. And this is His government. I am reading the laws of this Kingdom. How should I function? And the power of this government. So in *John 6:63* He will say,

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Please understand! Get this into your cap and put it firmly on. The purpose Jesus came was not for Calvary and the Cross. It was the means. It was not that we should be born again; it was also the means. The reason He came was to bring the Kingdom back to earth; the bring His Father's Kingdom back to earth. So once you are born-again, you enter into the Kingdom. As soon as you enter into the Kingdom what happens is a new Kingdom comes up; a new government starts operating. See, in this world we understand it so well. Once you go from one country to another country, the thing is that if you are travelling domestic you are worried about the security. But if you are going international you are worried about the immigration. These are two different departments. If you are travelling international you don't even reach security until immigration clears you. Immigration has to clear you, only then you go to security. For domestic you don't need it because you are travelling with in the country, for domestic the security clears you. For international, first you to go immigration and then you stand in the line, and when immigration comes you have to give them your passport. After you give the passport he will ask you to look into the scanner and they scan your eye and all your record comes up in the system. Your record comes up – are you allowed by the country to leave the country, first thing. That is your passport. Next, he looks at the VISA – are you allowed by that country to enter the country.

So if you look at it, countries will give advisories to their citizens when they are travelling to certain countries. For example, if you look at the U.S. consulate, if you are travelling to certain countries like the Middle East, they will say, 'Please be respectable to the local culture; cover yourself.' In America you can walk with everything or nothing. But when you go to these countries please be careful, cover yourself because their laws and their culture is different. That is travel advisory. Are you getting these things? So as soon as we are born again the Kingdom came in and the Kingdom starts telling us – this is how you behave, this is how you talk, this is how you live, this is how you eat, this is how you relate to one another, everything is changing. And if you do, do you know what it says? You have a right standing with the King. That is righteousness; a right standing with the King. Now this is all inside which starts slowly affecting our outside. With the religion the problem is this – you get a travel advisory, you are a citizen of U.S. and you are traveling to Iran and you've been given an advisory; you are a girl who walked around with hardly anything, with tattoos from head to toe, everywhere, 1500 rings all around, everywhere where you can put a ring you have put and then you are saying that you are going to Iran, be careful! Cover yourself. So now you are going to Iran wearing a bhurkha, and you walk around the streets and nobody knows what is inside. As soon as you came back to America you throw the robe off and you walk like before. That means you were just adjusting to the local culture. But in the Kingdom everything is permanent.

So what you are today is what you are in the office tomorrow. The way you talk at church is the way you talk at home and the way you talk at office. Because this is permanent, or are you playing religion? Or is it religion? That is why we need grace, Lord! That is why we need mercy, Lord. Why do we need mercy? Because you go back and say, 'Lord! I was not a good witness. I was a terrible witness.' Because this is not about you; it is about the King and His Kingdom. 'Lord, I forgot who I was. I forgot that I am an ambassador. Instead of representing Your Kingdom to the people I was representing them to them. I walk like a duck, I talk like I duck and they thought I was a duck.'

Are we getting the picture? God says, 'You do all this, don't worry about all the way what do I eat? etc', God says, 'Don't worry, I will add everything you need.' You go to Delhi and see the place where the ambassadors live. They don't care for nothing; everything is provided by their government. Their only responsibility is to truly represent their government to this nation. Do you understand? The ambassador has what is called, 'Diplomatic immunity'. You can arrest an American, you can produce him in court, you can put him in jail, you cannot touch the ambassador. If you touch the ambassador, it is called an act of war against that country.

That is why Jesus stops Saul of Tarsus and says, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting Me? When you touch My people you are touching Me. it is My government, it is My people.' And he was shocked, because he taught he was doing God a service. That is why you have to be very, very careful, if you are listening around the world and you are not a Christian, if

you are Hindu or a Muslim and if you persecute God's people God says, 'On that Day it is better for you to tie a milestone around your neck and go to the depths of the Ocean because you touched My government.'

That is why in that parable which we looked at, his citizens hated him and they sent a message after him, 'We don't want him to reign over us.' So when he came back he asked his servants, 'I told you to occupy till I come. Show me what you produced.' And then he said, 'The ones who did not want me to reign over them bring them before me and slaughter them before me.' that is the other side of God, the government. We have to look at all this. Don't get fooled, we are caught by the world and we are constantly running after the world and forgetting to remember what He brought.

So when you are born-again, the Executor of the Will comes in; the Holy Spirit. Listen to Him. That is what I said, if you read the Book of Acts, usually when a new dispensation begins God will do something startling so that people don't misunderstand that the Kingdom is missing. So in the Kingdom, that is the Church, part of the Kingdom of God on earth. the new church, the apostolic church, Peter is ministering that day and two people come one after the other with a time gap; first the husband came and later the wife came. Now you need to understand that when they came from outside the Roman government had no problems with them. They came in properly, and when they came in they brought an offering. The problem was that the offering instead putting it at the apostle's feet if they had given it at the temple to the priests the Pharisees would have said, 'Hallelujah! What a great offering!'

The problem was that in their case they put it in the wrong place. If they had put it in the temple there would have been no issues, because that is religion. The problem was that they brought it here and Peter, through the Holy Spirit, stopped them and said, 'Why did you lie to the Government (of God)?' it went in. he didn't look outside, it just went in. you need the Spirit of God's discernment to see. So the pastor looked at him and said, 'Why did not do this? Why did you bring this?' to protect ourselves from this is why we always give you statutory warnings – if you do not belong to this church and if you are just visiting us please don't put your tithes over here, put it in your mother-church. If you have not put things right between each other don't put in your offering.

Why are we giving statutory warnings? So that we are clear even if you are not. We are telling you the laws of an invisible Kingdom. Once we have made it clear we are clear. But the point is that this is all an individual thing. Are you clear, is the question. So we need to ask ourselves these questions. Because we don't see the invisible Kingdom, of which there are three, for our human understanding in the material world where we are caught in time and space, we have:

- The Kingdom of God, which is Light
- The kingdom of darkness
- The kingdom of this world

Therefore when God says something we need to realize that there are two invisible kingdoms. Now listen to what God says, when God says, 'Do not fear.' I even shared last night in the Q n A, why does He says, 'Do not fear?' two reasons – one, when you fear you empower the powers of darkness. Because they are spirits of darkness. You empower them. You see, like I told you, the invisible realm, to come into the visible realm they need a Human body, because God decided it that way. He says, the earth I have given it to man. so God is righteous, His Word is His Law, He will not break His Word. If He breaks His Word He is unrighteous. So you have to understand this difference.

It is not that God can't. It is God will not. That is the difference. Nothing is impossible with God. That doesn't mean God will do everything. So all through human history, from the beginning onwards, he's always looked for a man to do something and the devil also will look for a man to do something. He needs a body in the material realm because both the devil and the demons and God and the angels, they're all spirits. So they cannot step down into the physical realm until they take a body.

So the devil had to speak through a snake. That's why the snake was cursed because you gave your body to the enemy to infiltrate into my created system. So God to do something He always looks. So He's decided to destroy the world because every thought and inclination of every man is evil and He looked for a man through whom He could bring the judgment and He found Noah who was blameless. So if you read Hebrews 11, the Bible says that Noah through his righteousness condemned the earth. God was the one who destroyed but the vessel He used was Noah. Because He needs a man. Not that He cannot, but He will not. He will not.

So when He has to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, as He's going, He will stop and say, 'Let Me talk to Abraham.' Abraham says, 'Lord, there are 50 righteous.' God says, 'Of course not.' 45, no. 30, 35, 20, 15, 10. Okay, fine. So it's a man who intervenes and there are no 10. So He destroys. He has to bring Israel out of Egypt and bring judgment on Egypt. He waited. He waited for 80 years because He needed a man and there was only one man who was seeking God. That's whose name was Moses. He used Moses. So in *Ezekiel 33*, everywhere you will see, God will say, 'I looked for one man to stand in the gap. And because I did not find a man then I have to judge.' Because to intervene always there has to be a man. So He says, 'My right hand brought forth My salvation.' Who is His right hand? Jesus. So Jesus had to become a Man. Then we suddenly see the power and the value of prayer. Why should men always pray and never give up? It is because God needs men to ask, to intervene, to stand in the gap. He says, 'On the other hand, if you fear, you empower them. You worry, you empower them. If you are anxious, you empower them.' He says, 'Don't do that.'

Two primary reasons why we should not fear, why we should not worry is because it all comes from fear. Okay, it's a fear of death that causes anxiety, worry, everything. Why He says you should not do it is because one - it empowers the powers of darkness. Two, by worrying, fearing, anxiety, you declare 'my God is unrighteous.' They're double barreled contradicts. You are declaring. And the simple example which I use is we have little children sitting over here. We have little Jaden sitting over here, Emi sitting over here, Sarah sitting over here. Three little children from three little homes. Okay, one, little bigger home. Okay, little homes. Okay. Now if they sit here and they're not listening to me, okay, and I ask them, 'How come you're not listening?' And they say, 'Pastor, we are very worried.' And I ask them, 'What! You're worried?' 'We are very worried whether we will get breakfast tomorrow.' That very statement, do you know what they're declaring? Their parents are unrighteous. That statement says their parents are unrighteous because the child is worrying because the parent never feeds them. It's an unrighteous parent. It's a parent but an unrighteous parent.

So God says, you know what? 'Every time you do this, you empower the other side and you're declaring that I'm unrighteous. Don't fear. Don't fear. Don't worry. Don't fear. Don't worry.' Now I'm saying you have to learn to do that. So you have to because faith comes from hearing, hearing from the Word of God. You have to believe and you have to speak because otherwise faith will go. Our trust in God will go. That is why the Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God because what does faith actually do? Faith declares God is righteous. There is a righteousness that is of God that comes by faith and faith alone. What does faith actually do? Faith declares God is righteous before the event - 'I have nothing. I don't see anything but I know my God shall take care of all my needs.' God says, 'That man declares I'm righteous. In time he has seen that I am righteous. I declare Him righteous.'

Sight will declare after the event. Faith declares before the event declaring my God is righteous. So every song that we sang today is absolutely true. It's going to be proved in the coming seven days. Did you believe it? Did you believe the words that you said? And God says you live like that one day at a time. Learn to live like that. That's why we always need mercy because we'll come back and say, 'Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Why Lord? Because I declared You are unrighteous. I worried my head off. I feared everything. I complained like a geese. Lord, have mercy.' Because when I did all these things what was I declaring in a realm that hears and sees everything? that You are unrighteous. That's why I need mercy.

But He says, 'If you live by faith on these two things,' He says, 'everything you need for life I will add to your life. I will add.' So when you read the Word of God that is what you need.' So Moses came with the Law. That's *John 1:17*. Moses came with the Law. Jesus did not come with the Law; He just took the Law inside. He came with the Truth. But the issue is this. We need grace. Grace is a power of God. It's a power of God. So He will tell His disciples, 'Don't leave Jerusalem. Don't leave Jerusalem until you have received power from above.'

This is where you have to understand. *Acts 1:8*,

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

And then when you receive power from above you shall be My witnesses. You shall be Kingdom witnesses wherever you go. You need power. Now these are people whom 40 days earlier He had breathed upon them. So they are born of the Spirit. The Spirit is inside. These are two different things.

And if you read everywhere carefully this is more like an Old Testament experience. The Old Testament prophets and people did not have the Spirit in them. We got the Spirit in us. What they had was the Spirit upon them. And the Bible will say 'the Spirit came upon them.' The Spirit came upon them, from above there was a shaking. The Spirit came upon them. And every time the Spirit came upon them you read the entire book of Acts, one of the two or both happens. Either they spoke in tongues or they prophesied. Either they spoke in tongues or they prophesied. Two things happen. Why? Because the Spirit came upon them. Now if you go to Corinthians 14 and verse 2 this is what the Bible says.

1 Corinthians 14:2

²For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God,...

That's why I said before the service you enjoyed the song. I enjoyed the lyrics. Why? Because they were speaking my language. He who speaks in tongues is speaking a heavenly language to God. He himself doesn't understand it. If somebody has to understand it, the other person needs a gift from God which is called the gift of interpretation. Because the first thing that happens is that you are identified by your language. Understand everything. How it works according to the Kingdom. Because if you say these things have passed away that means the Kingdom has passed away. These are Kingdom things. The next thing that will be is they prophesied. What is prophecy basically? Prophecy is where a man or a woman is caught in time. He goes into the invisible or the invisible reaches him and through the invisible this person is able to go into the past in time or the future in time. That is prophecy. He either goes into the past which is not possible. You cannot go into the past or you can go into the future.

So Jesus will say, 'You had five husbands and you're living in the sixth one.' He just went back. Or Agapas will say, 'a great famine is going to come.' He just went into the future and they started getting prepared. Don't deny these things. If you deny these things you disbelieve these things, you do it at your own peril because the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk; it's a matter of power. And we need all these things in the last days. Because, if we don't understand the Kingdom we will start trying to explain it all away using our temporal knowledge. Understood? Manasalayo. That is the actual pronunciation. He will say with the Telugu accent. He also says Manasalayo. Manasa means mind. Ayo means did it get in. Understood? Now shall we do something which we never did in our life of 16 years in our church? Shall we have Matthew chapter 6 and verse 9 onwards on the screen? Because I'm sure many of you, maybe me also, cannot know it from memory because we never repeated it by rote in this church. But suddenly you realize it is not a prayer. This is a manifesto. It's a mandate.

Matthew 6:9

⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven...

'Our Father,' God says, 'please remember I'm your Father. That's where your boldness comes from.' Do you know some of you older ones don't have that boldness and you will come and say, 'pastor.' The little ones come and say, 'papu' and they get whatever they want. I never say, 'Don't call me.' No, not the small ones. They don't call me pastor. No, they call me, 'grandpa or papu.' That's where your boldness comes from. You say, 'Don't come and use all this 'almighty God'.' say, 'Father, Father. Abba.' Okay? Be bold. 'Our Father, who Art in Heaven.' Just be very careful about My Name. Don't make Me into some puny little creature. Consider My name. My name is hallowed in heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name.

Next thing, ***Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done*** on? ***Earth***. When the Kingdom touches earth, whom does it touch first? You. So don't try to evangelize everybody. First evangelize yourself. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth. Where is His will? His testament; His Word. His will and His testament. How will you enforce His will on you if you don't read your Word and ask the Spirit? ***Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven. And then give us this our daily bread.*** Oh, that word? God gave them their daily bread. But This is a loaded verse. '*I am the Bread from heaven. Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you will not have life.*' That Bread is the life of Jesus Christ. You says, 'Every day, Lord, give me a slice of Your Son's life. I want a slice of Your Son's life for today. You are my Bread. I want Your life.' That's what faith does. Basically, you are telling, 'Help me to walk through this day in faith,' because when you live by faith, it's not you living. It's Christ living. That's the Bread. And that is complete. Everything you need for that day is in that one line. Everything. And he said, 'Don't ask for tomorrow.' Many reasons why you don't ask for tomorrow. Because one, you are preempting that I'm (God) giving you a tomorrow, which I haven't decided yet. Two,

you don't trust Me. That's why you're asking Me for tomorrow's, today.' So only today, one day at a time. One day at a time.

Then He brings the Law of the Kingdom. It's the Law of the Kingdom. It's not a Law of the Government. No government in the world has ever put in their constitution, 'forgive one another.' This is the Law of the Kingdom. Because He says your entry into the Kingdom began with an act of mercy.' So mercy is at the top. Forgive one another. And He says, 'If you don't keep this. All the other are statements, mandates of the Kingdom. This one law of the Kingdom - If you do not forgive,' the Father says, 'I will not forgive.' You know what happens? You're cut away from grace. Because to come to the Throne Room of Grace, you have to receive mercy first. *Come boldly, confidently to the Throne Room of grace and receive mercy.* But He says, 'you cannot receive mercy unless you have been merciful.' And this is where people are stuck. You're stuck. You're not able to move forward. Because this has got nothing to do with government. You can be unforgiving to everybody in India and still live in India. As long as you keep your mouth shut and don't get into trouble. In religion also, it doesn't matter at all. In religion, it doesn't matter at all. The only thing the religion matters is that if you are a Hindu, leave your chappals outside, bring your coconut, put your offering, take the prasad, go. I don't care what is in your heart. Christianity, Islam, everywhere.

Not with this God. This God will say, 'As you bring your offering, if you've got, or your brother has got something against you. Go quickly. Make peace and then come back.' Understand how the Kingdom works. Because if our prayers are not heard, grace is not received, we die slowly, but surely. Because the Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of God's grace.

Shall we stand up?

Closing prayer:

Father, this morning we have come to You. I've spoken Your Word. I put across Your Kingdom, mandate, O' Lord. And all of us starting with me, we have to believe and start putting things right, Lord. With You, with one another, wherever things are wrong, we have to keep on doing it every day. And when we put Your Kingdom and Your righteousness first, we will realize how awesome life is. Life takes meaning. Life takes purpose. And we see miracles happening in our life. We see God adding everything we need according to His purpose. And we have meaning and purpose in our life, Lord. For I pray, Father, though it's just one verse, all Your children will continue to meditate upon that verse and seek Your Kingdom and Your righteousness first, consistently, then they will see how things change all around O' Father. We just thank You, Lord. We just thank You. You brought us into a new day, a new week. If You add days to our life, be with us. Go before us and help us also to walk before You and be blameless. We just thank You, we praise You, we worship You, Lord. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

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

Go back this evening and listen to the message again and take down notes. Over and over and over again.