

## Please God!

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*Father, this morning, we just come to You, Lord. we are a set of people who are forewarned and our faith is not in the system, though we pray for the system. Our faith is not in the hand of man though we appreciate the work they do. Our eyes are upon You and our faith is in You, Lord. When everything else fails, God will be still there and He will never fail; for God never fails. So, this morning, I pray, even once again during the ministry of the Word, the purpose of that ministry will be fulfilled. Even more faith will arise in our hearts and in our lives; and we will learn that even more how to walk in faith, O Lord. Thank You, Father. Speak to us. Teach us, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

Like I said, we live in unprecedented times. That's also because of, what we call, the incredible advancements in technology, especially communication. Old days, when stuff like this happen, nobody knew but today, it's impossible to hide anything. So, everybody knows and there is real panic in the air. And 2020 is a bad season also because it is election. It is elections season in the US. So, there are forces who would want this to continue to bring a government down, create panic and cause this instability. You need to realize – there are a lot of things that are happening and you have no clue. But all else is sinking sand. We stand on solid ground. This is what God said, "Heaven and earth will pass away but not a dot or a tittle from His Word." So, do you hear me? Because faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. If we study closely the teachings of Jesus, His actual teachings when He was going around teaching, His teachings, the Word of God He preached was preached to a very specific targeted audience. Jesus called it 'the good soil', whether it is thirty-fold, sixty-fold or hundred-fold, He called the good soil. We know that in the Parable of the Sower.

In *Mark 4:14*, we know in the Parable of the Sower, He is talking about the Word of God. He is not talking about the sowing of seed. He is using the Parable to explain something. The sower sows the Word. So, we need to understand very clearly that when Jesus is using illustrations, He is talking about the Word. Even now, here, I believe as I preach, the Spirit of God will be sowing the Word. And we see this particular parable, the Parable of the Sower, in three of the four Gospels. And we see a pattern there.

In *Matthew 13:23*,

### **Matthew 13:23**

***<sup>23</sup> But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."***

But if you look at it closely in this parable in Matthew, you see two words – 'he hears' and 'he understands'. If you go to the parallel Gospel, that is Mark, the next one. We see the same in *Mark 4:20*,

### **Mark 4:20**

***<sup>20</sup> But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."***

The first one is hear and understand. In the second one, there is a little shift. It says, "Those who hear and accept or receive." In *Luke 8:15*, the same parable, it says,

### **Luke 8:15**

***<sup>20</sup> But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.***

Or perseverance. So, you put these three together. That's how you put it together. But if you look at all the three, what is common there is – hearing. It all begins with hearing. The first parable, they hear and understand. In the second one, you accept it and you receive it. In the third one, the heart is noble. With a good heart, you receive it; you keep it and you pursue it with perseverance. So, the question is: we all hear; that's step one. God says, "All those who have ears, let them hear." Because people may have ears but that doesn't mean they hear. The first thing is – hearing. The second thing is – do I

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understand what I hear? Step 2 – do I understand what I hear? Third step is – do I accept, receive what I hear and I understand? Fourth is – do I persevere? Am I patient about working on it over and over. Like I said, the first thing, the first step is hearing. So, you can divide even in a Church or in the world, people into two groups – those who hear and those who don't hear. That is why the importance of hearing. *Romans 10*, we saw it, maybe two weeks back.

### **Romans 10:14-15**

**<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

So, you will see, if you divide the Gospel proclamation into different parts, the greatest investment in terms of money, man power and time is given to the first one so that people hear the Gospel. Now, we are not hearing the Gospel. You have heard the Gospel and you are saved. Now, you are being taught the Word of God. But the maximum investment in the world is always in the first step – that people need to hear, at least, once. Nobody should die without hearing about the Kingdom of God and what Jesus has done. So, the first part is where the maximum amount of time, energy and resources have always gone in for 2000 years. That is step one. What is that? People need to hear. And that's what He tells His disciples, "Go to the ends of the earth." And hear. You need to realize – if that is the first step, that is also the step where you will face the greatest opposition. The first step. Over 2000 years, different nations, different dispensations all aimed at one thing – stop the preaching of the Gospel, the printing of the Bible, all kind of things to stop step 1 because once it is inside, it is difficult to take it out. So, always, you will see mob attacks, violence. Everything is aimed at step one. And step two, what the enemy does is – if you read the *Book of Revelation*, you will see – *He floods the streets* and modern-day internet with false preaching. So, even if you hear, you don't hear the right thing. You hear the good news, which is false news. Like if you go all around Hyderabad, you will see these HDFC Ergos advertisement – "Good News For Hyderabad." I said, "Oh, which preacher is coming?" It's HDFC Life. All over the city, "Good news for Hyderabad." I thought some preacher was coming to the city. Good news means Gospel. But internet is full of false preachers. You need to have this discernment of God. It's a mine field and it's been there from the beginning. One Elijah will stand on Mount Carmel and is surrounded by false preachers. He kills all of them a little later. One man is standing over there, surrounded by false preachers. One voice constantly. Why? So that we do not hear. Create as much confusion because everything begins with hearing. That is the first step and that is the step everybody really struggles in hearing. You've been trained that you don't struggle.

Then comes step two. If you are one of those blessed to be the one who heard, *Matthew 13:19*,

### **Matthew 13:19**

**<sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it...**

If you here and understand it, immediately, the devil comes and takes it away. Honestly, they have no clue what they heard. No memory of anything they have heard. It's just gone because they did not understand it. Neither Latin or Greek; it is Sanskrit. No clue what they heart. If you do not understand it, it's just gone. It's a foreign language. It makes no sense at all.

After Jesus spoke, the disciples have an issue. Not an issue but a real doubt. Because see, He was speaking to the crowds in Parables. He was speaking to the in parables. Now, what is a parable? A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or a spiritual lesson. A simple story. That's the simplest way to. With human characters unlike a fable which will have inanimate animals speaking and all that. The fable and the parable. The parable usually will have a human being. So, the parable of the sower. So, they see Jesus always speaking in parables. And Jesus relied heavily on parables when speaking to the crowds. To the point, this is what the Gospel of Mark says in *Mark 4:34*,

### **Mark 4:34**

**<sup>34</sup> But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.**

Very strange, right? Without a parable, He never spoke to the crowd. Then, when the disciples were alone, He explained it to them. So, even there, there is a division – the crowd and the disciples. The crowd gets the parables; the disciples get the explanation. If you hear the parable, you would like the story but if you don't get the explanation, you have no clue what the

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story was all about. Actually, the crux behind the story. If Jesus did not explain the seed was the Word, it is lost. The whole parable is lost.

Now, let me get to another point. The whole Bible is actually a parable. It's full of parables. Real incidents and real people but they are actually parables. Earthly stories with heavenly truths. It's like Shakespeare's play and within the play, you will have a play. Play within the play, it is called. To bring out the truth – a play within the play. And the Bible is actually full of it. The question is: does the Spirit of Jesus explain to us privately when we are alone with Him the truth behind the stories, the parables in the Bible? That's how you know whether you are part of the crowd or am I truly a disciple? Because He spoke the same thing both to the crowd and to the disciples but only the disciples got the meaning. The crowds didn't get the meaning. Like if you start the Bible, it starts with this emphatic statement in *Genesis 1:1-2*,

**Genesis 1:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.***

That's how the Bible begins, forgetting all the standard explanation of time, space and all that, which is legit.

***<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***

The invisible and the visible.

***<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form...***

The visible had no form. That means the invisible had form. The visible was void, implying the invisible was full. Darkness was upon the deep. So, as you open the Bible, in the second verse of the Bible, you encounter darkness and what is darkness? Darkness is what you do not see or what you do not understand. That is darkness. Now, remember the prophecy of Zechariah when his mouth was loosened when John is born. In his prophecy, he says in *Luke 1:79*,

**Luke 1:79**

***<sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."***

Sit in darkness? In the shadow of death. People who sit in darkness without understanding the Gospel are walking in the shadow of death. The Bible opens like that. Darkness. Do we understand what darkness means when we hear and do not understand? Where are we sitting? We are sitting in the shadow of death; yet, who is hovering over there? The Spirit of God is hovering. Meaning – if you know Him, you are safe. *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...* The valley is the deepest part of the earth's surface. Personal example – if you drive from the border of Bhutan called Phuentsholing up to the capital – Thimpu, if you go up and up, then you reach the top, then you come down to the valley of Thimpu. When you reach the top, you will see all the mountains at the top are bright and lit; but down if you look in the valley, it's pitch dark at 12 in the afternoon. Dark because the light doesn't reach there. So, even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, when you are walking in the darkest point of your life too, I will not fear. Why? Because Your Word is a light unto my feet and a lamp unto my path. The Holy Spirit brings light.

So, the third verse of the Bible says, "Let there be light." So, right from *Genesis 1* onwards, it's a parable, though it's a real story, a real incident of God's creation. And you go through that, from there, you go through the Bible, you will see, in every chapter, there is a truth that is hidden. So, the Book itself divides us into crowds and disciples literally.

In *Matthew 5:1-2*, the greatest Sermon, the Sermon on the Mount,

**Matthew 5:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:***

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He didn't talk to them in parables. Plain speaking.

**Matthew 5:3**

***<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."***

We sang that today. He did not speak to them because the crowds are down and the disciples came up. He spoke to them plainly, explaining to them what blessing is in the New Covenant.

You look at another incident, similar setting in another mountain by the seaside in *Matthew 13*,

**Matthew 13:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then He spoke many things to them in parables...***

He didn't change His teaching. He spoke to them in parables. The disciples have this question,

**Matthew 13:10**

***<sup>10</sup> And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"***

They noticed the distinction. "He speaks to them in parables and He speaks plainly to us." They noticed the distinction. They are asking, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" Look at Jesus' answer,

**Matthew 13:11-12**

***<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.***

He says, "The Kingdom of God is mystery, but it's not hidden." It is open to whom? To the disciples. It's not open to the crowds. Though both sets seem to be following him, but their following is different. It's not the same. Then He makes an incredible statement in verse 13 and 14.

**Matthew 13:13-14**

***Therefore, I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'hearing you will hear and shall not understand and seeing you will see and not perceive.***

He makes a scary statement. He talks about a prophecy and the prophecy is being fulfilled even as He is preaching. Then He goes about differentiating eyes and ears of the disciples and the crowds in verse 15 and 16.

**Matthew 13:15-16**

***...For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear,***

If I was a word of faith, preacher, I would have asked the crowd, "Put your hands on your eyes and say 'My eyes are blessed'." Doesn't work like that. You will have to look into Scripture to see what actually is happening. Outwardly everyone's eyes and ears look the same. Is there any difference? No, everybody's look the same. Is God playing a spoil sport? No, He is not. It is hidden with His intention to reveal it. Look at Scripture, *Luke 8:16* onwards,

**Luke 8:16**

***"No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and***

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***come to light. Therefore, take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."***

He says, "Look, I am not hiding it. I really want to reveal it to you but if you want revelation be careful about how you hear." Step one is the most important part, be very careful, Jesus says about how you hear it and Solomon in the book of proverbs puts it across incredibly in *Proverbs 25:2*.

**Proverbs 25:2**

***It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.***

Meaning, if you search out for a revelation, you are a king in God's sight. You don't need crown on your head. You have the glory of a king because you have found the revelation of something that was hidden by God. So, everybody has ears, everybody has eyes, the crowd and the disciples. So where is the issue? You should read carefully, go back and read *Matthew 13:15*,

**Matthew 13:15**

***For the hearts of this people have grown dull.***

The problem is not with the ears or eyes, problem is with the heart. The hearts have grown dull, insensitive. NIV will use a term called 'calloused'. You know what calloused is? Mallus will know, when we grow up over there drawing water, every morning with a rope coir and after sometime a side will become hard, meaning there isn't much feeling there and if there is anyone who has gone for karate training, just over here because this is how they are made to do push-ups so you will see it is black, hard and callous. So, their hearts have grown callous, hard. That is why the first part of the message began with the news. When these things happened, you should become more and more sensitive and not more and more nonchalant. You will have to be very careful about what is the news doing to us. The things that are happening in our own life, homes or our own personal lives. Is it making us calloused or making us more sensitive? Because we know from Scripture, the most sensitive man can become most calloused man if you don't guard your heart. A man when he cut the edge of Saul's robe was so shaken saying, "I touched the Lord's anointed" sends a death certificate in Uriah's hand without that poor man knowing and when he hears that he is dead, he says, 'So what? People die in battle.' The most sensitive man on earth, a man after God's own heart becomes the most callous hearted man, same man in the course of few years. So, everybody is susceptible to this. That is why God says, "Be careful about how we hear the word."

***The hearts have become dull. The ears are hard of hearing, the eyes have closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears.*** (But that's again not the issue. Issue is) ***lest they should understand with their hearts.***

See, we think we understand with our mind the God's Word. You go to school, you understand with your mind but when it comes to God's Word, we understand with our heart. Unless we go to God and give all your heart, we will not understand His word. You will not! You would like to correct it and say, "I can understand it with my mind" I can have a PHD in literature but cannot I understand the Word of God. I had professors in my University who could give you an incredible lecture in the book of Psalms and Job. They had no clue what they were talking about. Though the lecture was fantastic because they did not know Christ. They had not given their heart to Him, but you could sit their spell bound because they were so good. It was from the mind. It's not from the heart. *Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, I should heal them.* Faith comes from what? Hearing. Hearing from what? From the Word of God. But do you know that we believe with our heart. You believe with your heart Not with your mind! That is why God's Word keeps reminding us of guarding our heart. In *Proverbs 4:23*,

**Proverbs 4:23**

***Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.***

We understand with our heart, not so much with our mind. Though the mind is involved but it is with the heart. Now listen carefully because that is what Jesus said, "listen carefully", 'friends, Romans lend me your ears. I have not come to praise Caesar but to glorify Jesus. The evil men do lives after them but the good is often intrude with their bones so let it be with Caesar'. I could give you the whole thing, but the bible excites me more than Shakespeare. I am going to give you different statements. Your eyes should see, and your ear should hear.

***Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God.***

These are statements about faith, and they are all true because its Scripture. In *Mark 9:22*,

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**He says, "Believe in God",**

In *Mark 9:23*, He says,

**Mark 9:23**

***Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."***

I didn't say it, He said, its Scripture; one side of faith.

Second one, *Hebrews 11:6*,

**Hebrews 11:6**

***But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that (second) He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

So many things there but what does it say? Without faith, it's impossible to please. You have three people running the race of faith. Outwardly they all look the same. They all have got the zeal. They know their Word and one is running with the zeal saying, "All things are possible to him/her who believes." The second one is running with that, "I am running because the Word says, 'He is a rewarder of those who seek Him'" Those who believe and those who seek Him. The third one who is running says, "I want to please Him" Who do you think will finish? Third one! Outwardly, they look the same. The fact is that you need all three but third one is the most important. You see motivation is completely different. So, the question is what is the motivation behind your faith? Because faith comes from hearing. If you want to keep on hearing till the last day of your life like Jacob, Joseph and Abraham did, you should be motivated with this core thing; I want to please Him. *All things are possible to him who believes*; fantastic, it's true. *God is the rewarder of those who seek Him*, excellent, but third one, I want to please Him! In *Matthew 3:17*,

**Matthew 3:17**

***And suddenly a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***

Why was the Father pleased with 30 years of His Son's life? It's because it is a walk of faith with one intention, one motivation. What is that? You want to please Him as a son. 'This is My Son, in whom I am well pleased,' because the Son pleased the Father, motivation. Now look at the other one. In the middle of the three, in *Matthew 12:18*,

**Matthew 12:18**

***"Behold! My Servant whom I am chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!"***

In one verse, He says, "He is My Beloved Son," and in the other verse, the Father says, "My servant." We have to please God as both sons and daughters and as servants. One is life and another is service. We are children of God; we are all called to please God as sons and daughters. We have to please God as a servant. Two identities; Jesus was the Son of God and He was the servant of God. Every child of the God sitting here has these two identities – Jesus was the Son of God and He was the servant of God. Every child of the God sitting here has these two identities. In *John 8:29*, this is what Jesus says,

**John 8:29**

***He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.***

He is walking by faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God but what is motivating is faith. He wants to please God. See, if that is our motivation then we don't need other reasons. *All things are possible to him who believes* but nothing happened, so you start doubting your faith. You try to pump in more faith. *God is a rewarder of those who seek Him*, but you have no clue what the reward is. You hoped for something, you got something else. Now you are disappointed. It's like Chuck Swindoll, as a young boy, he wanted a basketball. He told his mother in his dream also that his birthday is coming and that he wanted a basketball. On his birthday, a box came, and he looked in. He said, "Looks like something round." He was very happy and when he opened it, there was a globe. What can a young boy do with a globe? Mother gave it to him and said, "Son, this is my prayer for you. One day the Lord will use you and your words will go to the ends of the world." Today it

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is true. So, you expect something, and you receive something else. *God is a rewarder of all those who seek Him.* So, you can get disappointed again but if it is the third thing, you want to please Him. Motivation is very important. You look in the bible all those who have finished well, they were all motivated by this one thing. They wanted to please God, even our children, will come to that later. You want to fight this good fight of faith, ultimately, how long will you fight?

### **Romans 8:8**

***So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.***

So, that is a good reason to fight the flesh; I want to please God. I will not walk by my flesh, feelings or emotions. To be a little nasty I would say, there is only one thing worse than lose motion is emotion, if you allow then to lead you. The flesh takes over. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God, so it is a very good reason. Fight the flesh because you want to please God. So, when we read *Hebrew 11:6, and Hebrews 10:38, you will realize that you want to please God. But without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 10:38 says, the just shall live by faith but if anyone draws back My soul will not have pleasure in him.* God will not be pleased with him, so I don't want to draw back Lord, I want to please You. You see, the goal is outside of ourselves, it is to please somebody outside of us. These two verses will define our purpose in life. Purpose in life should ultimately be to please God. So, the primary instruction, is how you take the instruction differently, the word of the God. Everybody doesn't receive in the same way. That is why God says, 'Let all those who have ear hear and eye see' but He says, "they understand with their heart." If they understand with their heart, the question is, where is your heart? Jesus says, "Wherever your treasure is (if it's in your Facebook) that is where your heart is." So, the primary instruction to those who are saved in the Church is how to please God. If that is the case then our question should be, 'What should be the attitude of my heart?' If it is, you and I will hear and understand differently. There are three categories in life. All three are important but the most important one is: we must please God. Two; we must please self and the third one is that we must please others. *Love God with all your heart, with all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbor like yourself.* So, God, self and neighbor. These are all there. The bible is full of instructions about how to live this life. This is where hearing changes, the balance comes. In *Galatians 1:10*, Paul says,

### **Galatians 1:10**

***For do I persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.***

So, when you must choose, sometimes, you can choose men and God. You can choose, like all of you who are used to listening the Word of God. Some people may not be used to listening the Word of God, because they are new; so, they are not used to it. Like last week, we had the guests who had come for the wedding. So, Sammy, when he picked them from the Airport, he already warned them, "Tomorrow is Sunday, Church. Message is one and a half hours." They are all used to 20 minutes message. And I didn't even know that young man was a Pastor. Now, you don't change the message to please man but the interesting part is that, when it finished, they did not even know one and a half hours was over. I didn't even know about him. I met him at GSS. It was a casual meeting because I don't treat people by the color of their skin. As simple as that. So, he thought I was ignoring him. So, he wanted to meet me in the evening. You know what? He sat with me for 3 hours and he cried hearing the Word. He said, "I'm going to login. I'm going to listen to the Word all the time." And we think people will not hear. The thing is that – we cannot please men. When you and I have to choose between pleasing God and pleasing men, always pick God. And when we have this motivation to please others, be very clear, *1 Corinthians 10*. Why? This is how your eyes and ears will be open when you read the Word of God because you understand with your heart, not with your mind.

### **1 Corinthians 10:33**

***<sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.***

That's the motivation. He says, "When I try to please people in all things, my motivation is this – that they should be saved." So, there will all be these questions asked about Paul, "Why did you circumcise Timothy? Why did you shave your hair?" It's different situations. He's with a Jewish crowd. Doing this with the Jewish crowd does not break or add to the law in any way. "But if it will save somebody, I will go to the extent of saving somebody." So, you look at this man's action, all his actions, whether he was with the Jews or with the Gentiles, he is motivated not to please them but to please them to save them. That's what God is looking at because when you are pleasing somebody to save them, you are actually trying to please God. And not yourself. And then, you realize – your ears open and your eyes see.

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In *Romans 15:1-3*,

**Romans 15:1-3**

**<sup>1</sup> We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please Himself...**

Are we getting the picture? So many people have sit there and have sat here in the Church for years together and actually have got nothing. It's because there's an issue with the heart and not with the ears and the eyes are perfect. You don't have glasses. Ears are very good. No wax. But the problem is with the heart. The heart is calloused. The heart is always hearing the Word with the attitude, "What is in there for me?" It is self first. And the Word falls to the ground. It's not that the Word has no effect or power or that God has changed; the Word has changed; the Spirit has changed but we are pleasers of self or we are pleasers of people at the cost of pleasing God. And God puts the order very clear. This is how it happens. That's why there are patterns in the Bible. There are patterns, very clear patterns in the Bible. If you look at the patterns in the Bible because we have so many parents with little children, small children. Now, because you are all believing families, believing fathers, believing mothers, children who will believe one day (they are not believing yet because they are small babies and all), let me tell you – you cannot expect B without A. Before B, A comes and you cannot expect C without B. There's an order God has placed. God has placed an order. You will see that order in Joseph's life. You will see that order in Samuel's life. When these little children are born, primarily, they have two figures in their lives – that is their father and their mother. All they have to be taught is to please the father and the mother and nobody else. They have to be taught to please them. They don't know God. But you represent God to them. Now, you can represent a terrible image to God if you are not under God's order. That is the issue. And it always begins with the man. It doesn't begin with the woman. It begins with the man. Remember – if you think you are the head, then, the onus is upon you. Scripture is very clear to the father, to the husband – the head of man is Christ. The head of Christ is God. So, as Christ's head was God, all He tried to do was please His head. And because His head is the righteous holy head, all the ways He is trying to please His head is holy and righteous. And His ears are always open and He hears. So, here is a man, let us say, a married man; here is a man, his head is Christ and that man should always try to understand and find out constantly on how to please Christ because Christ is his head. That's the order. Nowhere in the Bible does Scripture say – the head of woman is God. Nowhere. It doesn't say. It says, "The head of woman is man." When that happens in the home – man who pleases God, woman who pleases her husband and the child is trying to please both, then when the time comes, the child has learnt, "There is a righteous couple in my life." He doesn't understand righteousness at all but he is trying to please them and his ways are righteous in God's sight, that little boy at the age of 5 or 6 is taken and put with Eli. All around are crooked priests but Eli, with all said and done, he has a problem with controlling his sons and all; but that man is not an unrighteous man. He's got an eating disorder, probably; but other than that, he's a righteous man. So, all that boy does now is to please Eli. Because that's what he learnt at home. Like I keep telling when I pray with people, I say, "You don't need favour with all men. You usually only need favour with one man." When you go to a particular office, the head who is sitting there, you only need his favour. You don't need the favour of the peon and the LDC and the others; you don't need all that. The manager who is sitting there, only his favour you need. So, you don't need to please everybody. Samuel pleased his father and mother; Samuel pleased Eli. Then, when the time comes and when God speaks to him in the voice of Eli, Scripture says, "Samuel did not know God and he knows God." And after that, all he has to do is please God and all his life, he pleased God. But where did it begin? It began at a godly home. And all of you have this incredible, fantastic start God has given you. You all have married each other and you are all believers and you've got small children. Fantastic. You know what a start you have? Incredible start? With so much knowledge of the Word of God, packed like sardines in your head? Less oil and more sardines. That's if you buy the tinned fish from the Middle East because Olive Oil is more expensive than Sardines. So, they jam the fish in and pour the oil at the top. That's how the GTC, young people have got the Word in their head. Can you imagine what a start you have? He pleased God. Samuel pleased God. And this is our basic struggle. Our basic struggle is – in the *Book of Corinthians*, Paul says, "Where the Spirit is Lord, the Lord is the Spirit, there is liberty." When I explained to slightly intellectual crowds, this is how I say – no religion has come from the West; every religion has come from the East. Whether it is Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism – everything is from the Middle East or East. No religion has come from the West. But every ideology has come from the West. Have you noticed? Every ideology has come from the West. And every ideology that has come from the West is an off-shoot of Christianity. Because at the core of Christianity is this – God has given you liberty. He has come to set the captives free. So, the core part of Christianity is liberty. So, all these human rights watch and all these things are from the west and eastern religions don't like them. Everything connected with liberty but when you take liberty without God, the form changes. Yet, at the core, you are fighting for liberty without God, without His righteousness, without His holiness. So, humanism is the outworking of Christianity without Christ, where man is



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at the centre. Feminism is the fight for liberty of women without Christ at the centre. Socialism and Communism is also the fight for liberty for the poor and the masses without Christ at the centre. Because if Christ is in the centre, you will die for the poor, not kill them if they don't agree with your ideology. I got a D in my dissertation with I wrote the difference between Capitalism and Communism. One is Christ without the Cross and the other is Cross without Christ. And my Communist supervisor was so mad at me. I wrote a thesis why Communism fell in Soviet Russia. At the end of it, if you look at it, every one of these movements, even homosexual theories and transgender movements is – it's all based on liberty without God. And the problem is – everybody has swallowed a little of this pill and the head is the masala, without the liberty which the Holy Spirit brings. If the liberty is what the Holy Spirit brings, it comes by coming under. Jesus was the most free Man who ever walked on earth. No roof above His head, no money in His pocket, no man walked free like that because He was absolutely under God and all He wanted to do was please His Father. Where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty. So, you don't need to please too many people in life. You need to please the people that matter in life and it begins with God. Pleasing God and everything is connected with pleasing. Your prayer life will change.

In *1 John 3:22*,

### **1 John 3:22**

***<sup>22</sup>And whatever we ask we receive from Him, (why?) because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.***

In His entire life of Jesus Christ, God said only once 'no' to His prayer. Every prayer was a yes. Why? Because He said, "I always do things that please Him." Never did God say 'no' to His Son. Never. Whether it was a small thing or a big thing, never. "Because I always do things that please Him." You see, our prayer life will change if the motivation, the reason behind our prayer is also to please God. Look at *1 Kings*. Young man, young Solomon becomes a king.

### **1 Kings 3:8-10**

***<sup>8</sup>And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"***

This God is appearing and telling him, "Blank Cheque. What do you want?" Blank Cheque. God has put His signature. Ask. And this is what he asks.

***<sup>10</sup>The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.***

He was incredibly happy in hearing this young man's prayer. It pleased the Lord. Do you understand how when the core part of our life becomes pleasing God, our eyes change how we look at things; our ears change how we hear things because our heart has changed on how we understand things. Because with the heart, a man believes. And we never thought that with a heart, a man understands. Let me give you it. You have heard it maybe once or twice. All the mission grounds, people have heard it a thousand times – two men, walking down the streets of a huge city. Let's say New York City. And this man, who is a city man and his friend from the mountains. This is the thing. They are walking down the streets. Let us say New York or any city. Massive crowd. Traffic. All kinds of noise. Everything, they are walking in the crowd. Suddenly, the mountain man stops and he says, "I hear the sound of a grasshopper." Praneeth, not cricket; the other cricket. His friend said, "Cricket? Don't you hear all the noises? There can't be any cricket here. There are no grasshoppers over here." He said, "No." He looked and at the window of the shop, a flower pot over there, he looked behind and one of the pots and said, "I told you that there is a cricket over here." So, he asked, "In the midst of all these noise, how did you hear the sound of the cricket?" He said, "I come from the mountain. In the mountain, it is quiet and our ears are tuned to hearing the smallest of sounds. But I will tell you – all these people can hear. The only problem is that people hear with their heart and not with their ears." And what he did was – he put his hand and took a bunch of coins and he just dropped it on the ground. As soon as he dropped, all the crowd stopped and looked. You know why? Because everybody is going with their hearts, "How to make money? Give me, give me, my name is Jimmy." Do you know that we actually hear and understand with our hearts? If your heart is full of troubles, you cannot even hear if God uses a megaphone what He is trying to tell you. That's what He says, "Do not be troubled about tomorrow. Do not worry about tomorrow because if you worry about tomorrow, you will not hear from God on what you need to do today." That's the problem. *Sufficient unto the day are the evils thereof.* Do not worry about tomorrow. And the

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problem is – I don't want to hear about tomorrow. I want to hear about today. Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is, not He was or will be. He is. I want Him today. I don't want Him tomorrow. Tomorrow is another day. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. I need Him today. I need to hear from Him today. Our problem is – our hearts are full of either yesterday's hangover or tomorrow's worry. In between, we forget we are supposed to live today and grace is promised for today. By faith, we have access to this grace to stand now. This is our problem. Our major issue is this. It's because we don't understand that you understand the Word with your heart. In the last wedding, we didn't tell but many weddings, I will tell, "Give your hand to your spouse and your heart only to God." If you love God with all your heart, then there is no space left, unless you have two hearts. Your hand to your spouse – your husband or your wife – walk together; your heart belongs to God because He directs the course of your heart. The Bible doesn't say, "The mind of the king is in the hand of our God." What does it say? The heart of the king. It's not the mind. It's the heart of the king, right? Haman is making everything ready. Gallows are ready. He is drooling, "Tomorrow, he will be hanging over there." That night, the king couldn't sleep. Why? He couldn't sleep. He says, "I'm not able to sleep. Get me something to read." And he is reading the entire portion on how Mordecai has saved the king's life. He says, "Oh, my gosh! This man saved my life! And what was given to him? Nothing? Call, who is there?" "Haman is there." "Come. There is this man whom the king wants to really..." This guy is thinking, "Who can it be other than me?" He's patting himself in the back. He says, "This is what you need to do – put a ring, whatever, necklace around put him on the king's chariot and you go with him." And who is that? "Mordecai." Why? Because the heart of the king is in the hand of our God. Always remember how God looks and you need to realize – where is my heart? Is it with God?

In *Romans 12:1-2*, Scripture says,

### **Romans 12:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.***

He says, "Offer it to God. Surrender it to God."

***<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

You really want to please God? If that is your attitude, He said, "You will know the will of God." We want to know without surrender. In *2 Timothy*, the same Paul will tell young Timothy,

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

***<sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.***

He said, "God enlisted you into His company." Do you know who your CEO is? Do you know who your commanding officer is? You don't get entangled in civilian affairs, in the affairs of this world because all you want to do is to please Him. The question is: your prior life changes when you want to please Him, your walk changes because you want to please Him, your consecration changes if you want to please Him. Look at *Amos 3:3*.

### **Amos 3:3**

***Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?***

No! They cannot. All the struggles couples face is with 'agreement'. Though they made an agreement here or wherever the wedding was, when the walk begins, they realize they don't agree with lot of things. So, power play begins.

"I am the head; agree with me."

"I am the neck, turn with me."

God understands; He says, *can two walk together unless they are agreed?* So God says the only way two can walk together is by agreeing on a set of principles or rules and this (Bible) is it. *For this purpose man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh.* It is not 'which one'; they shall become 'one'. That doesn't mean when you fight, you should be fighting, "It is written!" No! Then suddenly the wife will say, "It is also written!" No! *Can two walk together unless they are agreed?*

Please God!

**Genesis 5:24**

***<sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.***

When you put it all together, it is incredible, right? He walked with God, he walked with God and he walked with God and then two have become one and God said, "Come! Now if I leave you here, you will be absolutely lonely. You will have nobody to walk with. You have become one with Me. We have become one." And God took him. Do you know what *Hebrews 11:5* says?

**Hebrews 11:5**

***<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.***

What is his testimony? *He pleased God*. What is our testimony? This is Jesus' testimony: "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. This is My servant in whom I am well pleased.*" He had this testimony. 300 years of walk for Enoch! What a testimony! That was his testimony that he pleased God.

Then to all my dear brethren, who came late to service, *Hebrews 13:15*, you could not offer it (sacrifice of praise) because—

**Hebrews 13:15**

***<sup>15</sup> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.***

There is this thing called 'sacrifice of praise' and the problem is we are willing to praise without sacrifice. "How do I wake up my 3 years old child in the morning?" Sacrifice! Who sacrifices? Not the child, but you; meaning – you go to bed early on Saturday instead of watching TV. Don't blame the child. Preparation for Sunday begins on Saturday. The child has to know. When child sees you excited about the next day to go the house of God and worship, the child will also one day say, "*I was very glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of God.*" Otherwise when the child grows up, he will say, "I was sad. I was very sad when they said to me to go to the house of God." Who taught me? Daddy taught me; mommy taught me. There is sacrifice in praise. If there is no sacrifice, there is no praise; it is 'cheap' praise like you hear 'cheap' grace. 'Very cheap' praise! But there is sacrifice over there. But you can only offer that sacrifice if you want to please God. In *Psalms 69:30-31*, this is what Scripture says—

**Psalms 69:30-31**

***<sup>30</sup> I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. <sup>31</sup> This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bull, Which has horns and hooves.***

Let's put it in today's context. Let's say, you weren't in there for the worship at all. That's your practice. But you put it 20,000 in the offering bag (let's make it relevant to our times). God says, "I am not pleased with your offering." Pastor is, God is not! Pastor doesn't know who put it. God says, "I am not pleased with your ox or your bull." Why? Because there was no sacrifice in your praise. This is our issue. At the centre, at the core of your being, it has to be this- Lord, I want to please You. Like I keep telling, can you play to the audience of one? I really want to watch that match in Italy where they played without the audience, simply to see how did they play because the players get pumped up when there is a crowd. Pastor Vijay is lucky because he followed after me. I have preached to one person with the same passion Sunday after Sunday before the Church started filling up (not here, in other places). One person! Audience of one! I sat with them, spoke to them and prayed with them and cried with them because that one person came to Church because he was HIV positive. That was the only reason he came and got saved. He gave to his wife also. Does our Word change? Do you think Jesus preached differently to the crowd, differently to Nicodemus and differently to Samaritan woman? No! He was pleasing His Father. Young people, get it right. You want to please your God; you are not trying to please anybody else. It pleases God, everything that we do.

**John 15:8**

***<sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.***

**Please God!**

Let us put there, 'pleased'. 'Glorified' is 'pleased'. The fruit has two things. One is your character being constantly changed in the image of God. That is why it is called 'the fruit' of the Holy Spirit and not 'the fruits' of Holy Spirit. You are more loving, more kind, more patient, more peaceful- all that is happening in your life and Father is very pleased. The other thing has got to do with your work (how you work), whether you are a student or a worker or an employee or a housewife, it doesn't matter; everybody works otherwise don't eat. It's because that is Scripture. Work!

**1 Corinthians 15:9-10**

***<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.***

He comes into ministry with a baggage. But he didn't allow the baggage to stop him.

***<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

Paul is talking about the way he worked in his mission. He says, I worked more than all the apostles put together though I am the least. It did not affect my work. I used grace to the maximum. What is Paul's only one intention? I want to please the one who enlisted me into that army. I want to please my God.

Do you know the unbelievable, the unthinkable is happening in US? There is panic in every rank. Will Bernie Sanders win the election and become the next president of United States? So the title (slogan) is- 'feel the burn- will Bernie win?' How can 35-40% of American citizens actually opt for Bernie Sanders when he is avowed socialist and communist? It's because a generation has grown up, who don't like working and they want things free. What is he talking about? Free health care! All your tuitions will be waved off. Free! Their forefathers made America great because they were the hard working set of people. Their children have come up who are lazy. Can you believe it?

Remember what Jesus said, "My Father and I are at work from the beginning and are still at work." God is a worker. The Kingdom is full of workers. We need to realize- do we work in a way that pleases God? You don't have to look at your employer. We all have only one employer. We all have one employer and the same employer, whether you are a student or working in a private company or a public sector or the government; we have only one employer. "Well done, My good and faithful servant!" "Oh! So You were my employer!" Do you know that all of us have only one employer? Whether I or Pastor Vijay or Brother Cyril or Pastor Dhanu, we are in full-time ministry and you think your employer is different? Everybody has the same employer. I show you certain nuggets from the Bible. Matter of fact statements from Jacob!

**Genesis 30:29**

***<sup>29</sup> So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.***

He is telling his employer who happens to be his father-in-law. "You can count your livestock; have you lost anything? You know how I have served you." Do you know how he served him?

**Genesis 31:6**

***<sup>6</sup> And you know that with all my might I have served your father.***

All my might! Can we say that about God? "I have served You, Lord with all my might." What about I am called to do?

Look at *Genesis 31:40-41*. How did he serve?

**Genesis 31:40-41**

***<sup>40</sup> There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes. <sup>41</sup> Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters,***

What was my salary? Nothing! What did I get? Your two daughters! How many years did I serve? Fouteen years! How did I serve?

Please God!

**Genesis 31:40**

***...In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.***

**Genesis 31:41**

***...I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.***

Though you were an unscrupulous employer, it did not change the way I worked. Sometimes when our employer changes, the way we work changes. Jacob said, "I know you changed my wages ten times. Fourteen years I worked for nothing, just to get your two daughters. Then for six years, you changed my wages ten times; every adjustment was done so I should lose but I gained because of my God. But I did not change the way I worked." Laban could not deny it. This is important to us because the way we work, who are we trying to please? All the students sitting over here and asked prayer for exams, do you have that passion for your studies? Pastor Vijay and I were not believers when we studied but he can quote his engineering subjects and I can quote Shakespeare because we were passionate about our studies. The same passion we still give to the Word, actually more. Because if we are preachers, we should still be passionate about our studies. The employer hasn't changed. That's why the Bible says, *whatever you do, do it with all your might unto the Lord* and He is pleased.

It is John Piper who said, one of the greatest uses of Twitter and Facebook (and WhatsApp and everything else), will be to prove on the last day, that is the day of judgment that our prayerlessness was not because of the lack of time. That's what I said the first thing when I started the message. The first thing that my phone will tell you is that your screen time was very less this week and I say, "Hallelujah!" On the day of judgment, that is why it is written, *the books will be opened*. You will say, "I didn't have time to pray." You have an apple phone, right? 2019, times spent on phone was 350 hours. You didn't have time? Facebook- 60 hours, WhatsApp? God will say, "what's up with you?" You don't realize who our employer is; who we are trying to please. You start that way in your life as a child. You got an incredible start, young parents sitting over there with your children- they are set for life. I want to please God. Jacob will say in *Genesis 30:29*.

**Genesis 30:29**

***<sup>29</sup> So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.***

Did you lose anything? How are they with you?

**Genesis 31:38**

***<sup>38</sup> These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock.***

They didn't miscarry meaning I was very gentle with them how I laid them. It didn't matter to me that they belonged to somebody else and this was not going to profit me. When my duty was given, I was so careful about how I handle stuff. Are you good with other people's stuff? Simple question! Or when you leave, you leave a trail of destruction? How do you handle? We are all stewards. *The earth and its fullness belongs to God*. We don't realize 'take charge of ten cities' has got to do with how we handle little things here. He says, your ewes, none of them miscarried. I was not in a hurry. I was pushing pregnant little sheep? No! I didn't. I was very gentle. For 20 years, not one of your ewes miscarried because I was gentle with them. How are we good with property? How good are we? Simple questions!

One of the things, which I tell young people every time I go to Bhutan. Do you see what he is saying? Do you know how old this trouser is? Fifteen years! Why? Because I hand-wash it myself every time. One thing- I don't put on weight. Fifteen years! Do you know what? It lasts. My God doesn't change; my trouser doesn't change. Fashion changes- tight, tighter, tightest! I am talking about men, I am not talking about women. It is an abomination when men walk around with these tights because you do not recognize that behind that fashion is homosexual lobby who is trying to make transgenders out of you. I will not wear it. Behind everything that's happening in the marketplace, there is an agenda and there is an ideology. Something which my father told me, "Son, stick to that. That will be always the norm. Straight! Stick to that." You think anything is untouched by ideology? No! Everything is touched! That's what he is saying.

**Genesis 31:39**

Please God!

<sup>39</sup> *That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it...*

Do you replace? I am asking you people because very few of us own our own houses, we all live in rented houses and when we move out, how do we move out? Do you replace? Look at this man. You see this integrity of Jacob. Jacob was false about stealing blessings and all but he was a man of integrity when it came to work and that same integrity passed on to Joseph. That's why Joseph rose up because he saw his father. The integrity was passed on to that son, the other ten did not learn. But one learned and every place Joseph is, one of the things his masters will talk about is the way he works. You know why? Because that's the way his father worked. Both the father and the son worked for no wages.

**Genesis 31:39**

*...I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.*

I gave it to you. That's what I said, when you read Scripture, there are things hidden, which we learn. "Lord, I want to learn. Make an Israel out of me, Lord." That is stewardship.

**Genesis 30:30**

<sup>30</sup> *For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the Lord has blessed you since my coming...*

He says, "Laban, do you remember when I came to your house? When I came to your house, I came to a well and your daughter was a shepherd. She did not even have people to lift the well's cover. I brought prosperity to your company because of the way I worked." God has put us in secular places. When you leave, your company should say, you were a blessing. That's what he is talking about.

*...And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"*

That's what Potiphar (I don't know 2 months, 3 months, 4 months or 6 months) realized, "Put him in-charge of everything. This man- God is with him." Why? He was working unto God. Joseph! See we can learn from all these greats. Like I said, this is called 'work ethics'. Our work, our worship, our walk- all should please God. Because at the center of it is- "I want to please God." That's how *Hebrews 11* begins. *By faith, Abel-* his worship pleased God. *Enoch walked with God-* his walk pleased God. Third comes Noah- his work pleased God. Our worship, our walk, our work! Change the entire focus of your life starting today. It's a good day- March 1, Sunday, third month. Jesus finished all his work in 3 days. This is the beginning of the third month, first Sunday. Say, "Lord, change my heart. I want understanding heart and I want to please You. I am not looking at who is watching me. I am not looking at what is it in for me. I am not looking at who my employer is. I am not looking at any of those things. I am looking at who You are." It is one thing to say- 'God is good all the time'. If He is good all the time, can't we serve Him all the time? Because He is good! God is good all the time! This was the testimony of Jesus Christ when He walked on earth.

**John 8:29**

<sup>29</sup> *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

Because the Son did everything to please the Father, do know you what the Father did?

**Colossians 1:19**

<sup>19</sup> *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,*

You put that together. What an incredible statement! The Son is doing everything only to please God and the Father said, "Because You are pleasing Me in everything, I want My fullness to dwell in You." Do you what John will say? *He was filled without measure.* The Holy Spirit could fully indwell in Him. You see how the trinity worked? The Son is trying to please the Father, the Father is pleased with the Son and the Spirit fills Him. All got to do with pleasing! Do you know why we reached here? Because it all begins with hearing and understanding! No one actually, when it comes to the Kingdom of God and the Word of God, understands with his or her mind. You understand with your heart. God can close your mind and He can close your eyes. On the road to Emmaus, He closed their eyes so that they could not perceive Him. Though He was with them and

## **Please God!**

He talked to them and He talked Scripture to them, they could not recognize Him because He closed their eyes. After the resurrection, Scripture says, He opened their understanding so that they could understand Scripture. So please don't ever think that you and I, with our power of intelligence and our wisdom (our eyes and ears) will ever understand God. No! It's with our heart! God looks for somebody whose heart is stayed on him.

So, this morning, as we come to the Communion table, first thing we surrender is our heart. As we go to the table, we surrender is heart because He gave us His heart. Jesus was His heart. He gave us His heart- His everything. Unlike you and me, God had only one Son. That was His heart; the cynosure of His eyes, the fullness of His joy, the apple of His eye- one Son! He gave His one Son to us. All He is saying is- "as a reasonable act of worship, will you give Me your heart today?"

Shall we pray?

### **Communion Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just come to You. We just want to surrender above all our heart to You, Lord. Even if we give You everything else but keep our heart away from You, we have actually given You nothing. So, this morning, even before we come to the partaking of the bread and the wine, we want to give You our heart. You said, where our heart is, there our treasure is. We want to signify You today, You are our treasure. Touch Your people today, Lord, every one of us. Cleanse our heart, sanctify our heart and receive our heart that we may love You with all our heart, Lord. As we partake, Father, the emblems- the body and the blood of Your Son, I pray it will bring healing and wholeness in each one's life. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

I want to encourage you that if you truly, truly surrender your heart to Jesus and you want to please Him, you will read and you will hear the Word of God with different eyes. There's a famous fable of Aesop. Father and the son were going with a donkey to the market. All 3 were walking. Some people on the road said, "Why is this donkey walking? Why don't one of you sit on it?" So, they put the boy on the donkey. Little further, another group of people said, "Aren't you ashamed boy? Your father is walking." So, the boy got down and the father got on. A little later, somebody else said, "Aren't you ashamed old man? The boy is walking and you are sitting on the donkey." So, the father took the boy and both of them are sitting on the donkey. A little further, another group of women said, "Aren't you ashamed, you two people that the poor donkey is carrying you?" So, the father and the son got down and they did not know what to do. So, they finally took a pole, tied the donkey and they started going to the market, now, carrying the donkey. And when it came to the bridge, the donkey managed to kick, fall across the bridge and he died. And the old wise man who was following them said, "This is what happens to people who try to please everybody." Honestly, I'm telling you – if you try to please God and put that up there, first in your life... see, this is what it all means – *seek ye first the Kingdom of God. Love God with all your heart.* All that, you will read the Bible differently. Turn with me to *1 Thessalonians 4:1-2*, but this is the Bible, the whole account for believers.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;***

The instructions in the entire Bible is about how to please God, one Person that really ultimately matters.

***<sup>2</sup> for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.***

You see, if your motive is to please God, the Bible takes a new light because faith has two parts. Both are important to us. Faith has two parts. One is that we receive by faith. By faith, we receive from God. People receive their healing, their deliverance, your blessings, your promotions. You name it, claim it. It's okay. You receive it by faith. That's one side. There is another side of faith, the second side of faith which we don't realize – for disciples, which is more important. It is by what you give back to God. That's what the Bible says – *it's more blessed to give than to receive.* That's one thing. The crowd followed Jesus and they received much. The disciples left everything and followed Jesus and they said, "We left everything to follow You," and Jesus said, "You have no clue what your reward is. Not only in this life but in the life to come." Both is faith.

And today, we are looking, primarily, at the second part about giving to God. "Lord, I want to please You with my life." And I'm telling you – there are a lot of stuff that people are saying, it is written over there, "Oh, it's very difficult." See, it was not

## **Please God!**

written for you; it was written for those who want to please God. I'll give you an example, *1 Corinthians 7:32*. It's not written to everybody but you, unfortunately, happened to read it. It's written for those who want to please God.

### **1 Corinthians 7:32**

<sup>32</sup> ***But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord.***

He says, "I'm writing to you, those who are unmarried, you should remain unmarried if you want to please the Lord." The fellow who wants to get married, reads this and says, "Now, what do I do? This is Scripture." This is not written for you. This is written to those who want to please God and Paul was such a man. He says, "I wish everybody was like me." Because that man had only one thing in his mind, in his heart – "I want to please Him." So, there are a lot of things in the Bible which will not make any sense. What is God doing? "Do you really want to please Me? Will you please Me with everything?" That's what Scripture says – God tested Abraham, "Take your son, your only son and offer him as a sacrifice." Scripture says, "Early, next day morning..." Reach that point. It's a journey. We have to start this journey. When you factor your life that way. It's like playing to the audience of one. I believe, every time Paul opened his mouth and preached, he was preaching to one. To that one Man, he was preaching – to God. He was not preaching first to God; he was preaching first to God, to please God. And that's what Joseph was doing – pleasing God in his work. That's what Jacob was doing – pleasing God though he had a really unscrupulous employer. And all of us are employees. I have cameras. Some of you, I can watch. But we don't need cameras. There's no camera in my house, in my office. 8 o' clock, I'm there. No camera. 9 o' clock in the night, I go back. No camera. And I think, for the past 4 years, I haven't taken a pi from the Church. Not a pi from the Church. And I enjoy my ministry today more than any time in my life. It's as simple as that. You can serve an earthly employer and be frustrated. You cannot serve this Heavenly employer and be miserable in your work. I am sure Joseph was singing in Potiphar's house. That's how they knew he was Hebrew. He sang in Hebrew. "El Shaddai!" I don't know what he sang. He sang and nobody could believe that this was a rich man's son – a slave. He sang in prison. Paul and Silas sang in prison. Think about it. All of you, is there anybody who doesn't have trouble in life? Everybody has. Do you see who is at the top? The top chain, who is at the top? See life that way. Shall we stand? Shall we sing?

**Closing Song:** *How Great is Our God!*

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just come to You, Lord – first day, first Sunday of the third month, I pray, today, many lives will take a different direction, Lord. A different direction to please You. Not to please self. Let our lives be about You, Lord. I pray, Lord, all we can do is surrender but grace comes from You, the power to obey comes from You. In us, we do not have it. All we can do is bend our knee. The hand that lifts up is Yours. This morning, Father, we just want to give You our hearts. We may have given our time, our offerings, our attention but now, Lord, we want to give You our hearts. We want to please You, Lord, with our lives. When we hear the Word, when we read the Word, give us an understanding heart. I pray none of us here standing or those who listen online – hearts will become dull of hearing, hearts will become callous. Keep our hearts always sensitive to You, Lord, to the voice of Your Holy Spirit, to the nudgings of the Spirit and be sensitive when we hear Your Word because Your Word, then, becomes life. Commit the Church into Thy hands as we start another month – 31 days, go with us. go before us. Each one. We need You, Lord. We are weak but You are strong. We need Your strength. As a Church, we need Your strength. This country needs You. It is blinded in anger and hatred. Blinded. This country needs You like never before. Before that venom spreads, we need that divine intervention; a divine intervention, Lord. The world needs You, to know there is only one who can heal the body, the soul and the spirit – only Jesus. Every virus will bend its knee before that Name. No one in any part of the world without hearing and knowing You, Lord. There's an urgency in the air today, Lord, with pestilence sweeping the globe and famine because of locusts sweeping nations. People dying. They need to know. They need to know You, Lord. I pray, Father, how can they hear unless someone preaches? And how can someone preach unless they are sent? You said that the harvest is ripe but the labourers are few and I pray every man, woman and child standing in this house will be a labourer in the work place of the Kingdom that their life itself will be a testimony of the salvation of the Lord and they will not be ashamed of Jesus. Open doors for everyone, Lord, that they may witness Christ and show us each day how we may please You in little things and in the big things. Lord, we want to please You. We want to walk by faith. We want to live by faith. Let our hearing ever grow. Thank You, Father. By faith, we lift up holy hands. We bless Your holy Name. We open our lips and we proclaim – Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Thank You, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction:**



**Please God!**

*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.*