

Do We Have Lead Feet And Stiff Necks?

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Father, this morning, we just come to You, the Author, the Finisher, the Perfector of our faith. The good work You began, Your Word says, You will finish it. The work began by and in faith and faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. So, as we come to the ministry of the Word, I pray You give us hearing ears. Touch our ears, Lord, that we hear what You say. Touch our minds that we understand what You say; our hearts that we believe what You say. Give us feet that are strong to climb that mountain with You and hands that are clean, to serve You for that's what this life and eternity is all about – to worship You and to serve You now and forevermore, Lord; and it all begins with the Word. So, speak to us, Lord. We wait at Your feet. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Keep in mind the messages we've been listening to on how to be fruitful, not to be empty but to be full. We've heard about dry places. Different situations in our lives to draw us closer and closer to Him. We looked at faith. We looked at different kinds of faith, starting with faith that is dead. It's a very dangerous place to be and it usually does not happen outside the Church; it happens inside the Church, especially with children who grow in Christian homes. It's because they have grown in that Christian environment and ethos, they think they believe when they don't. That's the danger of it. It's a faith that is dead when you don't really have it. So, please remember. That's why we are examining our faith. Like I keep saying, the Bible never says, "Examine God's love." It never says, "Examine God's grace." It never talks about it. It says, "Examine our faith," because we are saved by grace but through faith. Faith is in my side; grace is on God's side. There's a constant examination of our faith.

And we also saw, over the weeks, there are situations God leads us to, where we will see – we had faith for something but we did not have faith to believe in another situation. No faith at all. That's what happened to the disciples when the storm hit. And Jesus said, "Where is your faith? How come you have no faith?"

Then, there is what we call as – very little faith. Alpa vishwasi. Little faith. Very little faith. We didn't look at it but there is a situation which is called 'weak faith'. Then, we saw a couple of Sundays back, Jesus coming to His own hometown – familiarity with the Person of God; familiarity with the things of God can create something which is called 'lack of faith', 'unbelief'. It can happen to anybody. We get so familiar. For 20 years, the ark had rested in one man's house and his sons got very familiar with the most holy object in God's land, the very Ark of the Covenant because it was in their house. So, the day David was bringing the Ark to Jerusalem, two of the sons – one was in the front; one was in the back. The same boys, men who had seen this Ark in their house for so many years. And Scripture says,

2 Samuel 6:6

⁶And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

Why did he put his hand? Because he got very familiar with sacred things and that's what happened in Nazareth. Jesus was amazed by their unbelief. He couldn't do anything there. Just a few sicknesses He healed because they said, "Isn't this that Carpenter's Son? Isn't it that Carpenter, Mary's Son?" And they took offense at Him and they turned violent and they actually wanted to kill Him and He just walked away. So, please remember when you hearing the preaching of the Word of God because Scripture says, "God looks upon that kind of people who are contrite in their heart, who trembles at His Word." Never get familiar with the Word of God. Never, ever get familiar with the Word of God. Never. It doesn't matter how many million times to you hear it or read it, you don't get familiar with it. And then, you know what? Unbelief comes in.

So, in *Luke 17:5*, the portion we looked at the previous Sundays,

Luke 17:5

⁵And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

And we saw the pattern in which Jesus is going and one of the things He said, "Be careful of offences." Offences will come.

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We live in a fallen world, a sin-filled world. Offence will come but He says, “Be careful not to carry offence in your heart.” Constantly, give mercy. Show mercy. Walk in forgiveness. Deal with offence with an iron fist. Uproot it and let it be planted in the bottom of the sea. And you will see incredible kings in the Old Covenant like Asa, good kings; but when they got offended with the Word of God, they took the man of God who spoke the Word to them and they had the power, the authority; therefore, they put him in prison and then, afflicted with a sickness for three years and died with that sickness, never turning to God.

Another man, as he sought the Lord, God showed favor, prospered him but when he increased, pride came in. he goes into the temple; he tries to offer fire; the priests stop him because that’s not his job; he gets so angry with them that Scripture says, “Leprosy broke out in Uzziah’s body from the head.” And they pushed him out of the temple. Scripture says, “All the days of his life, he lived in a house, separate from rest of Israel,” though the God of Israel is the only One who heals leper. He never turns and goes and asks for healing. That’s what offence can do and you have to be very careful about it. So, when you read the Bible, I said this – we are not studying history, though there is a lot of history in there. The reason we study the Old Testament and the New Testament is because in the Old Testament, when God sent Moses to Egypt, He said, “Go tell Pharaoh ‘Israel is My Firstborn. Let him go’.” So, Israel’s is God’s first son, symbolically and Scripture says in the *Book of Hebrews*, everyone God receives as a son, He disciplines. So, when you study the history of Israel, you know how God deals with His children. We are not studying history; we are studying how God deals with His children. Why does He discipline His children? So that we may partake of His righteousness, His holiness. The purpose behind discipline is that and Scripture says, “Those who have been trained by it will produce a harvest and have peace.” So, that’s why we study. That’s why we are not studying historically stuff, which is good; but we are studying to see how God deals with His people. That’s why the Bible doesn’t talk about the history of any nation except the history of Israel. He doesn’t talk about China or India or Russia. None of these nations. India is only mentioned once in the *Book of Esther*. You may be the most populated place on planet Earth but it doesn’t catch God’s eye because God is dealing with His son and God is dealing with His son and His daughters. You learn from history of Israel of how God dealt with them; you learn what He is doing with us. That’s how you learn and how you study. And also, when you study the New Covenant, please remember – if you read the four Gospels, sometimes, you think, “Is there any chronological order here?” because it is still not history of Jesus Christ; this is the order of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has breathed into Scripture. So, God is moving according to His Spirit’s order; not according to the Chronos. Oh, theologians will sit and pour thousands of years together, put the 4 Gospels and try to find the timeline of Jesus. Why didn’t God make it very simple? Because He said, “I was not writing history. I was trying to teach you.” This is a spiritual chronology; not history. So, when you read, unless you get that in and seek the Spirit’s help, “Lord, teach me what You are trying to tell me,” then, you will realize and it makes sense; it is all falling into place.

So, we heard after that in the same chapter, about offenses, God begins about faith and duty. “*Increase our faith.*” And he talks about duty, the servant and the Master and at the end of the day, you should say, “I am unworthy.” The problem is – when we do our duty fantastically well, we think we are worthy. That’s another trap. That is what happened. I believe Lucifer was the best worship leader ever and but once he was so good, he thought, “I am worthy. My throne should be little higher.” Same trap. It doesn’t matter which field you work in, at the end of the day, come back home and say, “Lord, I am unworthy.” Did you hear the song which children sang? “I am amazed by two wonders, the wonder of your love and the wonder of my unworthiness.” Two wonders, that such a God who loved somebody who is so unworthy – the wonder of it. Unworthiness. That’s how you grow in your faith. These are all secrets, that’s why I said – when you read in that chronology, it starts making sense. Why is this chronology like this? You are talking about forgiveness, offense and then, you go to unworthiness and then, you go to ten lepers and then, you talk about the last days and then, you talk about perseverance; never give up, pray always and never give up; and then, he is talking about will; when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith? Then, you have the rich young ruler and who will enter in to the Kingdom of God? And then you have going into Jericho, Zacchaeus; and then, you will realize the Holy Spirit is teaching us how to increase your faith. That’s the order. It is not a chronological order; it is the order of faith. And everywhere, the object lesson is – how do you increase in faith? The most important thing you have to remember are these two things; one – remember not to carry offense; and second thing – always remember of your unworthiness before God. Are we aware? Look at,

1 Corinthians 15:9

(Apostle Paul) For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle I am the least of all apostles

Do you see where it begins? He looks at the company of apostles and he says, “I am the least.” The question to be asked is:

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if you are the least, why are you the one who is writing all the letters and not the others? That's got nothing. God is using him most. In history, no man has been ever used by God like this man. But that doesn't make you worthy. You have to be always conscious about your unworthiness. He says, "I am the least of the apostles," not even worthy to be called an apostle. Further down the line, as time progresses, look at him *Ephesians*. First, he put himself, evaluated himself in the company of, let us say pastors. He looked at all the pastors and say, "I am the least of all Pastors." Little further down the lane, have you grown in your faith? next verse

Ephesians 3:8

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints...

Now, he says, "I am the least in the congregation." Now, this is growth, not in the world. In the world, this is not growth; this is retardation. You are going back? But this is going forward in the Kingdom of God. First, you realize your unworthiness in the company of the apostles; now, you realize your unworthiness in the company of the saints but that's not where it finishes. When you come to his final letters,

1 Timothy 1:15

¹⁵ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

He puts him into the entire spectrum of humanity and says, "I am the least." This is a man who grew in faith, understood his unworthiness. So, God revealed Himself to him. That is what is faith. The entire purpose of faith is that we know God. God wants to reveal Himself to us but God is teaching us through these lessons, "How is that you can get to know Me? I can reveal Myself only to certain types of people. I love to reveal Myself to all My children but all My children are not the same and I am trying to tell you – this is what you need to learn."

Then, we come to the next portion. We had stopped there and now, we come to the next portion; a part of it Pastor Vijay preached last Sunday. I hope if you remember; I do because I listen to it afterwards.

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. ¹³ And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? ¹⁸ Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

That is the original KJV 'whole'. Let's go to verse 11,

¹¹ Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

Young ones, listen carefully – there are two things in important in life – one is focus; second is purpose. Even when you are focused on something, don't forget the purpose. *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil – 1 John 3:8. For this purpose I came to seek and to save that which was lost – Luke 19:10;* and after that, we will go to... That is His purpose, Jesus' purpose.

Mark 1:38

(For this purpose the Son of man has come) ***"Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."***

He has come to seek to save the lost; He has come to teach us how to walk in your salvation; and third,

1 John 3:8

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

That's His purpose. Because it is so easy to get lost in the busyness of life because we were so focused that we miss the opportunities God lays us on the way. If you go to verse 11,

¹¹ *Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem*

Where is He going? What is He going there for? Final Passover and to die. That's the focus. What's His focus? "The Father has sent Me for one primary purpose – I need to go to Jerusalem and die. But why am I dying? What am I dying for? To seek to save the lost. I have a purpose. The focus is Jerusalem but I have a purpose. As I am on the way to Jerusalem," He is passing through the midst of Samaria and Galilee and you have an incredible set of events that take place because even when you are focused on God's call, you are not forgetting the purpose behind it. You should be focused on your studies as students but don't forget the purpose – it is that you are a witness to draw men and women to Christ. You should be focused in your career and in your workplace and never forget the purpose is that there, you are a witness to the Living God. We are focused on going to another side, to the other side but the purpose God has asked us is to go through Samaria and Galilee so that the unknown, the untouched will know about Him. Purpose is to save, to teach, to destroy the yoke of the enemy. That's verse 11. That's where the narrative begins because, sometimes, we are so focused on our goals, we forget the purpose of God in our lives. Don't forget the purpose. He didn't forget His purpose; He knew. And if you turn to verse 12,

Luke 17:12

¹² *Then as He entered a certain village....*

Certain village representing of any town, any village, any city in the world, He entered a certain village. Who were there? There met him. 10 lepers. 10 is the number of God's judgment. 10 lepers, representing all of us, any town. And 10 lepers represent all of us. What does Scripture say?

...there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.

We don't realize – the wages of sin is death. All have sinned all, not some or most but all. In that all, you and I are included. We have sinned and come short of the glory of God and the wages of sin is death. But all before a Holy God, we are all leprous. All we can do is stand afar off and cry, "Lord, have mercy! Mercy, mercy!" There is only one thing we are worthy of, that is death. For the wages of sin is death, eternal separation from God. Only one thing, we are all equally worthy of. Under the law, leprosy is a living death. You're cut away from the land of the living. It doesn't matter your own family, your community, your own society, everybody. It was the most distinguishing disease in the Old Testament. It was all over you. It marked you up. Scripture says, "There met Him." Meaning, they had positioned themselves to meet Him on the way. And He knew He was passing by, He heard them. And they positioned themselves far off but where they knew He could hear them. Have you positioned yourself where He could hear you? Leprosy is when you lose your skin tone. I was telling in yesterday's Church, evening meeting, the translator was fantastic. Awesome, when the translator is really, really good, it's a ball. He is the fairest of ten thousand. You know that? He's the Lilly of the valley, He's the most beautiful, He is all that, He is lovely to be good fairest of all. So, who is Jesus? He is actual fair and lovely. You have Him here inside and He grows and He have outside will be fair and lovely. You don't need cosmetics, you need Jesus. You need Jesus, He is the original fair and lovely and the duplicate is sold in the market and the people spend money on the duplicate when the original is given free. Look at them, they positioned themselves and they stood far off. This is a law, this is what the law has done to all of us. In,

Leviticus 13:46

⁴⁶ *He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.*

That's the judgment upon a leper and we don't understand we all where some still are lepers. And, sin has made us insensitive to the righteousness and the holiness of God. We are not able to take able to feel his touch because sin has made us insensitive. I'm telling you the truth that's what sin does. When David was so conscious of God and was walking

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with God and running from the King who was his enemy. When he cut the edge of the King's robe, he was so conscious stricken thinking he lost the anointed, though he cut a piece of his robe. But, when he went down in sin with Bethsaida, he could get Uriah sent him drunk and he was not even touched. And, when the report came back that Uriah is dead, "People die in war, big deal." How did a man who was so sensitive to sin become so insensitive to murder? Trap all of us can get caught. So, please remember what the Bible tries to teach us that, that's why never get familiar with God's word and His Spirit." This is what, we all were. Outside the camp, cut away from the Living God and we all we could cry is: "Unclean, unclean." *Ephesians 2:12*, Paul through the Holy Spirit will tell us.

Ephesians 2:12

¹² ***that at that time*** (He is talking to us, Gentiles) ***you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.***

That's what we were, in the next verse in verse 17, he says,

Ephesians 2:17

¹⁷ ***And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.***

And He came who was near and what did He preached to us, "Peace." We can have peace with God. Get back with God, we were all far off. We didn't even realize we were unclean. We didn't even cry to Him, "David, Son of God have mercy!" But, He came to us we didn't go to Him. These 10 went to Him and He preached to us what? We can have peace with God to us. We need to understand this. What if everybody is born a leper? Imagine a country isolated from the rest of the world and everyone in the country is a leper and every child that is born is born as a leper. You see, Leprosy is a norm. Not to have one eye, not to have half nose, to have no digits on the hands. You think that's a norm because that's what you look around. And, into that midst comes a man we call normal, they look at you – his eyes, his face, his nose, his face, his digits –this is the norm. We are actually abnormal.

Believers are called be the norm. In Him was light and that light was the testimony. That life was the light of men. Jesus said, "You shall be the light of the world when you decrease and I increase." When the world around will start looking, decreasing this normal. Then they will want Jesus. Then, they will become sensitive to sin. Please remember, otherwise, we also join the leper colony, the abnormal has become normal. That's why, remember Wednesday's message? Sunday's or Wednesday's message, Pastor Vijay was saying, that incredible statement, "If the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

When the Christian is supposed to be normal and he becomes abnormal. How great is that abnormality? Verse 13 and they lifted up their voices and said, "Lord, have mercy on me!" All, you will cry only if you are aware of our Spiritual state. That's why, the Gospel is first bad news then good news. What's the bad news? All have sinned, all have been destined to death. All fall short of God's glory, Hell is prepared for you that is second news, you don't have to go there. That's one news, it is not how much God loves, how great you are, how much he wants to prosper you in your work place. That is not the good news. The good news is everyone is a leper, everyone is outcast, everyone is destined for hell and you don't have to go. God has another place and God has made another way and when you get into the way, you are cleansed you of your leprosy. And from an outcast, you can become a child of God. A child of God, that's good news. Don't change the gospel. And all we can once we are aware is your cry, "Jesus, master have mercy on us." They lifted up their voices. They didn't whisper: "Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on us." They lifted up and cried that's how Jesus prayed, that's why He went and sort for places where there was nobody.

He went with loud and vehement cries with vehement cries, He cried out unto Him who can save Him from death. He didn't whisper; He, who came from the Father's bosom, didn't whisper; He cried out. When was the last time you cried out? Verse 14 says,

Luke 17:14

¹⁴ ***So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.***

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Why did He see them? Because they cried out. You know why He saw them? Because they cried out. They were standing far off and He was passing, “Jesus, Son of God have mercy!” Will your cry and my cry turn God’s attention to us? Will it turn? Or will it just pass us by? Will our cry turn God’s attention to us? Jairu’s cry stopped Jesus, the Centurion cry stopped Jesus. The Samaritan’s cry moved Jesus. They all cried out. Bartimaeus’ cry stopped Jesus. Because they sought a response from Him. The two men saw Him because they heard Him. What does Scripture say?

¹⁴ So when He saw them, He said to them...”

He said to them. Both parties speak – they spoke, He speak. When was the last time you heard from Jesus? You just say ‘Amen’ and come back. They cried and He spoke – that’s communication. And like Airtel and Vodaphone, charges don’t come up here. The government doesn’t sell spectrum for this call. It is free. Once we speak in prayer, we must also open our ears to listen to the words of Jesus because that’s where the solution is. So many people have so much faith in their prayers. “I have contended in prayer, I have cried out to God. God is going to answer me.” Did He say anything to you? Your faith is in your faith, not in God. Your faith is in your prayers; not in the God who answers prayers. They cried, He spoke. If we are always talking, that also means we are not listening. Slow to speak, quick to listen. It is incredible how the Bible begins. Sages understood a lot of mysteries of the Bible without ever reading the Bible. They didn’t understand the full effect of it but they understood it. *In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was void, darkness covered the earth and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* If the Spirit of God is hovering, everything is still. Absolutely pin drop silence, not even the wave is rumbling. No wind, nothing. The Spirit of God has kept everything quiet and out of that quietness comes the voice of God, “LET THERE BE LIGHT.” Do you know what the Hindu mantra is? The self-existing god Brahman, (not the other three) the first word he utters is out of silence – Om, and creation begins. That’s where they got it from. That’s why that is the most sacred symbol in Hinduism because out of silence, God speaks. If you are not silent, you will not hear Him. If my prayer only entails me talking to God and there is no silence thereafter, how do I hear Him? They cried, He spoke and it is in what He spoke their solution lay. You want a solution, right? All these are asking for a solution, right? Who gives solution? Me? No, He! You know, you could write it here and hear the answer at home the answer. You could go back in the evening and open your Bible and suddenly, the answer stares right into your eyes and you realize, “I prayed in the morning at Church and in the evening, He answered me,” because He speaks. Please remember this – once He speaks, it changes everything because the voice and Word of God has never lost its power. Let there be light – it’s still working. The universe is still expanding. It’s not contracting; it is expanding because when He spoke, we don’t know. That’s the power of God’s Word. It changes everything and that’s why what is so important is not our prayer part but the listening part of prayer is the most important. You have to get your solution. Imagine you go to doctor Richard, doctor David, doctor Beulah and give your entire problem; symptoms from head to toe, you have given and they say, “Thank you,” and get up and go. He will take your money, and says, “Thank You! You can go!” Did you get your solution? No, where does your solution come from? Not from you, from them. Where does solution lie? With Jesus. Do you remember the Roman Centurion? He is an incredible man! It is an incredible picture put over there. Listen to what he says in *Matthew 8:8*,

Matthew 8:8

⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof.” We looked at that. First thing He recognizes is his unworthiness. Though he is an officer in the Roman army and Israel is under Rome, the first thing he looks at Jesus and he realized, “I am not worthy, I’m not worthy for You to come under my roof.” Second thing, he says, “Just speak a Word. Just speak the Word. I trust the power of Your Word. Just speak the Word and my servant will be healed. You just have to speak. I’m waiting for Your Word. You just have to speak because solution lies in what You say,” and Jesus said, “Go! Your servant is healed. He’s healed.” Where did the solution lie? In what Jesus would say. And that’s why we need to have hearing ears every time we pray, “Lord touch my ears that I hear.” The solution to all our problems we face in life, our fears, our doubts, our anxiety, everything, the answer is God speaks and when He speaks, that’s done and then it doesn’t matter what you are facing, you are at rest. And what did He say, verse 14? He said, “Go!” you have to listen carefully to what He says. When he says, go, don’t say, “Lord, come!” Listen very, very carefully. You have to look very carefully about different things God speaks and you have to be very, very careful. Like the traffic in Hyderabad, there is method in that madness. That’s faith. You will never understand how people move from one end to another in Hyderabad and sometimes, when God tells you things, you never understand how this is going to work but it works and you have to be

very careful and not bring your reason over there. Hezekiah cries, "Lord!" He says, "Isaiah, humble yourself, go back and add fifteen years. Change what you said five minutes ago. Go change, fifteen years." And he says, "The Lord has added fifteen years, and make a poultice of figs." "Lord, fig is expensive in Hyderabad. What about apple?" If He said figs, it is figs. You try anything higher or lower, it is not going to work. The problem is – we try other fruits because we don't hear carefully and obey carefully. If you ask Him, "Lord, why figs?" You don't ask these questions, you just do what He says. "Go!" The key is the obedience of faith. "Go and show!" Why show to the priest? Because He didn't come to break the law, He came to uphold the law and according to the law only the priest can say, "You are clean," and you can go back to your family. It is given to the priest and Jesus says, "Go, show. I can tell you go, but the community will not accept you, because the community will listen to the priest. So, go to the priest, show, and he will look at you, and say, "Okay, go, go back to your family, go back to your community." Go and show yourself to the priest!" That's what He said and Scripture says, "And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed." The healing came because they obeyed and you will see, almost every case of Jesus doing miracles, you will see, He says, they obeyed and the miracle takes place. That's why it is so important to hear very carefully, because they believed. They didn't question His method. They didn't suggest any new way. They just believed and obeyed. You know what genuine faith is? It just takes God at His Word and obeys.

In *2 Corinthians 5:7*, Scripture says, "We walk by faith and not by sight!" They were literally walking by faith and they were healed. You know, the walk of faith brings the power of God into your life and you are being constantly healed and cleansed. The very walk does that because by faith, we have entered into that grace upon which we stand now. That is *Romans 5:2* and *faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things unseen*. You know what faith does? Faith brings grace in and we are called to a walk of faith and as they went, they were walking by faith and faith comes from hearing; not reading. When you read, you have to hear and hearing from the Word of God. There, they were going, the walk of faith. I am telling you once again, there is healing, there is cleansing, there is power in that, walk if you and I walk by faith, all the effects of sin (that is spiritual leprosy) starts falling off as they are walking. Imagine ten lepers, all are lepers but the symptoms are different. Imagine one fellow has no digits. Just imagine. Use your imagination. Put that thinking cap on for a minute. Another guy has no eye, another fellow has no ears, they are all walking and as they are walking. One guy exclaimed, "My hands!" What is it saying? As you walk by faith, your hands are being cleansed. So, you can ascend the hill and serve the Lord. Another fellow did not have eyes and as he is walking, his eyes are opening. What does it mean? When you are I walk by faith, He opens the eyes of our understanding and we have wisdom and revelation to understand what He has spoken. And the other fellow who is walking, his ears are being whole because your ears are being cleansed and being made whole to hear what He is saying. As they walked, they were healed and this walk should bring healing into our lives, walk of faith. That is how you know. Physically, you may be getting weaker and weaker as each year passes by; spiritually, you know, "My senses are getting sharper and sharper. It is. I see what I didn't see last year. I see, I know Him better." Why? You are on that road. In that road, there is healing. As they went, they were healed. They did not say, "Lord, heal us and we will go show ourselves to the priest!" You can't put conditions on God. "Lord, give me my breakthrough and I promise, I will keep coming regularly to. Church." "Lord, solve my family issues and I promise You, I will be the first one, in the first pew in Church." It doesn't work with God like that. God says, "Go to Church. Stick to that road and you will be healed. Stay there and you will be healed." As they went, they were changed. That's how you know you are on the road of faith. Jesus said, "I am the way." But in that way, who is there? "I am the truth," is there, and what does truth do? Truth sanctifies you. "*Father, sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is the truth.*" As you are going in that way, you are encountering truth every day, you are allowing truth to work in your life and you are realizing, you are losing all the traces of leprosy in your life. You are being cleansed. Who is doing it? It is the truth and where did you find the truth? In the way He marked out for you. As they went, they were cleansed. Let's look at verse 15, 16. *One of them when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God.* Let's read 15 and 16 together. One of them. How many were there? Simple math

Luke 17:15-16

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

Ten of them were going and all were getting healed. All got healed. One stopped and he turned. Are you the one who stopped and turned? Or are you the one who continued? "Thank you for the healing, bye, bye." Which category do we fall under? The one who tuned or the ones who went; which category do we fall under? These are serious questions that God asks. Why are the other nine so excited to continue their journey? It's a natural excitement. Why? "The priest alone can

declare that I am clean. So, I can go back to my wife, children and society.” So, they are running but one stopped, and he started going back. Do you know, out of the multitudes in the human history who got healed, only a few kept coming back? Only a few remain faithful till the end. Only a few regularly come back and fall at His feet. The nine took everything and gave back nothing. When the journey started, I believe they were 9 Jews and 1 Samaritan. The ten were united by disease but when they got healed, they were separated by healing. You might be united in your poverty, but did you get separated when God prospered you? You might be united in ignorance when you started your education but when the blessings came, and you realised that you are going up, did it cause you a separation to say, “I am not going there first with the crowd but return to the One who made me this”? What did prosperity do to you? What did success do to you? What did healing do to you? Did it separate you? That is the question we need to ask. That is why it’s written in the *Book of Revelation* that the 24 elders will take their throne and put it at His feet. That is how you ask these questions and he was a Samaritan. Who is a Samaritan? Jesus asks an interesting question in the next two verses,

¹⁷ So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? ¹⁸ Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”

Now, listen very carefully. When they told Him, “Lord, have mercy”, He only told them one thing, “Go.” He did not say anything further. So, the other nine only did what He told them but only one did what He expected out of them. Do you and I meet God’s expectations? That is why Scripture says that, *“Without faith, it’s impossible to please God.”* That is the difference between the letter of the law and the Spirit of the law. Do you know that God has expectations? Do we meet His expectations? Do you realize why the Samaritan turned back and the other nine did not? The answer is this – this foreigner; who is he? A foreigner! This foreigner did not look at his leprosy making him unworthy; he knew he was unworthy even without his leprosy. The others thought, “We are worthy but sadly, we are leprous. Therefore, we, now, have been healed because we are worthy.” Therefore, they didn’t come back while the one who thought that he was unworthy came back. Do you see how the narrative plays out? God is trying to teach us. Do you know why we don’t return? Because we are conscious about our worthiness and not our unworthiness. The minute we are conscious of our worthiness, we become ungrateful which leads to the title of today’s message. Nine people are going straight but one fellow turned and came back. When you believe you are worthy, you become ungrateful which leads to stiff neck and lead feet. You know what a foot of lead is? You hate to change your direction. Stiff necks hate to turn back and go to God. How is our neck? Nine out of ten thought it was their right; healing was their right. It was God’s duty to heal them. That is what we are taught, now, in many Churches, right? It’s your right, name it, claim it and take it. I don’t know where it fits with Scripture. And if you don’t get it, blame it. One came back. Please be that one. I like verse 15,

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and (he?) with a loud voice glorified God,

Leviticus 13:45

⁴⁵ “Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’

Why did he come back with a loud voice? Because all his life, he has been crying out with a loud voice, “Unclean! Unclean!” Now he meets God at his greatest point of life, he comes back with the same loud voice and says, “Lord, I just thank You. I just glorify You.” Our problem is something else. He didn’t come quietly or with a normal voice. He came with his old loud voice. What was he proclaiming all his life with his loud voice? “Unclean!” You know that before we all got saved and some of you maybe still, with loud voices, crack unclean jokes and loudly laugh and raise your voices when Kohli hits a six but when you come to God, you have no voice. You still have a loud voice with everything you do in the world. The loud voice is actually proclaiming, “I am still unclean”, but when we come to God, we have no voice. We all want to be very sophisticated before God. Even if we raise our hands, it will be very daintily, “Praise You, Lord.” When we gossiped, we were so loud that the entire neighbourhood heard. When we praised, we put God to sleep, the God of Israel who neither sleeps nor slumbers. Where did our voice go? We gave a wave offering to Dhoni and Kohli but we sat with crossed arms in the Church. Who is your God? Man! When he came back, he was loud. We didn’t realize when we were shouting in the world. I remember before I was saved, I remember what my tongue was. First week after I got saved, my friends looked at me and said, “What happened to you?” I asked, “What happened?” They didn’t know I was saved. They said, “Your words have changed. You used words that were not there in dictionary,” I didn’t realize that one of the first things God did was to take it away. I will give you two verses. If you really want to get convicted, read the Bible and if you really want to get convicted, read certain

Do We Have Lead Feet And Stiff Necks?

books in the Bible. One is *Ephesians*; not the sitting or standing part, the walking part. *Ephesians* talks about three parts – Sit with Christ, walk with God and stand before the devil. The walking part is very scary. It will give you sleepless nights. I will give you two verses.

Let no corrupt word proceed from your mouth but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

You were unclean but you have been sanctified now. Don't go and proclaim your uncleanness over and over again. *Let no corrupt word proceed from your mouth.* Next verse,

...Neither filthiness nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting...

Means dirty jokes. That everybody understands, right? That is the one which will create the loudest laughter. Especially boys, if you want to be considered the smart one in the company, these are the jokes you want to crack so half the time you are searching for these jokes on internet. What is it called? Coarse jesting. I knew every coarse joke in this world before I got saved. That is why I was very popular in the crowd everywhere. They used to say that I was only guy who could joke in so many languages. Coarse...

...which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁸ For you were once darkness...

You were not once in darkness, get the grammar right, you were darkness. I was darkness, you were darkness. We were not in darkness, we were darkness. Now we are not in light, we are light.

...but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

That is what we were when we were in darkness – loud jokes, loud anger, loud politics, loud arguments, loud voices without realising that in the spiritual realm before the unseen angels and demons, we were proclaiming, “Unclean! Unclean!” But when this man came back, he was as loud as before but now, giving thanks, praising God. Go back to the verse.

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,

You have to understand this – when we were in the world, remember how diligent, perseverant we were to achieve our objective but when we turned to God, the perseverance went. The energy left. That is what it means. The way he was in the world, the same way he turned around; that was Saul of Tarsus. The way he was persecuting the Christ, he turned around and preached Christ with the same zeal. You see when we are perceiving things in the world which we want, boy! what energy, what dedication early in the morning till late in the night but when we pursue God, that energy isn't there. With the same vehemence, he had cried earlier in the world, he turned the same energy and praised the God. Do we have it? We are not boasting. Pastor Vijay and I study more today than we ever did in the secular realm. More today! More hours than we ever did when we were pursuing our PhDs. We spend time now because it doesn't matter to you, it matters to Him. We are not studying for you. We are studying to be approved of God. Same dedication when you turn to God. Please, young ones, get these things correct because He is the only One who cleansed us, the only One who saved us. The question is: where did all that go? Paul puts it very beautifully in *1 Corinthians 9*,

1 Corinthians 9:25

²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Any goal you achieve in the world is temporary, any goal you achieve in the Kingdom is eternal. What is this? Why don't people show energy for eternal goals. You know tomorrow is Monday. What happens on a Monday? RTC strike is going on, all the metros are full. Everybody is hanging on just to reach before time. Sunday “Ah! My time.” Where is your zeal? You think God has no expectations. Where is our zeal? When His disciples told Him, “Don't go to Jerusalem and die,” Scripture says that He set his face like a flint towards Jerusalem because He was zealous for us not to live but to die. We are rushing in all transport to live, He rushed to die. Where is our zeal? David killed a bear one day, lion one day, Goliath one day, God

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gave him victory over nations from the East to the West, North to the South. You read *2 Samuel 8*, in all four directions, God gave him victory and put all the enemies under his feet but nowhere do you see in any of these victories David jumping and dancing. Do you know how he danced? Read *2 Samuel 6:14*, to know how he danced.

2 Samuel 6:14

¹⁴ Then David danced before the LORD with all his might;

He didn't dance when he defeated the bear, lion or before Israel when he killed Goliath. He didn't dance when his army defeated enemies in all four sides. He danced before the ark of the Lord with all his might. That is why God said, "This is a man after My own heart. He meets My expectation of him." I have great expectations from the red riding hoods here. Oh! They are growing with their minds full of the Word and I believe a generation will rise and dance with all their might before God one day. Because the nine thought they deserved the healing, they took the mercy of God for granted. They took everything and gave nothing. They were so caught in self and not in God. One glorified God. The question is: do we give God glory or do we steal God's glory? That is what He asked, "Only one to glorify God?" One thanked God, the others thought they were entitled for it. One fell down at His feet on his face. Isn't that what Scripture says in verse 16?

Luke 17:16

¹⁶ and fell down on his face at His feet...

When was the last time we were on our face before God? Not in public. I am talking about private. Falling in private matters more than in public. In public, you may be doing it to show others how spiritual you are but private you can't be fooling anybody. Fell on his face before God.

Verse 19 is interesting.

Luke 17:19

¹⁹ And He said to him, "Arise, go your way..."

If you have not fallen, how can He tell you to arise? If you have not fallen before Him, how can He tell you to arise? Do you know the power of the word 'arise' in the Bible? The ship was almost capsized, it was full of water; finally, the disciples came and said, "Lord, don't You care for us? We are about to perish." Scripture says, "He arose and He rebuked the wind and spoke to sea."

Psalms 68:1

¹ Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

You read through the Bible and you look at the word 'arise', what it means. The power when God uses the word 'arise'. There is nothing greater a child of God or a servant of God can hear from God when he is flat on his face, God says, "Arise!" When you arise from His presence, you have been endowed with the very power of God to arise and go the rest of your walk. "Arise, O Jacob, your time in your father-in-law's house is over. Arise and go; your destiny lies over there." He arose and he left. 20 years, he was a slave but when the word came – arise – it changed his life. That is why I say that we need to have hearing ears.

Luke 17:19

¹⁹ And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

In Greek, two different words are used. Cleansing is one word, which is outer cleansing. The word used here for "You are healed," is 'sozo', which is also used for salvation. Nine were healed; one was saved. The priest can only declare you clean; he cannot declare you saved; only Christ can. I can pray over you, I cannot heal you. I can try to cast out demons, I cannot cast them out; He does. I can cause you to pray a prayer of repentance; I cannot save you, only He can. He is the One who said, "Go, you have been made whole." Do you know why he was made whole? It is because he returned and gave God glory; he gave God thanks. What happens if we keep returning to God? He will save us to the uttermost.

Hebrews 7:25

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

He is forever living to make intercession for us; we need to go to Him. We need to keep going back to Him over and over and over again. I am not satisfied with my sanctification. I am not satisfied with my holiness. Make me whole. Scripture says that *He can save us to the uttermost*. Keep returning back. That is the way.

Isaiah 30:15

¹⁵ For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Suppose I fell here, I returned to Him and He put that away, then I have rest. If I moved away and I returned to Him, I have rest in Him. In returning and rest, from rest to rest to rest, you will be saved. Saving is in returning! He shows you something that you were never aware of, then you return back to Him and you have rest. Then, you think, "Wow! I am great. Thank You, Lord." The next day, He shows you something that you never saw before. You come back to Him and you have rest. In returning and rest, you shall be saved. The leper returned and therefore, he was saved. Everyday miracle, never forget. We lose sight. The greatest miracle is that we have been cleansed.

I like verse 19. It is interesting.

Luke 17:19

¹⁹ And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

"'Your faith' has made you well. You had the faith to come back, to glorify Me, to thank Me, grace has now flowed into your life and you are saved. Your faith has made you well." God is not saying, "My power has made you well." That is the truth. But He says, "I have power to heal everybody but everybody is not getting healed. I have the power to save everybody, but I am not saving everybody. Why? It is because you do not believe." *Your faith has made you whole*. So, we have come back to faith. What is the faith that makes one whole? It is this faith that really sees you as you really are – a leper, cleansed by God's grace, a sinner saved by God's grace. When? All your life! Once you see yourself that way, you will never get out of that road of gratitude. Every day, you have a reason to thank God. Why? "Lord, I was a sinner; I was destined for hell. You saved me; it does not matter what happens to me. I know where I am going. You do not need to do one more thing for me to say 'thank You'. You do not have to." "I do not need one more reason to come to Church." Why? "It is because I am saved. I do not need one more reason to lift up my hands." Why? "It is because I am saved. I don't need one more reason to read Bible." Why? "It is because I am saved. I don't need one more reason to get on my knees." Why? "It is because I am saved. I was a leper; I have been cleansed."

The minute you start thinking that you are worthy, these things start going out of your life. That is the danger of 21st century. What is that? Entitlement mentality! We think that we are entitled to certain things from God. We are entitled to one thing from God; that is called hell. Entitled! *The wages of sin is death and all have sinned*. The faith that sees who we really were! The faith that cries out aloud! The faith that takes God at His Word! The faith to go where God pointed! Till here, all ten were the same. Then, one separated. One separation took place. One stopped and looked back. Once again, let me ask you this question: are you the one who turns back? Keep returning, back to worship, back to your prayer closet, back to the Word, back to Church, over and over and over and over? It does not matter how many meetings are there; it does not bother you. It is because you know that you are eternally grateful and there is no way that you can pay it back. Your salvation was free. Do we turn back? When we fall, do we get up and go back?

Genesis 13:1

¹ Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.

He had fallen 'badly' in Egypt. He came out of Egypt and started travelling out. He did not stop. He kept on moving.

Genesis 13:3-4

³And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

How far did he go back? He returned until back to the first altar where he had met God. He went to the altar and said, "Lord, put me right. Make me whole. I went and goofed up big time in Egypt." He returned all the way back to where he had met God first and God put him right. That is Abraham! We all make mistakes, we all sin; we all fall, but the question is: do we return back to where we met God first? As the one is returning, that brings rest.

Here is true sense of unworthiness! Do you know why God accepted Abel's offering? It is because he killed a lamb. Why did he kill a lamb? It is because he knew he was unworthy. If he thought he was worthy, he would have brought a lamb. But when you think you are unworthy, you kill a lamb. Bringing a lamb and killing a lamb are two different things. He put his trust in the blood of Jesus because he knew he was unworthy. He was a shepherd and other was a farmer. The farmer brought his fruits and shepherd could have brought his flock. "Here, take the best lamb. This is the best I have." But you are still worthy. So, you say, "take my best." But when he killed the lamb, he was saying, "I am unworthy. There is no other way. I have to come your way." These are fundamental things. Some of you are depressed; some of you are discouraged. Do you know why? It is because you think you are worthy. That is the reason. So, something negative happens. Immediately, you are depressed because you think that that should not be happening to me. Why not? One of the great preachers I know – his wife went mad, his child died of a debilitating sickness, and somebody asked him, "Pastor, how could this happen to you?" He said, "Why not?" That is what Job said. "Why not? *God gave; God took away, blessed be the name of the Lord.* Why not?" Be very careful about how we look at issues. The problem is not the issue; the problem is how you address the issue. How you look at the issue can mess you up. The concept about worthiness will change everything and God is blocked from our lives.

There was man who thought he was worthy. He was a leper. But the leprosy did not touch his soul. He was as proud as a peacock. Leprous all over – that is Naaman! He thought Elisha would come and wave his hands and he would be healed. Elisha did not even come out. He told his servant to tell him to dip seven times in Jordan and go. He got so offended. So, leprosy has not broken you. Your sin has not broken you. As long as your sin has not broken you, you cannot be delivered. You have to be broken. It only touched his skin; it did not touch his heart. Then, the little servant girl said, "Master, please!" So, he listened to that servant girl, he went, went down seven times, he came out and he saw. The interesting thing is – what the disease did not do, the healing did. The healing broke him. He realized, "This is what I was. This is what I am. Glory to the God of Israel." Now, if you look at him, he is not going back the way he came. Outwardly, this man looks the same but inwardly, he is not the same. What he came with and what he is going back with are two different things. He got two mules with saddlebags and if you open the saddlebags, you would find something funny. It is full of mud! Full of earth! It is because of his request, "Lord, can I take little mud from Israel back to Syria?" If you ever went to Syria, in Damascus that year, that age of Naaman, all over Damascus are all these altars before pagan gods and sacrifices being offered, but if you go to Naaman's house, you would see a holy altar made of earth from Israel and here is a man, giving thanks and glory to the Living God because he realized who he was and what He has made him. Sacred altar in Damascus! It is because healing broke him. What disease could not do, healing did. He did not go back the way he came. You are I are not supposed to go back from here the way we came. That is the question we need to ask.

God says, "Let us be brutally honest. Can I get you to come two Sundays on a row on time?" That is the question He asks. "Can I get you to pray on two days consecutively at the same time?" Next problem has to come before you will pray. "Can I get you to return back to the Word of God for two days in a row?" Can God trust you? Ask these questions. Do you know how slack we are when we come to the things of God? Why? That is my question. It is because somewhere, it has gotten in that we are worthy. "I was worthy to be saved. I went to college. So, God needed me. I did not need Him so much but I think without me, what would He do? I added to His resume." Somehow, these thoughts are there. Otherwise, we would return every day, cry out with a loud voice and give Him thanks and give Him glory. Why? "You do not have to do one thing. I am not thanking You for new job. I am not thanking You for 60%. I am thanking You because I can never forget that I was a leper, an outcast from the commonwealth of God, without God. I am cleansed, I am a child of God and nothing can change it. Thank You, Lord. You do not do anything more for me, I am well with it. It is well with my soul. I will thank You all the days of my life because I know who I was and I know who I am." "I came a leper and I am going back cleansed. I have something, which money cannot buy. What is that? Earth to build an altar in Damascus to worship the Living God! From

now on, my life will be defined by worship.” That is Naaman while Gehazi, who lived in the presence of Elisha, is running after Naaman to get some money. You, living in the presence of God, never changed your heart. This man has been changed. You are still pursuing the world; he is pursuing God. Are we getting it? Encounter with God should change us. It should continually change us.

As I come to the end, this is a real story. In 1996, a pastor from North Carolina, US was in an island called ‘Dabango’ in Philippines. He was leading worship. He and his team came for missions, in this island called ‘Dabango’, in a leper colony. They were having worship and there were all lepers. He had 5 more minutes left. So, he said, “Anybody here, any special song you want me to sing? Any specific worship song you want me to sing?” A woman, who had not been facing the pulpit, turned toward the light and when she turned towards the light, these are his words, “I saw the most hideous face I had ever seen. Her nose and ears were entirely gone and leprosy had eaten away her lips, too. She raised her hands and when I looked at her hands, she had no digits. Then, she opened her mouth and she said, “Pastor, can we sing ‘count your blessings’?” He could not sing. He simply could not sing. He stood there in shock by the song that she picked ‘count your blessings’. He just got down the stage and walked down because he was overcome. So, one of his team members walked with him and said "Pastor, you will never be able to sing that song again, right?" He said "Yes, I will be but I will be never to be able to sing it the same way again." No digits, no eyes, no nose, no lips but saved and what do you want to sing? “Count your blessings.” You know what is the greatest blessing? Your salvation, my salvation and because of that, truly, we should be able to sing – "I can sing of Your praises forever." Count your blessings, I am saved, I wrote a list, last minute list. I'm saved, I'm a child of God, I'm going home one day, I have a Father in heaven, He is preparing a place for me. In that place, there is no sin, no sickness, no tear, no sorrow and when I go, I have to take as many as I can with me and all my life everything that I have is a gift from Him to freely give back.

You see, the first day evening, when we were at the Church at Malakpet, the worship leader (you should always keep your ears open because you will never know how God will speak), he was speaking in Telugu but I understood what he was saying; he was talking about thanking God, being grateful to God. He said, "I did not realize a part of my life where I need to be grateful for." He said "I went to donate blood and when I went to donate blood, I had to fill a form, in that form are all this – “Do you have this sickness?” No. “Do you have this sickness?” No. “Do you have this sickness?” No. “Do you have this sickness?” No.” He said "As I was looking at it, I was counting my blessings, I don't have these sicknesses." Do you know how perspective changes? I don't buy newspapers, I read online because there is no ad there and you can stick to the headlines and last month, when I was going on missions. Last month, I was flying to Calcutta and I picked up a newspaper from the airplane, "DC" and I was going through it; then, I looked at the obituary page, where all the people died, it was full. Then, God said, “Take a closer look (you can hear, he speaks, even when you are reading columns, He will tell you). Take a good look.” And I looked. So many obituaries pictures with that Hindus, Christians. Hindus – “My heart is broken. When will I? We miss you,” and all that. True. Then, I looked at the Christian ones, every Christian obituary begins with the promise of the Bible and I was thinking – you know what a non-believer picks up the newspaper and he reads the obituary colleague? Every Christian death is a testimony of resurrecting power of Jesus Christ in a newspaper. I said, “Wow, I have read it all my life, I never read it this way.” Do you realize what it means? You need to be told in next 45 minutes, you will die. Then, you will value salvation. You don't need Peter or anybody, everybody will be standing and singing, "Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah.” It is like the Pastor who said, "The wife was fighting with him the whole day because she didn't get the saree she wanted.” Next day, she was quiet. He said, “What happened between yesterday and today?” And he asked her, “What happened?” she said “Yesterday, when I was going shopping, I passed the coffin shop and I saw an open coffin and the Lord told me ‘that is your end’, I didn't want any more saree.” All the husbands would be thinking we need to put some coffins around. Really, really. I am telling you. You need to live in the light. Look, I don't dye my hair. Every time, when I look in the mirror, I say, “You know what it says? The day is coming closer, closer, closer; it's coming closer.” What day? Death, should be excited. You are going home, not like Hezekiah. Please, foolish fellow. God says, “Come home,” he doesn't want to go. Look at life differently, absolutely differently. Look at life differently. Otherwise, we lose focus and we miss purpose because faith has to increase and faith's eye is always upon the other side, it is not on this side. It is on the other side, faith sees those things and, on the way use faith to use all the things, you need, to fulfil God's purpose in your life, if you use faith now to fulfil His purpose but faith's eyes are fixed on the other shore, a person, a place and your thoughts are on that place. “Increase our faith,” was their prayer. Amen?

Shall we stand? Let us sing the song.

Closing Song: *My Lord, what love is this? That pays so dearly*

Closing Prayer:

Father, this morning, we just come to You. We come to You with our thanksgiving, Lord. We just want to thank. This Thursday, whole nation celebrates thanksgiving but we, today, come to You with our thanksgiving. We were once lepers, separated from the common wealth of Israel, shut out from the Kingdom of God. We were darkness and we were without God but for You, Lord, that we been lost forever. You didn't just cleanse us with Your Word, You didn't just forgive us with Your words, You went up onto the Cross, went through that agony, went through that pain, became sin for us and then died to purchase our freedom, to purchase our cleansing, to adopt us as sons and daughters of the Living God and we complain about little things, I pray Father that today, final week of November, we go back different, hearts full of thanksgiving. We will give glory to God always. We will not be the part of that 9. We want to be that one that returned and with a loud voice give glory to God, fell on his face at his feet and give thanks. We want to be that one, every day, every day, Lord, to come back to You, at Your feet, our face at Your feet. Thank You. We can never pay this back, never. Now, all of eternity, whatever we do, the most righteous holy life we live can never payback what You did. All we can do is give You thanks and give You glory, today all that we want to do is just thank You and thank You and thank You, Lord. Thank You. Everything is an added benefit and a blessing, everything, the greatest which we have received freely is salvation which we bear that we who were once darkness has become the light, in God through Christ. We, who were the outcast one day has become the body of His Son. We just thank You, Lord. Thank You, Father, as we go through this week, I pray, Lord, that we will never forget, we will never forget what You have done, what You are still doing because you have promised if we keep returning to You, You will save us to the uttermost and I pray that every one of us take that to heart and keep coming back to You because we are not satisfied with our salvation. We want to be saved to the uttermost that there is nothing of us is left one day and it's all Yours. That's our offering to You, Lord, all of God, nothing of us. Thank You. Thank You, Father. As Your children go into a week, we pray that You would bless us and strengthen us and keep us close to You, meet us at all our points of need, Lord, because You are our Father, knowing Father, believing the blood, Spirit and the word has sanctified us, we lift up holy hands in Your sanctuary and we bless Your Holy Name. And we proclaim in Your house, Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, O God, You alone deserve all the glory and all the praise. Thank You. Thank You, Father. We give glory, honor and praise once again. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

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