

Found Bleeding And Dying On The Jericho Road!

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Father, we just thank You. We praise You. We worship You, Lord. I pray, Father, that, Lord, You would speak to our hearts. Lord, we need You, especially during this hour of absolute uncertainty all around the world. But, Lord, there is only one place – it is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and ground of truth where there is certainty because we worship a God who is in our midst, a God who never changes, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, who has already warned us before time that all these things have come to pass so that, Lord, we, as Your children, can be prepared. And even as we listen to Your Word and the ministry of the Word happens, I pray, Lord Jesus, that You would prepare us for You said in Your Word that You are preparing for Yourself a Bride with the washing of the water by the Word of God that You may present to Yourself a Bride which is without spot or blemish or even a wrinkle. O Father, and therefore, this morning, wash us by the water of the Word and sanctify us and set us apart and prepare so that, Lord, one day, when we meet You, O Lord, we will be prepared and we will not be ashamed, O Father, in Your presence, O Lord, that day. Therefore, to that end, I pray, that even as we listen to Your Word, anoint us. Father, speak to our hearts. Anoint us even in the speaking and even in the listening of the Word and grant us concentration. I come against every spirit of distraction in the Name of Jesus and even as all the children are here in the house. To them, I pray, Lord Jesus that You would speak, O Lord, this morning. Thank You, Father. We praise You. We worship You. We give You glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

You know, when you look at the Beatitudes, one of the most powerful Beatitudes, it says, “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.” It’s not that when you are merciful, you obtain mercy. It’s very easy to interpret it that way but it doesn’t mean that. Paul says in *Romans 12:1*; he says, “I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God.” Because we received mercy from God and we want to continuously live under the shadow of that mercy, God says, “Be merciful to others as well.” There was a seminary in the United States where there was a preaching class where the professor said, “The text for you is the Good Samaritan.” So, tomorrow morning, all of you should be coming to such and such a place – the lecture hall. I want you all to give a 10-minute sermon (depending on whatever the schedule was) on the Good Samaritan.” You remember that place, right? So, this was the class and the class went back home and everybody got to their desks, started making their notes and started preparing for the Sermon. The professor, he actually dressed himself; I don’t know. He dressed himself as a beggar and just on the way to the class, to the lecture hall, he just fell on the road like that. Just like that. He just fell on the road, acted as a destitute man and all his students were running to the class to preach the Good Samaritan message. He was right there on the road and everyone came to that place, watched him and just passed by and just went to the class. One by one, everybody passed by him. They entered the class and they were waiting for the professor but the professor isn’t there. And then, after a while, the professor walks into the class with his shabby look. And they are all stunned and right in front of the class, he removes his guise and he says, “None of you got the message. What are you going to preach?” It’s a very important thing. When we listen to today’s sermon. Of course, I titled today’s message as ‘Found Bleeding And Dying On the Jericho Road’. That’s what I titled today’s message and I did not discuss with Priyanka about today’s worship list, okay? It was completely out of the blue. So, found bleeding and dying on the Jericho road. So, let’s listen to what Jesus has to say.

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer...

And of course, this is not a lawyer in the court system of the law. He is an expert in the Mosaic law.

²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him...

He had intentions. He was not honest. He wanted to test Jesus. He wanted to see what His answer would be.

...saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

The only other person who asked this question is the rich young ruler. He comes to Jesus and asks, “What shall I do to get eternal life?” The other person who asked this question was the richer young ruler who, I believe, was honest than this person. This guy had guile in his heart. He says,

...saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ *He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"*

"How do you read it? You are a lawyer, right?" That's exactly how He asked Nicodemus, "You are a Teacher in Israel. Don't you know these things?" So, He asked the lawyer, "You are a lawyer in Israel. How do you read the law? What is your interpretation of the law?" And this is what he says.

²⁷ So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

So, he knows who to put two parts of Scripture. He's a very good guy. He's comparing Scripture with Scripture. One part is from *Deuteronomy*. The other part is from *Leviticus*. And he combines both of these and he says, "This is what the law says."

²⁷ So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

This is what the law reads.

²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

Think about it. This is exactly what the law can do. The law tells you what to do and it can never make you do it. Even the law says that you should love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul. If you go back home and you read *Deuteronomy 29*, Moses says, "Till this day, the Lord has not given you eyes to see or ears to hear." And then, he says in *Deuteronomy 30*, "The Lord your God Himself will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants that you should love Him with all of your heart and all of your soul." The Lord has to do a work. That's exactly what the Gospel does. The Lord tells you that you should love Him. The Gospel makes you love Him.

²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

The problem is – he is not going to give up, right? He's a lawyer.

²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, (Can You give me a definition of a neighbour, please?) "And who is my neighbor?"

And then comes the story. Let's read it together. Follow it.

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

I remember this story so well because we enacted it during our Sunday School days and I was one of the Levites. I was passing by and I stumbled upon the thing and I fall right in front of all my Sunday School friends and everybody started laughing. I felt very good to be the Levite and the priest. And then,

³³ But a certain Samaritan...

This is like, if you know a little bit of mathematics, it's induction. First came priest. Next came Levite. Next, there are expecting an ordinary Jew but they're in for a big shock. Who is going to come? No Jew. A Samaritan, the hated and the despised in the community. One Pastor said, "It could be the senior Pastor, junior Pastor and the guy in the Harley." Totally unexpected. But of course, I don't think that is the way you read it. Regardless.

³³ But a certain Samaritan as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion ³⁴ So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."...

He doesn't even say, "The Samaritan." No, he doesn't even want to take that out of his lips. "The guy who showed mercy."

...Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Obviously, to get eternal life, it's not that you get saved by works. No. That's not what He means over here, obviously. He is telling that guy, "If you want to show mercy to others, you should put yourself in the place of the guy who is on the road. If you put yourself on the place of the guy who is on the road and when you have experienced the love of the Samaritan (the picture of Christ here in this case because they called Him a Samaritan), and then, you will be able to extend mercy to others." Remember Simon the Pharisee? "Simon, Simon, I came to your house. You didn't give Me any water to wash My feet but this lady, right from the time she came, she has anointed and she kissed Me." One owed 5 denarii; one owed 50 denarii. Who loved more? The one who was forgiven more loves more. And you know what He tells Simon? "Simon, you don't think that you've been forgiven much. You think that you are a better person than her." Unless and until we see ourselves in the guy who was found on the road in Jericho, bleeding and dying, we will never be able to show mercy to others. *Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy* is for the people who have experienced such a tremendous amount of mercy in their lives and when they look at other people's lives, all that they had for them is compassion. Not compassion which is emotional but a compassion which is based upon truth.

This morning, we will understand what this going down from Jerusalem to Jericho means. Jerusalem to Jericho. What does it mean? You know, the word 'Jerusalem', anybody knows what the word 'Jerusalem' means? Shalom means peace. Jerushalem means city of peace, is what your answer is. It comes from two Hebrew words – 'Shalom', of course, is peace and 'Yarah', Yerushalem. Of course, Yarah, which means teaching. You see, the Bible always surprises you. Yarah means teaching but Yerushalem means – teaching of peace. So, Jerusalem is a place where you are taught to have peace with God and to experience the peace of God and to be at peace with your neighbour as much as is possible with you. You know, that's what Paul enjoins in one of his letters. He says, "As much as is possible is in you, live with peace with all men." So, Jerusalem is a place where you are taught how to live in one piece. What does Jericho mean? That's interesting. Jericho means the city of the moon. Meaning – city which is influenced by the moon. Lunar. From which we get the word 'lunatic'. You know that? Lunatic means – crazy. That's the reason why Ravi Zacharias, in one of his sermons, said, "The moon is the god of all the lunatics." The sun will not smite you by day. Nor the moon by night. How many of you experienced a moon stroke? Anybody? When you actually look at the moon, "Wow, it's so beautiful." After I started reading the Bible and understood the powers of darkness, now, I don't get so excited with the moon. It's on the moon, lots of things happen all around the world in the occult especially. Yerushalem, Jerushalem is the teaching of peace. Jericho means – a city under the influence of the moon. The city of moon. And what are you and I called in the New Covenant? It says in *Hebrews 12*. Look at this. This is powerful.

Hebrews 12:18

¹⁸ For you have not come...

It is the present tense.

...to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest..... (The Old Covenant)

When the law was given on Mount Sinai. There was full darkness and when they looked there, they started shaking and even Moses started shaking. The law-giver himself started shaking. If Moses himself starts shaking, what is going to be the case with ordinary people. And then, what happens? Look at the contrast. The contrast is,

²² ***But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God...***

“You have come.” That means all of us spiritually have come to Mount Zion to the city of the living God. That means God is dwelling in our midst.

...the heavenly Jerusalem...

Jerusalem means the teaching of peace.

...to an innumerable company of angels,

Remember this – the angels means – yes, we also believe in angelic ministry and angelic protection. But the actual meaning of the word ‘angels’ means messenger. The one who brings messages. That is the reason why it says, “To the angel at the Church at Sardis; to the angel of the Church in Ephesus; to the angel of the Church...” All these angels. Who are these angels? It’s essentially the Pastor or the leader of the Church.

...to an innumerable company of angels,

This means – if you remember the story of Jacob at Bethel. What does he see? He sees the ladder to heavens. God is on the other side. And what does he see? He sees angels of God, ascending and descending. What are angels doing? Angels are messengers who will slowly take you, step by step, from one spiritual level to the other so that, one day, you could reach God. Teaching. A place of teaching.

Hebrews 12:23-24

²³ ***to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven...***

What is firstborn? Firstborn means – it’s a title. What does ‘firstborn’ means? It says, “We are heirs and joint-heirs with Christ, if we suffer with Him and therefore, we will also be glorified with Him.” It is a position of the first-born. It’s the guy who gets the inheritance like Jacob. He was given the title position of the firstborn. Reuben was supposed to be the firstborn but because he messed up, who got the firstborn’s position? Joseph got the firstborn position? So, it’s a title or position where you experience the inheritance of God. Then?

...to God the Judge of all...

In other words, you see – this is the city of the Living God and there’s also a God who is judging us and is constantly teaching us to judge ourselves because He is preparing us to meet Him face to face one day. And then, it says,

...to the spirits of just men made perfect,

The entire *Book of Hebrews* is about, what we call as – perfection. Press on towards perfection. You are being clothed with the righteousness of Jesus. Now, press on towards maturity and perfection. So, the city of the Living God, Jerusalem is a place where the spirits are being made complete or mature. Then?

²⁴ ***to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.***

The blood of Abel speaks for what? Vengeance. What does the blood of Jesus do? Pleads on our behalf. One of our favorite songs that we all sing, “Your Blood speaks a better word than all the empty claims made upon this earth, speaks righteousness for me, stands in my defence. Jesus, it’s Your Blood.” And He took His own Blood in the Most Holy Place in the Heavens and He, once and for all, He bought salvation for us and He is perfecting us to experience that wholeness in our lives through teaching, that is Jerusalem. But what is Jericho, on the other hand.

Joshua 6:26

²⁶ Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the Lord who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

And exactly this prophecy is fulfilled in 1 Kings 16. You don't have to turn there. There is one guy called Haniel in Bethel. He is building the city of Jericho. And his firstborn dies when he lays the foundation. His lastborn dies when he fixes the gates. It comes to pass. That means – do not go back to the place where God has already cursed. Everything in this world is cursed. All that is in the world. Now, think about it. Everybody goes to your office. *Love not the world or the things which are in the world; for if any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.* Why? Because all that is in the world... and what is in the world? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, everything – that is the world. All, everything in the world is contaminated by these three things. It's bent towards destruction. It's being devoted to destruction. That's what some of the translations say. Devoted to destruction. So, don't touch anything of this world. That's exactly what happened even to Achan. He touched of what we call as the accursed thing, a Babylonian garment. Think of this guy who came to the wilderness, who never participated in the sins of his forefathers in the wilderness, crossed the Jordan, experienced the victory in Jericho. And finally, Rahab is saved; this fellow is dead. Why? Because he touched something which is accursed. And what happened to this guy? This guy is going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. What has happened? He left the place where you have this teaching and this covering. And on the way, he is going. What do you expect?

Luke 10:30

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

You know what they do? Four things, they do. They stripped his clothes. What does it mean? It doesn't say that they robbed him. They stripped his clothes.

Second, it says – *they wounded him*. We will come to the wound later on.

Third, it says – *they abandoned him*.

Fourth, it says – *they left him half dead*.

And there's a very interesting verse in,

Song of songs 5:7

⁷ The watchmen who went about the city found me...

This is the lady who is inside. Jesus comes and knocks at the door and she doesn't wake up. Jesus has disappeared and He is not there. So, she runs into the streets.

⁷ The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls Took my veil away from me.

Stripped off completely. Stripped his clothes, wounded him, left him half dead. What is half dead? Neither completely alive nor completely dead. Keep that in your mind. Abandoned him. No help whatsoever. Wounded him. We will come back to wounding. Stripped his clothings. Spiritually speaking, stripped him off the robe of righteousness that he had when he was in Jerusalem. Completely gone. The defences have been gone. And he's been exposed to the elements. Robe is very important. What does the robe signify? The robe of righteousness signifies the presence of God in your life that God is on your side. *If God be for us, who can be against us?* The robe signifies the presence of God. You can be stripped. For example – this is what happened to Joseph, right? Joseph was stripped by his brothers and Potiphar's wife but the Lord was with him. His brothers stripped his robes; Potiphar's wife stripped away his garments but one thing that Joseph enjoyed is – God was with him. Paul and Silas were also stripped but God was with them even in the prison, stripped. God was with them. That is the reason why Paul says, "Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can tribulation? Can anguish? Can famine? Can pestilence? Can sword?" And he says, "For all day long, we have been slaughtered." Like, "We have been counted as sheep to be slaughtered. And you know what? I believe that nothing in all creation can separate me from the love of Christ. God is for me. Nobody can be against me." He has the confidence even though he's been physically stripped. The defences ultimately a believer enjoys is the presence of God in your life. This is a very important question we need to ask ourselves – "Lord, I am going to this place. Can You come with me?" Now, of course, movie theatres, we don't want to

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go but deep down inside of our hearts, these are all external restrictions. If the heart is wanting movie theatre, what can we do? One of the things that my wife says all the time when I drive on the streets is, “Don’t look at the cinema halls, please. No. I know where you have come from. Please. All these things, out.” Think about that because can God with you to a movie theatre? Whatever you eat, if it is prayed, if you pray over it, it is sanctified, right? I keep telling the young people when you go to the movie theatre, “Lord, in the Name of Jesus, sanctify this movie and grant me emotional strength even as I take part of it,” and suddenly, one Ganesha would come there. You know, sister? A lot of experience she has. You see, suddenly, one Ganesha will come and some other idol will come and they’ve offered the movie, not to our God but their god. That is the reason why they say, “Whatever has been offered to idols have been offered to demons.” And how can you take part of the table of demons and the table of God at the same time? You see, everything in this world is contaminated. “Sanctify this movie.” You cannot say that. You cannot sanctify the movie for sure. It is getting worse as the days go by. You need to understand this but let me look at another Church which thought it was covered but when God looks at this; you know, when Joseph thought he was covered but God says, “I’m with you. You are covered.” Paul and Silas, everybody looks at them and said, “Look at these fellows, stripped.” You know what they said? “God has covered us. We don’t have to fear. We are not ashamed.” But look at the other hand.

Revelation 3:14-18

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot...

That’s exactly what that guy was. He was half dead – neither alive completely nor dead completely. That’s exactly what He is telling the Laodicean Church, “You are not on fire for Me nor are you completely cold. You are in the middle, lukewarm.”

...I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

Uncovered. Stripped of your clothing.

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

See, this is exactly what has happened. They think that they are covered but they are absolutely uncovered in the spiritual realm. Absolutely. Their defences are gone. Jesus is not even there inside. He is outside the Church, knocking at the door. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” We think most of the time it is for people who are unbelievers, “Behold, I’m standing at the door and knocking.” No, He is standing at the door of the Church and knocking. **2 Timothy 3.** Look at what it says, the spirit of the age.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times (stress) will come

Some translations use the word ‘times of incredible stress’; some translations use the word ‘fierce times’. You know what fierce times are? This exact verse is used in *Matthew 8* where, at Gadarenes, those two demon-possessed guys, they were fierce. They were full of demon possession. The only other place, this word is used – perilous times. Fierce times. Full of stress. Is that not what we are looking at? Full of stress on the financial system. Full of stress on the political system. Full of stress in the banking system. Full of stress in the health system. Full of stress in the insurance system. Think about it – if there is a Corona Virus and everybody is applying for insurance. Next year, the insurance companies will put another clause, “Corona Virus, not covered.” Can you imagine the amount of stress on the whole system? Full of stress. Yesterday, Pastor was talking about perilous times, even in the Pastors’ Conference. Incredible amount of stressful times all around the world. We see Corona Virus. We see absolute quarantining of entire nations, unprecedented in the history of modern times. I don’t even know, post World War 2, if anything of this magnitude has happened; this kind of a pandemic all around the world. The only continent which has been left alone is Africa, the equatorial regions. You see that? Every nation has been touched. Times of absolute stressed and you are working in the software company, you know. That is your story. What a stress! BP rises. But you know what? When Paul is talking about perilous times, he is not going to talk about pestilence; he

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is not going to talk about the financial the mess the world is going to go through; he is not going to talk about famine; he is not going to talk about any other thing but he will go beyond all the symptoms and he will look at the reasons why these are happening. And you know what he says in the next verse?

² For men will be lovers of themselves...

Those are perilous times.

...lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents...

If you are obedient to parents, that would be a shock these days. It's a pandemic if you are obedient to your parents.

...unthankful, unholy, .. Unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

What do they have?

⁵ having a form of godliness...

They think they are covered but are absolutely naked in the spiritual realm. They have absolutely no power to overcome sin in their lives. Why? One of the questions I used to ask during the Romans Bible study. How do people die? We know. Some people say, "Accident, sickness, Corona," so many other things – old age. So many ways people die but that is not the reason why people die. People die because of sin. That is the reason why in *Luke 13*, "Do you think those people on whom the tower fell were worse sinners? No. Unless and until you repent, you will also perish likewise." Do you think those people who are martyred by Pilate, do you think they were worse sinners? No, unless you repent. Some people come and ask Him, "Is it very few people who will enter into life?" He says, "Strive to enter through the narrow way for many will try to go through it but only a few will be able to." They have a form of godliness but they do not know. You know why? Because they have left teaching of peace and they are going down and God, in His mercy, has allowed these things to come so that you will not end up in Jericho. Look at it. It didn't happen in Jericho. It happened on the way to Jericho and it is going down. You see that? In every translation, "Diggi poyenu" is what is written in Telugu. Yerushalem ninchi Jericho ki diggi. It's digjaaripoyadam. That means gravity is always acting on all of us. somebody said, "I can prove that gravity does not exist," and try to jump off the building. What will happen? You will prove the existence of gravity. Nothing can happen. See, in other words, there is a law deep down inside of the heart. It's called 'the law of sin and death'. What is it called? A law of sin and death. The only way you can overcome the law of sin and death is by living under the law of the Spirit of the life in Christ Jesus which has set you free. Every law. For example, if aeroplanes have to fly, they have to overcome the law of gravity by another law called the Bernoulli's Law. And if the Bernoulli's Law fail in the mid-air, gone! Until you reach your destination, the Bernoulli's Law has to work. That law. So, covering is gone. And that's exactly what happens. It's very easy to fall. It's very difficult to come back. It's very easy to lose trust. Very difficult to make it. It is very easy to lose reputation but very difficult to gain one, God's way. It is very easy to do the things the wrong way and get success but very difficult to do the way God wants you to do it and get success. Jacob goes to Isaac for the blessing. "How come you got it so quickly? I thought you would come in the evening and you would cook the food for me. By afternoon, lunch. It's ready. How come you got it ready so quickly?" "The Lord gave me success." Kya bhaat hain. A form of godliness. Covering is gone. People don't realize mercy has allowed those things to happen in our lives. See, covering is gone!

Luke 10:31

³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Because the law said, "Don't touch the corpse. Don't know whether this fellow is dead or not. I don't want to become unclean." Again, all these things and I don't know. Whatever that was going on in his mind. He wouldn't even come close to him. He would declare him, "This is the reason why you died. Stay there." That's exactly what the law does. "Sinner." "Okay, I know I'm a sinner. Can you help me?" "Sorry. No." Law can do nothing. Law will say, "You should love." "But I don't know how to love. Can you help me?" "I don't know." He doesn't say, "I don't know," but, "I will not help you." You see, in *Romans 7*, Paul says, "Law is like a husband. Very, very good husband. Perfect husband." And if you are married to the law,

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you will be feeling miserable. But this fellow is so good. And the husband will say, "Please, can you help me please you?" "No." The only way you can come out of this relationship is, one of them has to die. Can we kill the law? No. "*Heaven and earth passes away. Not even a dot or a tittle from My law should pass away.*" Therefore, if I have to get out of the law, what should happen? Who should die? I should die. That is the reason why *Romans 7:1* says, "As the law has influence on a man as long as he is living." Once he is buried and dead with Jesus and is resurrected with Jesus Christ, the law has no other power his life anymore. You see, the Levite and the priest signify the law. The Levite means the guy who has the Urim and the Thummim. With his Urim and Thummim, he's not able to help. He is not able to give you revelation. "What a revelation! But can you help me keep this revelation?" "No, sorry." What's the whole point in giving me a revelation if you can't help me in keeping the revelation and help me obey? *Romans 7*, look at what it says,

Romans 7:3-4

³So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Now, what happens? This Man, Jesus, is a fantastic husband but this husband is not like the law. You know what He does? He washes us. He sanctifies us by the washing of the water by the Word of God. And so, you know what? He wants a bride without spot, without wrinkle, without blemish. He wants a perfect bride. He's not going to stand for any other thing. He is not lowering the standards; He helps us. He empowers us. That's what He told His disciples, "I'm going away. I know your hearts will be very sad but don't worry. I'm coming back again. How am I going to come back again? I'm going to send you My Spirit. He is going to be with you and He is going to be in you." You see that? To Him raised from the dead. Look at what the law does. It declares him dead or half dead. "You are a sinner. Nothing can be done." But look at what the Samaritan does. He does several things and let us look at each of those things today.

Luke 10:33-34

³³But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him...

First, he sees us.

Second,

...he had compassion.

Priest and Levite, no compassion. Law has no compassion, by the way. It tells you to have compassion but it has no compassion. And it will be upset with you if you have no compassion. That's the irony. "Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour. Otherwise, I will be angry with you." That's what the law says. And it says,

³⁴So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal...

I love that.

...brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

First, you know what? He sees. You know what? I don't know. There is a God who sees everyone's heart. No matter what situation you are going through. Inexplicable. "I can't even explain myself to so many people," you might say. Nobody understands my problem. How many of you go through that? "I can't explain it to even my closest friends, Lord. I don't even know if I'd tell it to You and You would understand me." You know what the Lord will say? "What you say is only 0.1% of the whole problem. I know the complete thing. Because you only see in part; I see in full." He is the Lord who sees. I love this. This is something which you need to understand – God is a God who sees. Look at what it says in,

Genesis 16:6-14

⁶So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence. ⁷Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness by the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid...

That's interesting, right? Running away from, let's say, "I don't care about this employer anymore. I want to go to another employer. I hate Amazon. I want to go to Google." And you fought with your manager in Amazon. I don't know. Whichever company is worse than the other. I don't know. If you put two employers, the Amazon and the Google, both will fight. "My boss is worse." "Your boss is worse." There will be a fight on whose boss is worse.

... "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

Pastor preached on this several years back. I don't want to mention that. And then, it says,

⁹The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

You know what Hagar would say? "Lord, do You see the kind of trouble I'm going through in this place? I never asked to be married to this man. I didn't have any right over my life. I'm in this situation not because I desired to be in it. I'm absolutely clear of one thing – that I'm not responsible for this position that I'm in." She might argue. You know what it says?

¹⁰Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." ¹³Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" ¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

The Lord is the Lord who sees. I don't know. Whatever problem you are going through today. Intense problem because of your company. I don't know and you have worked so hard and you are expecting something to come out of it but nobody sees. "Nobody sees me. Nobody helps me. Nobody sees how much I put in." I know some of you, your language. "Nobody sees the struggle that I'm going through. Nobody knows what I'm going through. Nobody knows what kind of situation that I've gone in in my life. Nobody sees." And you know what God says? "I see." I'll show you some verses.

Psalm 11:1-5

In the Lord I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? ²For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. ³If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? ⁴The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. ⁵The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

2 Chronicles 16:9

"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His..."

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Proverbs 5:21

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and the Lord watches all his paths.

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It's a scary verse and it's a comforting verse. Scary because the Lord sees everything. Comforting because if you say, "Lord, nobody sees my struggle." He says, "I see it." "Nobody understands." "I understand. I understand you better than you understand yourself." One of the most beautiful places in the Bible that I love the most is in,

Luke 5:19-20

¹⁹ And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

You know what they did?

²⁰ When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

He is looking at the man and He says, "Man, your desire is not for you to get up. There is something deep down inside of your heart and I see it. You want forgiveness for your sin. I see it." The Lord sees everything. He knows exactly what you need and what kind of a situation that you are in. He sees. Therefore, He saw him. Isn't it amazing, when He saw him, what did he do?

Second – He had compassion. You know, something which I love about Christian faith, He doesn't come with a stick first. He comes with a mop cloth and cleans us. He has compassion on us. Look at what it says in,

Matthew 9:36

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

You know, they say that sheep, they look very dumb but they are supposed to be very intelligent. They know a lot of things. Their senses work very well. The only thing this – they have fear. Whenever they have a sense of fear, they lose all their sense of wisdom. All their intuition goes out of the window. They are very intuitive, very wise, very brilliant because when you say 'sheep', it means dumb. That's what they think but it doesn't mean that they are dumb. They are very intuitive, very wise, very intelligent because it says, "My sheep hear My voice. Strangers, they will not hear." Think about it. They are able to discern between different voices." The only weak point is fear. When fear comes, they lose all sense of intuition. Everything is gone out of the window. That's exactly, I remember Pastor giving this example. How does a lion break a fence? It comes and it intimidates. When fear comes, all reasoning goes. The cattle inside will break open the fence and happily, the lion will take its meal and go home. So, the only problem with sheep is – when they fear, they lose all sense of wisdom and intuition but the problem with sheep is that they are afraid of everything. That is exactly the reason why we are compared to sheep. We are afraid of everything. When we grow up, we are afraid of failure. When we succeed, we are afraid of keeping the success. When we grow up, we are afraid of whether we are attractive to others or not. We are afraid whether we will be successful or not, whether we will be able to feed our family or not. Fear, fear, fear. Fear is the one thing that grips the world and the ultimate thing, what is that fear? It is the fear of death. And because we have this fear inside of our heart, all sense of intuition is out of the window. It's very easy for the enemy to come and take. That is the reason why, "Do not fear," how many times? 365 times. Because God knows our hearts and He knows. He doesn't say, "Why did you fear?" He comes to us and He has compassion on us.

Matthew 14:14

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Luke 15:20

And he arose, and came to his father. (Who is this person? The prodigal son) But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Then,

Psalms 145:9

The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Mark 1:41-42

And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

He had compassion. That's the reason why it says, "His compassions do not fail. It is the mercy of God that do not fail." It says, "The kindness of God leads us to repentance." So, He sees us. He has compassion on us.

And third thing, He comes to us. He is not a God who is far away. He comes to us. You know, every other creation, the Lord created the world in how many days? 6 days. On the 7th day, no creation. Rest day. For all of us also. Six days, we work. On the 7th day, we all hopefully rest. So, on the 6th day, all the things He made. He spoke. Everything was made. All the animals were included on the 6th day. But then, at the final part of the 6th day, you know what He did? He came down, sat there in His creation and then, He got His hands dirty. He touched. He touched, what? The clay. And He formed a man with His hands. Beautiful. Look at this picture. He formed it. He says, "Let Us make man in our own image." What is man called in Hebrew? Adam. Dam means blood in Hebrew. Adam, means the man who is created with blood live in the image of God. And how did He make man? He made man from the dust of the earth. You know the word for dust in Hebrew? Adame. Adam made by God using the dust He touched. He made His hands dirty. Touched. Only creation, part of creation which God was totally involved – body, mind, soul and Spirit, of course, with His hands, He comes and He forms. And even in His redemptive work, He doesn't stand there. You know what He does? He does not just come to us; He comes to us in the form of, what? In the form of the same dust in He created.

John 1:10-11, 14

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own...

You see, He's a God who comes. He's not a God who is far. He is a God who is near.

and His own did not receive Him. ... ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

That means – tabernacled among us. He made His dwelling with us.

Hebrews 2:10

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

So, it was fitting for Him to become like him. He became like one of them in all sense.

So, we looked at three things.

First – He is a God who sees.

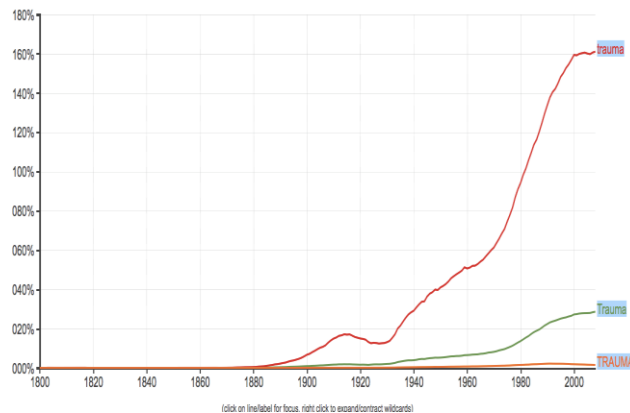
Second – He is a God who has compassion.

Third – He is a God who comes to us.

Fourth is possible the most incredible. I think this is the central message. If you haven't taken anything away from today's Sermon, take this part – He bound his wounds.

Wounds. The whole world is full of wounded people but if you look at the Bible, the Bible is the only Book which addresses this in an incredibly deep level. The word 'wound' in the Greek 'trauma'. It's the only time it is used in the New Testament – trauma – in this passage. What does it actually mean? To be split. To be divided. To be broken into several pieces. Split. Something has happened to you in your life and you are not able to. Sometimes, children go through this when in their childhood, tremendous amount of childhood, traumatized. I was looking at this. I was just googling this word 'trauma' and I found a very interesting statistic. I just want to share. This is nothing great. It's just a google thing. The word 'trauma', how is it being used?

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From the year 1800 onwards till current, the word 'trauma' in the normal English literature. Between 1800 to 1880, the word is not used because nobody actually knew what trauma was, except the Bible, of course. From 1900 onwards, that is, the beginning of the industrial revolution. The 19th century onwards to the 21st century, look at the dramatic rise in the increase of the word 'trauma'. That means more and more people are traumatized. More and more people are split. You wouldn't believe this. Go to google when you go back home and type 'Jenny Hanes DID – Dissociative Identity Disorder, BBC'. Just type these three. It's there, recorded. So, you don't have to worry about it, okay? Who is this 'Jenny Hanes'? She was traumatized from her childhood and because of the intense trauma that she experienced by her father especially when she was growing up, she was split into 2500 personalities inside. 2500 personalities! And then, she has come up with a story. She said, "My father abused me." Who are the witnesses? You know who the witnesses were? You go to court, she brought this injunction against her father, saying, "This is what my father did when I was growing up." In the court, you know who the witness was? It was a few of her own personalities within her own body. They came and testified about the abuse that she went through when she was a child. And you know what the court did? They accepted the testimony of the split personality and they prosecuted the father and sent him to jail. 2500 personalities in one body! You should look at her video interview on 60 minutes. It's one of the very famous interview channels. The interviewer is talking to this lady and suddenly, "Who am I talking to?" "You are talking to some person." Her face changes. It concocts into a different personality. You will be stunned. Happening right in front of our eyes. No wonder the word 'trauma' has increased. Traumatized generation. We are one of the most traumatized generation. Have you seen that we are distracted so easily? We never concentrate over a long time for one particular thing? It's impossible. You know why? We are split into different places. Why? Why do we do it? It's an automatic defence mechanism inside of us. We don't want to identify ourselves with the person who has been abused. So, what we do is – we identify with a split personality and create an alternate world and we get some sense of comfort. So many people, even when they go to war, all these marines and soldiers, when they go to war, they go through intense trauma because they see death in close quarters. Incredible trauma. It's very difficult for them to survive as a normal human being. Traumatized. You know what God says? We are all traumatized, actually, by sin. There is a very famous Hindi song. Shisha hoya dil ho. Complete the sentence? Akhir toot jaatha hain. Dil toot gaya.

There is one very famous old poet called 'Vemana'. Do you know what he said? He says, 'if iron breaks any number of times, you can melt it and put it together. If your heart breaks, nobody can put it together'. That is exactly what it is like-

'Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men
couldn't put Humpty together again.'

You need to understand. All these poets of those days, they didn't have Christ; their hearts were also broken so they created this alternate world called 'sanyasi' and they wrote philosophy. Traumatized! Look at how Isaiah explains the condition of his people who were traumatized.

Isaiah 1:4-6

⁴Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity,

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'Laden' means full of burden. 'lad' means heavy.

...A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters!

They are not corrupted. They are corrupters! That's the problem. We talk about corruption. We elect the people who are corrupted because we ourselves are corrupters.

...A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord,

That is the reason why all these happened.

...They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward. ⁵ Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. ⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.

I am telling you honestly, one of the reasons why Jesus has come is just not to bring us forgiveness of sins; He wants us to make us whole. One! Because we are split people, having alternate personalities. We all are- in different, different ways! In your free time, don't you imagine, 'I wish I was like this' and you live that life for few minutes? Why are movies so popular? Because you live vicariously through the hero! I was listening to the interview of this famous actor (I will not mention the name). I was just listening to interview because I like to listen to people's interviews. It shows us a lot, what people are going through in this current generation. Do you know what she said? "I want to live so many lives, that is the reason why I chose this path- this career called 'acting' because I can't experience everything but when I choose this path of acting, I can behave as if I am a maid or prince or princess." They want to live multiple characters.

That is exactly what has happened to many of us. Do you know what we do? We create alternate realities and we live in them because we cannot handle the trauma that we have gone through. Traumatized! Rejected! In our Indian culture, it happens in families! Abuse happens within families. On the outside, we try to be good but we are 'shame' based culture. It happens within families. Abused all over! People live in alternate realities. They are wounded and traumatized and they are not able to come to grips with it because it is too painful for them to handle it. It's very painful! Look at this.

John 5:5

⁵ And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

How many years? Thirty-eight years! Rejected by everybody! Do you think it is easy? One of the worst kinds of treatments a prisoner can get is not death by hanging but to be sent to isolation ward; people go mad. That's what they wanted to do with Richard Wurmbrand and all. They put them in isolation ward for years and years and years. They would keep on saying, "There is no God!" They would torture them mentally to break them so finally they would confess, "Yes, there is no God!" but thank God for all these people who have come through. Do you know why? It's because they had God; they had Christ.

Rejected for 38 years! I don't know how many of you here in this place been rejected and been called 'good for nothing'! Or you have been called 'very, very intelligent' but you were not able to live upto the expectations of the parents or the elders who called you so many things. Do you know then what happened? Then you have to live in this alternate world because you were traumatized. You were wounded! So many people wounded all around the world! The world is full of wounded people. That is the reason why they respond the way they respond. Do you know why? Because you touch their wound! Why do people react? It's because you touch their wound.

Think about it. When people go on a main road and somebody crosses their path, the kind of words they say to each other. It's unbelievable! Why? One person from our own organization got into an altercation with a guy just because he crossed his path. He lost his temper. They beat each other up. There was no previous animosity at all but they were simply angry. Do you why? It's because they were traumatized deep down inside and when somebody touch that part, they react and they respond suddenly. That's the instantaneous response that they go through. Do you know why? Deep down inside of

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their hearts, they have been traumatized; I don't know what kind of trauma that they have gone through. It especially happens with girls. That is the reason why I tell parents with girl children- "Protect them. Don't send them to stay-overs. Let them stay in your home. No stay-overs unless and until you have a very good relationship with that family to whom you are sending your children to because you do not know what happens. You do not know!" 38 years! Can you imagine for 38 years rejected?

John 5:6

⁶When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

Do you know what is He asking? "I know your trauma. You have been rejected for 38 years. Do you like this place or do you want to be made whole?" He gives excuses- "this person did this"; he still doesn't want to take responsibility for his own actions simply because it is too traumatizing for him to take responsibility for his actions. Very difficult to accept the fact that we messed up! It's because it makes us feel even more bad so we create these alternate worlds and we live in that. I am sure all of us have gone through, at some level or the other because there is no perfect human being. That is the reason why it says, *cleanse your hands you sinners, purify your hearts you double-minded*. 'Dipsuchos' means split personality. It's called 'spiritual schizophrenia'! Two alternate realities! Because he is not able to handle one; it is too painful!

How many years? 38 years! Not easy! 38 years in isolation ward! Isolated, rejected and called 'good for nothing'! The disease itself is not the problem; the pain and the rejection that you go through because of that disease is the problem. It's like- leprosy those days was like HIV these days. It's not easy for people to handle it. It is too traumatic! God is saying- "I know what has happened to you because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. When you are going down that path, do you know what has happened? Thieves have come (the enemy comes to steal and to kill and to destroy), it has traumatized you and I have come here to bind up your wounds. For that do you know what do I do? I see your problem. I have compassion on you. I come to you. I say, I want to bind up your broken heart."

Luke 17:16

¹⁶And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Who was this guy? One of the lepers! If you are a Jew and a leper and if you are a Samaritan and a leper, who is more traumatized? Samaritan and a leper! Samaritan himself is ostracized. Between the Jewish lepers and Samaritan lepers, there is again a racist attitude. "See, I am a Jew leper and what are you? You are a Samaritan leper, you fellow! You don't come with us and eat with us. You are worse than us!" But both are lepers! Where are you? Outside! Are you within the city? No! What should you say? "Unclean, unclean! Don't touch me." Can you imagine the trauma? "Please don't touch me, brother. I am unclean. You have to declare to others that you are unclean. If you have seen the movie 'Ben-hur', that scene is poignant. That is really, really traumatic for them because nobody wants them. Absolutely rejected! Do you know what God says?

Isaiah 61:1

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

In other translations, it says 'to bind up the broken-hearted.' Iron can break and it can be made whole by melting it; your heart can break and it can be made whole only in Jesus. How many of you have broken hearts? I don't know. Parents rejected you! Children rejected parents- that's even more traumatic! Have you seen if you have gone to the old age homes? Trauma! We know; we go to our old age home. Abandoned! It's not easy. What does he do? How does He bind up the broken hearted? He pours oil and wine. There is no ointment. From the sole of your feet to the crown of your head, there are sores and wounds and putrefying sores; it is like everything oozing out. Pus is oozing out and you have been absolutely left dead and abandoned. Do you know what God says? I come to you. What do I do? I pour in the oil and the wine.

'He poured in the oil and the wine
The kind that restores my soul

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He found me bleeding and dying
On the Jericho road.'

He poured in the oil and the wine. What is oil and what is wine? Wine is alcohol, like in this sanitizer. If you can't find sanitizer in the market, there is a formula- 90 ml of water, 50 ml of isopropyl alcohol, 1 teaspoon of glycerine – mix it well and one tablespoonful of hydrogen peroxide. Mix it well and you can make a sanitizer at home. That is only 20 rupees and this one is 120 rupees. Markets are running out of sanitizers. What is wine? Wine is alcohol. Do you know one thing that it does? It goes inside your wound and it starts healing it. What happens when you pour tincture iodine into your wound? It hurts! I don't want my children to get hurt, not because I can't handle their hurt; they can't handle their hurt. "Please don't touch me there! Don't put that tincture iodine there." It is very difficult to handle it. What does wine do? It goes deep down inside and hurts. We resist that hurt. We say, "Sir, can we get something like Savlon? Not iodine?" Maybe you can have Savlon instead of iodine, but you cannot have anything replacing wine in your life. Wine is the word of God. It will hurt you but better go through that hurt. Do you know what He does?

Isaiah 61:1

¹"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Good tidings! Iodine is 'good tiding'! It might burn you somewhere for sure. You might get hurt. "How come you can say like that to me?"

"Call your husband." How dare He ask me like that? No!

"I don't have any husband."

"I know you had five husbands and the person whom you are living with is not your husband." I know it's a painful reality. Immediately she tries to change the subject because she wants to live in alternate world. Trauma! You know what- law is different from truth. *You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.* Truth hurts before it heals. Wine hurts!

Look at what God says in Ephesians—

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

What is the equivalent of wine? The Spirit of God! Conviction- that is what we call 'cutting'. It cuts you.

"This Jesus whom you have crucified, God has made both Lord and savior."

They were cut to the heart and said, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

"Repent and be baptized everybody"- that is what we call as 'wine'. When Stephen confronted, what happened? They were also cut to their heart and do you know what they said? "How come this fellow! We are going to kill him." They were also cut to their heart. Cutting to the heart is caused by the Word of God, which is anointed by the Spirit. What does it do? It acts like wine. What is it doing? It is disinfecting your wound and cleanses you completely. All that has happened because of our foolishness, right?

When you read this, put yourself there, not your brother or sister.

Psalms 107:17-18a

¹⁷Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted. ¹⁸Their soul abhorred all manner of food...

"I don't like to eat at all!" Have you seen whenever you are traumatized, you don't like eating at all? Either you eat more or you eat less. These two things happen. A lot of people become gluttons because that is exactly how they actually beat trauma. There is a study, which has happened all around the world. They eat and eat and eat. Why? It's because they are depressed. Depression has caused them to eat. Some people don't want to eat.

Psalms 107:18-20

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¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all manner of food, And they drew near to the gates of death.

This fellow was half dead, right?

¹⁹ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.

How did He do that?

²⁰ He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

That is how you need to read this word. “Send forth Your Word”! You were afflicted because of your iniquities and your transgressions. It has cut you, it has traumatized you and God is sending forth His Word. It might burn you, it might cause you a little bit of discomfort but ultimately that is the one, which is going to wash your wound away and it is going to bring healing into your lives. Do you know what He did? He also gave them oil to soothe you. God doesn’t just burn you; He also soothes you. That is what we call as ‘dressing’. He puts ointment. Spirit is again the ointment there. What does He do? He puts oil and wine. He heals you and He dresses you.

Then what does He do? He put him on his animal. I love this part. You need to understand- who is this animal? Do you know who this animal is? I am sure it is a donkey because donkeys are beasts of burden. It says in Revelation- *He is the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords*. Who is the King of kings and Lord of lords? The one whom you call ‘Samaritan’! One day He is going to come back and He is going to reign *for He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and those who are with Him are ‘called, chosen and faithful’*. Do you know who the animal is? You and me with the burden!

Genesis 49:14-15

¹⁴ “Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens; ¹⁵ He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.

Do you know what happens? Do you know why the Samaritan is able to do all these? It’s because he takes that guy out of his distress and puts on a person who can bear the burden of that person who is wounded. Can you be that person? We all send these prayer requests- “Lord, I pray for the salvation of my unsaved loved one” and God is asking you today, my dear brothers and sisters, “Do you have a burden?” Can you be an ‘Issachar’ who has a burden for souls? In your office, can God trust you with one soul? Can He put that person on you? Can you be that animal for him? Thank God. Good Samaritan is only ‘good Samaritan’ because there is an animal. Can you imagine if he has no animal? The story would be completely different. The story would be completely different without the animal. Can you be that animal? Can you be that donkey? I like this guy, Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, ² That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach:

They were traumatized. Absolutely!

The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. ⁴ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

Do you know what he said? “Lord, can I be that one man who can bear the burden of building the walls of Jerusalem?” Can you be that animal for God? It’s very easy to listen to messages of comfort. God comforts us; He binds us but how many of us want to be that animal who can bear that burden?

The entire exodus from Babylon to Jerusalem happens because of three people. One is Daniel because he starts interceding. Second is Nehemiah and third is Ezra. Three people and all those people whom the Spirit of the Lord could stir

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up! They all came and they started building. Do you know why? It's because God could find somebody upon whom He could lay a burden. You see, doing a lot of activities in the Church is easy but praying with burden is completely a different ballgame altogether. It's absolutely different! To be an animal with the good Samaritan! Good Samaritan himself we don't like but being the animal in the good Samaritan story, how many of us would like? He put him on his animal.

Then what does he do? He took him to the inn. I find it absolutely ironical- when Jesus was born, there was no place for Him in the inn, but when He finds somebody, He takes them and makes place in the inn. Do you know what that inn is? I will tell you what that inn is. It is the place where you can walk in your deliverance, where you have been taught to walk in your deliverance.

Jeremiah 3:14-15

¹⁴ Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city...

Hyderabad or Srikakulam or Ahmedabad or different places all around the world!

...and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

Do you know after that what will I do?

¹⁵ And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Not just knowledge, but also understanding! Two things will happen. Do you know what He is going to tell you? "This is bad! This is very bad! This is worse! This is good! This is very good! This is excellent! I will not only do that, I will also teach you how to refuse the bad and accept the good." That is the reason why it says in *Titus 2, the grace of God has appeared to all men, teaching us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly lusts*. It is the teaching of the Word of God, where you are taught not only to get delivered but also how to walk in your deliverance.

Lot of people get delivered and after that they become worse. Do you know why? It's because they have never been brought into an 'inn'. Thank God, something happened to this fellow (I think the good Samaritan gave him another bash, put him on his donkey and took him in inn). "I don't want to come to Church."

"You come to Church, you fellow!"

All of us are here. Do you know why? It's because there was an animal, which brought us to Church. The problem is some of the animals, who brought me to Church (my friend) have gone and I remained in the Church. The point here is this. There was an animal, who brought you. He brought you to a place, which is called 'the inn', where you are taught with knowledge and understanding by shepherds after God's own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Does God find you in the inn every day, every time when there is an opportunity?

John 5:14

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Something worse will happen! Do you understand? If you do not come under teaching, something worse will happen to you. Teaching is important. That's exactly what God does to all of us. He brought us on one animal to the Church. What does He do? He continuously feeds us with knowledge and with understanding and He keeps us on the straight and narrow path. Woe to those people who are not been fed! Do you know why? It's because something worse will happen. They don't understand that. The most dangerous set of people on earth are Christians. Do you know why? If you do not walk under teaching! It is one thing to be delivered, another thing completely different to stay and walk in your deliverance.

It's like this. The only way you can fight corona virus is by Vitamin C. That is why cost of Vitamin C tablets has become from 10 rupees to 22 rupees now. A strip of 15 tablets used to cost 10 rupees, now the strip of 15 tablets cost 22 rupees. Do you know why? Everybody understood – I have to build up my immune system. The only people, who are susceptible to the virus around, are the people who do not know strong immune system. What should you have? You should have what we call as 'knowledge and understanding' deep down inside of us to fight off the viruses of the enemies outside. Strong people

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who have strong spiritual resistance! Do you have spiritual resistance? That is the reason why Richard Wurmbrand and all, they could be traumatized by somebody because they have already dealt with their trauma. Do you know what God has done through 14-15 years of prison? You should read his testimony 'tortured for Christ'. What a testimony! There is no Church, nothing; they used to sing songs. What were their musical instruments? Chains. Can you imagine? Why? They've been set free, absolutely set free and that man comes out of prison 14 years later, do you think he is so weak? "Oh, you do not know how the Lord has dealt with me. I went one way. I came so empty." No, no. Strong for the Lord and he starts a complete different movement called 'Tortured For Christ' and there's an organization – 'Voice Of The Martyrs'. What an amazing man of God. If you listen to him and you read some of his revelations, you know what? He wrote a book, 365 Sermons that he preached to himself in prison. And I think 'Messages From Prison' is the title of the book. I'll tell you the testimony. It's incredible. Powerful. I can never forget this testimony. So, this guy is a guy who is a thief. He is caught while he is stealing in a bank. He is put in prison. In prison, he is put in an isolation ward. This is there online. This is one of Richard Wurmbrand's testimonies. He is put in the isolation ward. When he is in the isolation ward, he is really regretting and suddenly, he sees the vision of a man coming and preaching to him a sermon. A vision of man coming in his isolation ward and preaching to him a sermon. He listens to that sermon and he gets saved. And after a few years, he is released from prison because of good behaviour. One day, after he comes out of prison, he goes and becomes a part of the local Church. Over a period of time, he becomes the Pastor of the Church and one day, he is walking on the streets of (I think) Toronto or some place and he walks past the Christian Book Store and he goes into the Book Store and he is browsing through all the books and there's one book in the corner which says, "Messages From Prison by Richard Wurmbrand." He says, "Wow, that's very interesting book." He just takes that book and he starts flipping through some of the Sermons and there is one Sermon. The Holy Spirit stops him. He says, "Read that Sermon." He starts reading that Sermon and that's exactly the Sermon that he heard when he was in the isolation ward. You know why? There was another man in another isolation ward being tortured for Christ and without being depressed, for 365 days, he preached to himself and he memorized all those 365 Sermons and he came out and wrote a book. Can you imagine? You know why? Because these are the people we call 'Pastors after God's own Heart' who feed us with knowledge and understanding. Take it in.

Finally, this is for people who want to come to full-time ministry.

Luke 10:35

³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper...

What is the inn keeper supposed to do? Take care of this fellow.

and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

Now, tell me, what does it mean? Look at what it says in,

1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre...

Be content with two denarii. Rest, you spend.

...but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

You know what? If you are called to be a shepherd, you will have a special crown which nobody can take away. Imagine if you are called to be a shepherd, you will have incredible number of problems. Promise. Every day will be one problem for sure, minimum. And you will have all kinds of things but at the end of it... that's what he says, "I'm giving you 2 denarii." How is it going to be enough? "Anything extra, you pay. When I come back, I will repay." Is God any man's debtor? If he comes back, how will he repay? You see, that's going to be a total different ball game altogether?

So, what does he tell this guy, finally?

Luke 10:36-37

³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The exhortation to all of us is this – the Lord says that when He comes back, "I was naked and you clothed Me. I was in prison and you visited Me. I was hungry. You fed Me." And the sheep will ask, "Lord, when were You naked and we clothed You? When were You hungry and we fed You? When were You in prison when we visited You?" You know what God will say? "As much as you have to done to the least of these, My brethren, you have done it unto Me."

And therefore, today's morning's message is very simple. Are you that man on the road to Jericho? Yes, I was that man. That is the reason why we sing that song, right? He found me. I hope you know that song. He found me bleeding and dying on the Jericho road and he poured in the oil and the wine. And then, what do we sing? "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, He's on my mind now." How do I please my Master? "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I've got Him on my mind." And then, one such person was the Apostle Paul himself. He says, "Perils on the sea. Perils on the water. Perils among Jews. Perils among Gentiles. Perils with false brothers." And more than all these, the daily pressure of all the Church. But you know what? He stayed on the course and one day, he says, "I fought the fight. I kept the faith. I finished the race and what is waiting for me? A crown of righteousness is there, not only for me but for all of those who are longing for His appearing." And therefore, we say, "Lord, Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus."

Can we all stand in the presence of the Lord this morning? Can we have the Worship Team please? We will worship for a few minutes. We will sing that song 'He poured in the oil and the wine' and we will sing with joy because now, you will say, "He poured in the oil and the wine. He found me, bleeding and dying on the Jericho Road." My exhortation to you is, my dear brothers and sisters, don't even venture to go down to Jericho. It's not even worth it. What is Jerusalem? For all of you, what is Jerusalem? The teaching of peace. Stay in the teaching. Let's all just sing with all of our heart because He is worthy of all praise. He truly found us on the Jericho Road. Thank God He did not allow us to go to Jericho. That would have been worse. In His mercy, He allowed situations in our lives that we are absolutely helpless. That's what the Word of God says in *Romans 5*, "When we were yet sinners, when we were without strength, when we were enemies, when we were ungodly, Christ died for us." This morning, can we sing?

Closing Song: *He Poured In The Oil And The Wine; I have decided to follow Jesus.*

Closing Prayer:

Yes, Lord. You found us bleeding and dying. Father, from the crown of our head to the soul of our feet, we were absolutely wounded, blinded with absolute sores and putrefying sores. Wounds unbound, left for dead. And this morning, if any one of you think, "Lord, you do not know the trauma that I went through. You do not know how people split me," and You know what Jesus will say? He will say, "On the Cross, My Father and Me and the Holy Spirit were absolutely one. We were One. We were absolutely indivisible. We were together in all eternity. From everlasting to everlasting, We were together. But on the Cross, My Son, to make you whole, was traumatized because for the first time in all of history in all the universe, there was a split in the Trinity." And Jesus didn't say, "My Father, My Father." He said, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" And at that moment, all the trauma of all eternity, He experienced on the Cross and He knows, my dear brother; He knows, my dear sister, what trauma is. He knows it because He is a God who is touched by the feelings of all our infirmities. He has gone through split after split. He was rejected by His own. He was rejected by His family. He was betrayed by His disciples. All the disciples whom He loved in the last moment, whom he said and boasted, "Even in the last moment if we have to die, we will not forsake You," all forsook Him and on the Cross, He was forsaken by His Father Himself and He was split for the first time. And He knows what it is to be traumatized. Moses could not see His face, the face of the wrath of God. But on the Cross, the wrath which was due us, My Saviour, My God, My Jesus, our Master, He faced it – the wrath of God – the ultimate trauma, the ultimate split. And He said, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" But thank God, God is a just God and because the sinless Messiah, the Messiah was absolutely sinless and God is absolutely just. He raised Him up on the third day. And therefore, we can boldly confess, "Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me. Buried, He took all my trauma away. Rising, He justified. Freely forever. One day, He is coming back. O glorious day!" O Jesus, we believe, Father. We thank You, Lord. We thank You, Father, for facing the ultimate rejection. We thank You, Father, for facing the ultimate trauma. It was not easy, O Lord. You said, Lord, "If You be willing, take this cup away from Me," but it was

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absolutely difficult for Him. Some of you may say, "Vijay, you do not know the kind of stress that I go through. You do not know the kind of blood pressure bouts that I have." But on that day, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was stressed on every side. His blood pressure increased to the maximum and He started bleeding drops of blood because He faced ultimate stress for all of us. And this morning, He is the God who sees and because He experienced everything and yet, did not sin, He can empathise with us. He has compassion. He doesn't have compassion from afar. He comes close to us and He just does not come close to us. He takes His hands and He pours into our wounds in His love – wine and oil. He puts us on His donkey. He takes us to His inn. He takes care of us. And this morning, Lord, I pray, Father, for all of my brothers and sisters, including myself, Lord, Father, enable us to see ourselves as those found on the Road to Jericho, bleeding and dying. Absolutely helpless. O Jesus, touch. Touch that brother. Touch that sister who says, "Lord, nobody sees," but You are able to go and comfort her. You are the Comforter. You are the God who comforts us, who gives us all comfort so that we can give comfort by the comfort that we have received ourselves from You, O Lord. And I pray, Father, that You would comfort. Comfort the broken-hearted this morning. Touch. Jesus. Touch, Lord. O Jesus, touch. O, we worship You, Lord. Spirit of the Living God, come and convict. Send forth Your conviction this morning. Jesus, breakthrough. Lord, hardened because of sin. Hardened because of trauma. Unable to handle it. Father, You touch, this morning. Comfort Your people this morning, Lord. Comfort. Come, breakthrough, Father. Breakthrough, Lord.

Take a few moments, my dear brothers and sisters. God is here in our midst. He is not a God who is far. He is a God who is near.

O Lord, even if it hurts, You said, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend than the flattering lips of the adulteress." Because You wound us only for a season. Through that wounding, You bring healing. Father, heal, Lord. I do not know, Father. You know. You are acquainted with every one of us. Whatever the hurts that they are going through; rejection because of children. Rejection because of brothers. Rejection because of whatever stand that they have taken, Father. Touch. Bruised because of sin. Fools because of transgression. They are broken and bruised but, Lord, You send forth Your Word and heal us. Come and deliver them from all their destructions. Father, this morning, send forth Your Word. Jesus, we worship You. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus. We praise You, Lord. We worship You, Lord. For You are a God who is near and who is not far. Emmanuel, God with us. Even through our afflictions, You are afflicted. In all our afflictions, You are afflicted, O Lord. Jesus, thank You. Thank You, Lord, for being our merciful High Priest. Even after the order of Melchizedek. Thank You, Jesus. And I pray, Father, that every one of us will be hidden in that Jerusalem, will not venture out of that teaching. For You said in Your Word – but thanks be to God that though you were once slaves to sin, you have become obedient to that form of teaching to which you have been delivered and having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. Hallelujah. Let that be true that we will come out of teaching and we will stay, not only, Father, be delivered but we will walk in our deliverance. And not only just walking in our deliverance, we will become those animals upon which You can place Your burden and we can bring more number of people who are found on that road to Jericho to Your inn, O Lord. O Father, let that be the mandate and the burden in our heart this morning, O Lord. We thank You, Jesus. We thank You, Father. We praise You, Lord. We worship You. We give You glory, honor and praise. For 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.