

WILL I BE COUNTED AMONG THE FAITHFUL?

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Shall we look to the Lord!

Father, we can laugh because You are there; in the worst of time and best of time God is in control; He is sovereign over every detail, every situation you and I will go through. You are in control, Lord. Therefore, we sing; therefore, we laugh; therefore, we glorify You, Lord. Even our laughter is a tribute to Your sovereignty, Father. We just want to thank You, we just want to praise You Lord. As we come to the ministry of Your Word, we exalt Your Word for You have magnified Your Word above all Your name and we too want to magnify You, Lord, by giving You our undivided attention. That's how we can show reverence to Your Word today, Lord. I pray, You help the young and the old, especially who had a late-night last night, I pray You will quicken their mortal bodies, their inner man, that they will be able to sit without falling asleep and everyone I speak Your peace and Your rest that their thoughts won't wander; anxieties won't take hold of their heart and mind but they will be able to receive from You what You have set for us today, Lord. We are coming to Your table; the table which You prepared for us, to eat of it. Speak Father. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

So, we continue—please remember, I am not asking you that question to put up your hand because if I ask you that question, it will be terrible. I don't see notebooks and pens, has government banned books and pens? That is in mainline churches where they keep the book, so they say: don't touch it. But you are bringing books from your home, right? So, you can touch it, no problem. Bring your notebooks and we have even kept some diaries downstairs, if you don't have, you can pick one and a pen coz you need to write notes. If I were to ask you, how many of you actually listened to those two messages you heard in English through the week—I probably would be shocked how many did not hear. That's why I am not asking you to show your hands. That's just 4 hours of six days:144 hours God gives us in six days and He is only asking for 4 hours of attention, the 140 is yours. That's how we have to look at it, because you have to go little Ps. Vijay's mathematical way to get perspective, okay. (I am also not that bad in math, okay. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and there I stop, rest you can learn from him: calculus, trigonometry, algebra, all is his; these four I can handle).

So, 144 hours God gave you in 6 days and 4 hours is the message, and if you are not so great in English, you have two hours of Telugu. Remember, all these things will count on that day. The day of evil doesn't come in one day, it creeps upon us, then suddenly you realize the hour has come for you to make your decision, then you will realize: 'I didn't use those good times to prepare my spirit with the Word of God.' God never allows evil to come upon His children unawares; He prepares us over a time by feeding us with His Word, His Word, His Word, because His Word is Spirit and life, that is from where we get strength and as we react and live according to the Word, we see that the inner man is being built up and when the day of evil comes, we are able to look evil in the eye and not fall, and not falter.

So, please remember, that's why we keep so much time to the ministry of the Word of God so that people—God's children, you will realize you have no clue what's happening even in this nation: laws are being changed overnight. If you notice politics in these last days; except for U.S, that's why the battle is going in U.S; in every nation which matters, if you have notice, there is no opposition in India, there is no opposition in China, there is no opposition in Russia, there is no opposition practically anywhere in Europe and there is the opposition and the ruling and the opposition parties are fighting it out for in U.S. When there is no opposition, you need to realize we are looking at trouble because there is no voice to stop the tide of evil and laws are being changed. Even last week, laws are changing and you don't know some of the laws that were passed last week affects each one of us directly as believers. God said this will happen. Our job is not to change the laws but to prepare God's people with the Word of God so that when it comes and hits us personally, we know how to stand and we don't deny our Lord because that's what happens when persecution comes. If you look at the record of the persecuted nations, the fact is, most people fell away; every nation, only a remnant came through, okay. So, God prepares and that's the ultimate test of our faith and we are in those days.

Let's go to *1 Kings 18*, because we are focusing on that incredible revival, that final kind of revival that God does with the whole nation where a nation turns back to God.

1 Kings 18:30-33

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. ³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." ³² Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

We are looking at that one word over there that God wants order, that's what we are looking at. There is order, you can't hurry God, you can't say, "Lord, why don't You work in me?" He says, "Because there is no order in your life," and much of the past five-ten years of a child's life; the whole job God gives the parents and the educational institution is to bring that order, that discipline in. So, we are looking at—we looked at the altar, the uncut stone. So, please remember, we need order, divine order—we are not talking about man's order, we are talking about God's order, how important it is to have. When eternity begins, when you are talking about the new Jerusalem, the new heavens, new earth; you will see, everything is absolutely in order and one of the first things, like I said last week, God says, "All of creation displays its glory," it's the order you see in creation except the one set of creation, that is human being, who have been given the freedom to choose, therefore, there is disorder. Everything else there is order and if there is disorder in the lives of animals, we created it there; they didn't choose it, we created disorder in their lives. You know, I was telling on Thursday—on January 1st 2021, you can exactly tell what time the sun will rise and what time the sun will set because it's order but can you tell what time you will wake up tomorrow? That's a miracle, the other is order.

So, Kingdom of God operates on order and we need to understand and work on these things, "Lord, I don't have much time left, help me!" and God is for you. When you hear tough messages, don't get worried or depressed, "Oh, Lord!" God is for you. He gave His Son, He gave His Spirit, He gave His Word; He is for you. Whenever you are—your face is turned towards Jerusalem for something that is important in God's Kingdom, please remember, God is for you all the way, okay. So, you need order but if you have to have order, you need rules; that's why these two terms come together: law and order. Law and order lead to peace, peace leads to an environment that everybody can work properly and the end result of it is prosperity. You cannot take any one of it out. You have law; you have order; you have peace; you have prosperity; and everybody wants success and prosperity; there is nobody who doesn't want and when we are talking about success and prosperity, we are not talking about a temporal success or prosperity, we are talking about eternal success and prosperity forever and ever, and no successful man living on earth can say, "I am eternally successful," only God decides that. We are not running after that is something temporary, we are running after something that is eternal and when it comes to that at a personal level: order-law, order-peace, and success, your background doesn't matter. In the world your background matters, in the Kingdom of God, it doesn't matter, it's irrelevant.

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. God has chosen the foolish things; He didn't call the fools but the ones which the world considered fools—He called them; that doesn't mean they are fools. He is not calling all the fools but the world considers them fools.

²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

So, your background doesn't matter. The world may consider you a weak thing, an ignoble thing, a weak thing, a poor thing, "Doesn't matter," God says, doesn't matter at all. So, your background doesn't matter because in the world your background matters, right? You try, they will say: we want to see your resume. God says, "I don't want your resume, I already know it and I called you despite your resume," so your background doesn't matter.

More than that, when you come to Christ Jesus, in *2 Corinthians 5:17*, the Bible says,

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

You have been given an absolutely, totally fresh start. All your goof-ups of yesterday, everything is wiped away clean; you are given an absolutely brand-new start. Not only that, *Hebrews 4:16* says,

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ ***Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

Every day, you are given a fresh start. Now, where in the world will you get?! Tell me one company who will give you these three? No company. Most parents won't give their children this start, but God does, God does. So, please understand the principles of the Kingdom are eternal and what we are looking at is not just temporal success; what we are looking at is eternal success. Even to the most goofed up church in the book of Revelation; *Revelation 3:21*, most goofed up church—this is what God says,

Revelation 3:21

²¹ ***To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.***

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,” now which king will allow somebody to sit on his throne? Somebody is goofed-up so completely that God is about to spit him out of His mouth, He says, “If you repent and turn back, understand the principles of My Kingdom and finish as an overcomer, you will reign with Me.” It's not for a day or two, it's for eternity.

Revelation 21:7, in the new beginning God says,

Revelation 21:7

⁷ ***He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.***

All are sons who reach there, but all are not this son; those are the overcoming sons. So we are running for something—we are not looking at the loss in this world, we are running for something that is permanent, eternal, permanent. “I want to be an overcoming son or daughter who will inherit all and I will reign with my Father.” Remember, when we started many weeks ago, during the lockdown period when we were not gathering here; in *Luke 19*, Jesus uses a parable about a rich man calling ten servants and giving them all 10 rupees each or 1 minas each—today myna is a bird, so I don't want to give you a myna, you may eat it—so, *Luke 19:13*,

Luke 19:13

¹³ ***And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.***

So, He has given all of us something and say, “Occupy. What part of My Kingdom I am entrusting into your hands, you kabja karo! (Occupy and take over) Jab tak mai wapas nai ata, kabja karo! (Take over until I return) Occupy it, hold it.” Much things are held for the Kingdom of God in the prayer closet than people ever know of. “Hold it till I come, occupy it till I come,” and then when He comes, there is a judgement and there is a judgement about the one who took one and gave the master ten back. This is what he says, “Well done, my good servant because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.” What was he faithful about? One mina. What did he get? 10 minas? no! 100 minas? no! Authority to reign over ten cities, not one city.

Please understand what we are running for and what we stand to lose in eternity if we do not understand the principle. That's why, if the devil cannot stop you from being saved, he will do everything to see you end there as a loser coz that gives him a perverse joy, okay. Therefore, *Matthew 6:33* is a general command.

Matthew 6:33

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

And in the Kingdom of God, you need to realize, there is order. So we go and look, “Lord, what is the order in Your Kingdom? What is that You want me to do? How do You want me to do things? What are the things that are important in Your Kingdom? Please Lord, teach me!” Once we start working on it, we understand the rules that bring order and when that starts reflecting in our lives, what actually happen is—we start reflecting the character of our King, because the law of the Kingdom of God is the character of God. Every law in the Kingdom is based on God's character.

Ultimately, there will be two judgements in eternity: those who refuse to come into God's order—the very work of salvation is to reconcile creation back to God's original order—so there is a judgement, all those who did not come to that order, who did not accept the call of salvation, He will reject them, and those who were reconciled with God will

receive their reward. All those who could be saved to the uttermost gets rewards unbelievable, okay, because Jesus is the greatest motivator, not your team leader, Jesus is the greatest team leader ever. You have to read the seven letters to the seven churches; you have to see what He promises to the overcomer. He doesn't say, "Sabash beta! (Good job son!)" and go; He says, you know what, you have no clue what is waiting for you if you finish this race. And since most of you are young, many of you who are listening are also young, that doesn't mean old people cannot run, you may use a walker but you may run the race, okay. Even when you are using a walker, when it comes to the Kingdom of God, spiritual things, you can run your race. So, it doesn't matter whether you are young or old, but since most of you are young, it's better that you have order when you are young so that you won't struggle and waste your time when you are older to get order. When you are older, you should be serving God with all your heart but many old people are struggling to get order first.

Psalm 119:133

¹³³ Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

How does a person in Christ get order in his life? In His Word. His Word is the Law—when I am talking about the Law, don't think about the Mosaic law; think of it as rules, you need rules to function anything; otherwise, can we have church? No. That's why Paul says, "Let everything in church be done in order." So, if you have order, you can have service. Now, when the sound system was giving us a little trouble, that sound system was going out of order and immediately, it affected all of us. If one of the musicians who are singing in the worship team goes out of harmony; the worship goes out of order and everybody gets affected. So, you need to realize order, even your small toe—you drop a hammer on it, suddenly your body goes out of order and the toe which was neglected all these days suddenly comes into your consciousness because something fell on it and the entire body is recalibrating to adjust to it, you are walking in a new way. I am just telling you how much order is important in life. So, what do you do? "*Order my steps in Thy Word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me,*" if I do not have order in my life according to the Word of God, then the enemy will start having dominion over me; ultimately, I could become a reprobate, may lost my salvation too or lose my crown. Let's go to *1 John 2:12-14*,

1 John 2:12-14

¹² I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.

3 categories of people in the Kingdom of God: the child, the young man and the father; it has got nothing do with your age. You can be 90 years old and be a child; you can be 18 years old and be a young man; it has got nothing to do with your age, but first category is children. The most important thing about a child is; the child has to become a young man or a young woman. How does a child in the Kingdom of God become a young man or woman? The thing is that, the Word of God abides in him or her; abides, lives and therefore, he or she has overcome the wicked ones, that's how a child becomes a young man. The Word of God is your weapon; that's your armor; that's your food; that's your life, it abides in you now. You have learned how to use it; you have learned how to live in it and to live according to it. Therefore, what happens? You are able to defeat the evil one—the thief, who comes to steal, to kill, to destroy, the Word of God— '*order my steps according to Your Word*' and who are the young man? Who are the children who became young man? You could become, in 10 years, 11 years, like Samuel; he is a child but he is the only young man there in the house of God. Why? Because the Word of God is living in him. Please remember, this is important, most important thing. If you turn to *Jeremiah 29:11*, everybody loves that verse and nurses that verse.

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

This is God's promise for everybody, every child of God. As a Father, God doesn't have bad plans for any child, He has only good plans for every child. Are you getting it? Every child, God has only a good end; eternally, absolutely good purpose He has, but the problem is this: you and I can have a divine purpose, a divine promise and a divine dream from God, yet, it may never come to pass or fulfilled or reach this logical conclusion because we did not allow God's order to come into our lives. In *Psalm 105:17-19*,

Psalm 105:17-19

¹⁷ He sent a man before them— Joseph—who was sold as a slave. ¹⁸ They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. ¹⁹ Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.

What is being tested? It's word. He's being given a dream; that's the word God gave him—a promise, if you call it in today's term—he is being given a promise, a dream and the Word of God is testing him, life is testing him. See, when God gives you a dream or promise, nobody can stop it; it's like trying to stop the wind, it is unstoppable, because it is from God, it's not from you. You can dream dreams and nothing will come to pass but you dream a dream which God has given you, I am telling you—all the powers of darkness cannot stop it. "The elder shall serve the younger," finish, it's over, done: Jacob is chosen, not Esau, it's done and that was done before he came out of the womb, destiny was fixed, that's a promise. Joseph is 11th one, he gets two dreams: "your brothers shall bow before you," it's unstoppable, please understand. But the question is—will that dream reach its logical conclusion? Samson was also given a promise; he was victorious—but, how did he die?

Judges 16:30

³⁰ Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

He died in an act of victory, but he died. You know why he died? Because he did not have God's order in his life. God in His mercy gave him a last taste of victory. In the Old Testament, to die before your time is the worst thing that can happen to a believer because you are not supposed to die before your time; you are supposed to run the full course—New Testament, it is different, okay, Old Testament and New Testament are different.

Genesis 50:22-23

²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. ²³ Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees.

What is he talking about? He finished his entire course: hundred and ten years. Both had promises; both ends were not same. The promises are by the same God, both are called to be overcomers; both did not end the same way. That's why *Psalm 119:133* says, "Lord, order my steps according to Your Word," Samson did not allow it. There has to be an attitude before it can happen, that is 133—read from 127 to 132—the attitude that goes before it.

Psalm 119: 127-132

¹²⁷ I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold! ¹²⁸ Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way. ¹²⁹ Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. ¹³⁰ The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. ¹³¹ I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments. ¹³² Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name.

He loved God's Word and he honored God's name and he says, "Now, order my steps according to Your Word," there is an attitude inside before the Word of God can start—disciplining your life. You cannot come to church and go to sleep and say, "Lord, order my step." When you go to restaurant of your picking and you place your order, you don't sleep, you wait; anticipating what is going to come dressed and put on your table, right? But when they come to church, is there an anticipation? When we read our Word, is there an anticipation? When we listen to a message, is there that kind of zeal for His Word and for His name? Then God will be able to order our step.

So, we are going to learn some fundamental principles—one principle we today will learn of being successful eternally in God's Kingdom and we learn from the best example from the old testament, that is Joseph: 13 chapters in the book of Genesis which has 50 chapters, is dedicated to one man to teach us who are in the new covenant—the lesson, how to begin well, how to finish well and most of you are young, you can start beginning well today. One of the first things which you have to learn in life is this,

Zechariah 4:10

¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the Lord, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

What is the principle? Do not despise the day of small things, small beginnings, don't despise that, don't despise the small things. We overlook the small things, don't despise the small things. Joseph began his life as a shepherd boy—there was a terrible event that took place in his life and he began his life all over again as a slave boy, lowest in the rank, again a drastic terrible thing happens in his life; he begins as a prisoner in a dungeon. These are all small things, we despise those beginnings, God says, "Don't despise," pay attention to those things in your life. Moses started as a prince and goofed-up big time, then God (using your language) rebooted his career as a shepherd in Median, of a flock he didn't own; his father-in-law's flock, restarted him so that he would not despise the small beginnings. David, any day before he would ascend the throne of Israel, began as a shepherd boy.

You know why most people fail though they dream success—I am sure there is nobody sitting here who dreams failure, we dream success. But you know why we often fail? Because we despise the day of small things, we despise the small things in our life, the little things. Turn back to Luke chapter 19:17, the tariff ('praise' in hindi) the master gives, "Shabash! Well done!"

Luke 19:17

¹⁷And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

"because you were faithful in a very little," he wasn't faithful in big things—because he was never given any big responsibility—one mina. What was he told for 12 years? Arrange the chairs. That's what he was told, imagine as an example; all he was told to do was arrange the chairs. He was not told to preach, he was never invited to worship team, he was never called to pray; all he was told was to arrange the chairs. The problem is: The Pastor didn't see, the eldership did not see, the people never knew who it is, but there is somebody who was watching him every week. He was faithful in small things. Did you get it? Faithfulness in small things—you will suddenly realize in eternity will turn out to be a very big thing. This is what the master said, "You were faithful in very small thing." Turn to Luke chapter 16 and verse 10.

Luke 16:10

¹⁰He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

"Least," think about what is least in your life? If you are below 10; that's brushing your teeth, c'mon you have to understand we were all that way when we were children but now, we know our children and then: go brush your teeth...did you? "Yeah, finished." That's the fastest thing that they do in their entire day. So, think about what all responsibility you have and what you consider least among the things that you do in a day. He was faithful in what is the least and you see, the thing is that, when you are being faithful in the little things of life, without realizing, God's Kingdom order is being set into your soul with an iron framework so that one day when the big things come, you are ready. And you are always waiting for the big things, it never comes because we have a Father; we have a God; we have a Master; we have a King; whose eyes are on the detail. He is not mad at us; He loves us but He is a King—please remember this. *Romans 12:3*, and *Galatians 5:22*,

Romans 12:3

³For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Faith is a gift. You are saved by grace through faith and it is not of yourself but it is a gift from God. What is grace and faith? Both are a gift.

Galatians 5:22

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Faithfulness is not a gift; it's a fruit. Just because you have faith to move the mountain doesn't mean you are faithful. Samson had the faith to believe, "I can move these gates from one hill and take it to the next hill," he had the faith to

believe, “I am worn out but with the jawbone of a donkey I can kill the Philistines,” he had the faith to believe but he was not faithful. Faith is a gift. Nobody has ever received it as a gift, it is not a gift; it is a fruit. It happens when you abide in the Word of God; it happens when you allow your steps to be ordered by the Word of God and it takes lot of hard work and perspiration—faithfulness. It begins by practicing in little things as a child. Whether you are a child and have parents and overseers, warden, whatever you want to call it, teacher, whoever is above you—when you are faithful in little the things which even He doesn’t see, but you are faithful in the little things. Or you are a child of God, young child of God, a new believer, whatever your age is; when you are faithful in those little things, you will graduate to being a young man in God and this is daily practice. In Daniel 1 and verse 8,

Daniel 1:8

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

Where did he purposed? In his heart. Nobody saw, God saw. God saw that in an alien culture, when you have been bought here as a slave in the Babylonian culture; this guy is being faithful in a little thing what he has been taught by his parents in his Jewish kosher home: I cannot eat this, I cannot drink this; he is being faithful and people will wonder, “What difference does it make? Who is going to notice? Daddy is not here, Mommy is not here, Rabbi is not here, all the others are standing on the line and eating! I am sure he was not first in the line because he was waiting, because he had to make a decision. Everybody he is looking at—is there any Jew, nobody—everybody is eating and if he eats, nobody would even know, nobody would even blink, that is what you are supposed to do but you realize—this is a very small thing for man but a big thing for God.

Like Armstrong said, “Small step for man; a giant leap for mankind,” when he stepped on moon. The step he took was the same as he took on earth but for mankind it was a giant leap because man had reached the moon after 6000 years of human history. So, in the same way, he did not realize he was doing a small act of faithfulness, it would become the biggest decision he ever made in his life—this is going to define his entire future because he was faithful in a very small thing, very-very small thing.

Because at that first step; often we goof up at these little-little things at the first step. The first step matters; it’s always good to obey, to receive or reject something at the first step; second step, third step, it becomes very difficult. That’s why Abigail has a tough time with Pastor Vijay when it comes to math coz, she has got the answer right but the steps are not right and a good math teacher would say: “I want to see the steps; I don’t want the answer, answer I also know but I want to see your steps. How did you reach this conclusion? I want to see the steps; I want to see whether you have the discipline of order in your life.” We only want an answer, “Give me an answer!” God says, “Where are the steps? Where is the order?”

Proverbs 23:31

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

There are three steps over there—now, this is opaque (e.g., water bottle) but let us think about this: first thing is that; it is red, second thing; the light is shining on it, the third thing; because you pour, it is swirling. Stop at the first step, don’t look at the shine, by then you would have already compromised—by the time you come, it’s swirling, it’s also making motions in your belly and your soul; you have come to step three. Stop it at the first—just an example: we are not talking generally about wine; we are talking about life—stop it at the first step. ‘yes’ or ‘no’—if it’s a commandment of God, don’t go into details. Start obeying the first thing that you know. “No, I need to understand all the three steps then only I will obey,” no! You don’t have to and life usually doesn’t work with parents or with God that way.

Daniel took one good look at the king’s table and then he looked at his heart; the order had been established in his life by the Law of God and he said, “No.” He was faithful in a very-very little thing and he had no clue when he purposed in his heart not to defile; nobody noticed, nobody saw but God’s eyes were fixed on that young teenager and God’s eyes would be fixed on that young teenager for the next 70 to 80 years on that one man. That’s the only eyes—let me tell you children—that matters. Only pair of eyes that matters is God’s eyes on you and was on that young man. Little things!

Genesis 37:2

² ***This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.***

They were doing something stupid, something wrong, something silly which all teenagers do and we excuse it: "Teenagers sab kartehai, jane do," Joseph did not jane do (let go). Whatever it was, he was absolutely faithful, "I will not be a partaker of it and my dad needs to know about it." It was something very small, it's not even mentioned what it is, it doesn't have to be mentioned, "Oh, I have to be faithful with the big things," no! it was something which is very small but it doesn't matter—he was very faithful in something that affected his father and his father's name, something very small. It could put him into trouble, but you know one thing! He would have favor with God. The minute he came and told, "Dada, this is what all the elder brothers are doing. This is not right; your name is being messed up," God's eyes were on this little fellow and 500 years later when Moses writes the history of Israel, he will take the next 13 chapters and put the history of Israel, Jacob into one man's life—***this is the history of Jacob, Joseph being 17 years*** and entire history of Israel is connected with the life of one person because he began his life by being faithful in a very small thing.

Not big things; a very small thing, like any teenager—in the workplace where his father had sent him to take care of sheep, very faithful in a very small thing. And people don't realize, in eternity how big these small things are. Hundred times in these 12 years, I have told people from this church: tomorrow is Sunday, when you come to Church, rest well on Saturday so that you don't sleep, your body is fresh, your mind is good so that you are able to receive what God has—thank God they don't snore: maybe that's why God in His mercy gave mask so that nobody sees you drooling.

It's a very small thing, it doesn't even cross your mind that what Pastor said is true, "I need to," that's a very small instruction; you take that instruction, it will work for you all your life and in every field. So, he would have favor with God and verse 11: his brothers, because they did not like correction and they did not want to learn the lessons of the Word of God which comes through their father's mouth—his brothers envied him. People don't realize, being a jealous person is a judgement. We think everybody is jealous—no, everybody is not jealous. If you are jealous, you are not going to make it to heaven, I am telling you straight away. Some way or the other, you will be tripped and you will go down.

Acts 7:9

⁹ ***And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt.***

You know why people sell others? Because of envy. Here one has favor with God and he will start receiving dreams and visions about his future and the others are handed over to envy. You know why? Because they were not faithful in a very small thing. "*Let not iniquity have dominion over me*"—you know what jealousy is! It is not sin; it's iniquity. For the next years they will be empowered by this iniquity and if Joseph wouldn't have personally intervened in their lives, it would have taken them down, they would have died in that famine.

Matthew 27:18

¹⁸ ***For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.***

Jesus was handed over by the Pharisees and the chief priest because of envy. This is just an aside, be very-very careful, when you are not faithful in little things, what is the other thing that can happen in your life because the hand of protection is going over your life. Let me tell you this thing and get back.

Proverbs 27:4,

⁴ ***Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?***

And who would think jealousy if more dangerous than wrath and anger? Wrath is visible, anger is visible, jealousy is hidden. And God says: you know what is dangerous? A jealous man or a woman is more dangerous than an angry man or a woman. "*Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who can stand before jealousy?*" and jealousy caused them to sell the son of God, who came to redeem them, into the hands of the Romans.

Please be careful. See, in this world little things usually never matter, it is big things that matter but in the Kingdom of God, do not despise the day of small beginnings—learn it over and over and over and over..., to use Pastor Vijay's allegory or example—you can never be anything in math unless you have mastered addition, subtraction,

multiplication and division; forget anything else: these are foundational, these four. You get these four, you can progress. “Oh, I want to do PhD in algebra,” first learn how to count. Fundamental! Forget fractions also—you will not graduate to fractions unless you get these four in order. We despise in this world these small things; people don’t realize how important it is. Don’t look at the wine when it is red; choose to be faithful, don’t look at it, don’t compromise on those little things. First step—be faithful, let the Word of God order your steps in your choices. Don’t let the world define who you are and what you become. You know in eternity, how any millions and millions of man and woman would say, “I wish, I had never looked”—the wine was red. *Genesis 13:12; 33:18,*

Genesis 13:12

¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

You know how it began? One look; he looked—a divided mind. He looks and sees Sodom and the garden of Eden: Ah, Sodom looks like the garden of Eden—divided mind. One look—you know his end! When the wine was red, you should have stopped looking; this is not a place to look, he would destroy his family, his generations, all would go because, as the prime mover of the head of the family, he made one choice, of one look.

Genesis 33:18

¹⁸ Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.

Oh! You are not supposed to stay there, you are supposed to go to Bethel. “No, I like this place, Shechem; all the people, town, I will prosper here,” he pitched his tent looking into that city. The father looked into the city; the daughter went into the city. Next thing you know is, the daughter is gone. And all the days of his life, you will read the entire narrative of Genesis: you don’t hear Dinah being mentioned. One child’s entire life is destroyed because the father looked at the wine when it was red. He was not faithful in the small things. “Oh Shechem,” yes, but you are called to dwell in Bethel, you are supposed to come to the house of God and hear from the Word of God, your altar in Shechem is good but don’t dwell there, go to Bethel, there is a safe place. One look destroyed! Because you were not faithful in those little things and we sometimes compromise on those little things and we are big on big things—everybody is big on big things, right? Now look at the narcotics bureau, NCB, all the actors are going appearing before the questioning, why? They are all taking drugs. Everybody wants fame, right? Everybody wants to be in Hollywood and Bollywood, right? That’s why hairstyle is like this. Everybody standing there being questioned and entire industry is run on money, sex and drugs. Want to be famous?! Why do you even watch their movies? Why do you even watch?

Judges 14:1

¹ Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.

If you read the previous verse, the Spirit of God was moving over him and he went and saw, finished! In 16:21, his end. He was not faithful in a very small thing.

Judges 16:21

²¹ Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

Why? How did he end up in prison?! The most anointed, physically powerful man ever in human history, how did he become a blind grinder in the Philistine prison? Because he was not faithful in a very small thing. He did not allow the Word of God to order his steps. This is not to condemn anyone but to exhort everyone to go back to the fundamentals, the basics, work on it. Can God count on me to be faithful? One day, will God say, “Take charge of one village?” forget 10 cities. Will He find me worthy, faithful enough to take charge of one city? One town? Imagine ending up in eternity with nothing to do, there are no movie theatre too, no Netflix, no Amazon prime, no shopping. What is the only thing that actually God points out? Faithfulness! “Well done my good and faithful servant; you were faithful in very little.” Do you want authority in hHeaven? Establish faithfulness on earth.

1 Corinthians 4:2

² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court.

Heaven is going to be stewardship of God's resources, our Father's house, His entire empire, but you want to be steward, you need be found faithful. Let me ask you this question: so many young people, all the young people who feel young and are young can look at me—right now, many of you have been given—not a room, but a space in a room, right? If you are living in a boarding house kind of setup, if not given a room; you have been given a corner or a space in a room and a few duties, are you faithful? See, your supervisor, whoever it is, in your company or where you stay may miss all these things, God doesn't.

Few duties: Spiritual and otherwise, the simple question is, are you faithful? We do not realize how this plays out in eternity. The guy when he was given one mina, and he knows that his master is a big guy with cities, he is a king—he just gave him a mina and said, "Occupy till I come." He has given me—let us say, 1000 rupees: let me use this 1000 rupees for my master. When he came back, he gave him 10,000 rupees. He took that 10,000 rupees and said, "Take charge of my ten cities," he had no clue what this is! The rewards in eternity—God says, "Do you have any clue?"

1 Samuel 16:11

¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

Where was he? Who wants to keep sheep when the prophet comes home? Faithful in a very small thing.

1 Samuel 17:14-15

¹⁴ David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

See, the three oldest followed Saul but they were never allowed to live in his house, while the youngest was called to live in his house but what does the Bible says?

¹⁵ But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

Who goes from the palace to wilderness to check how his sheep are? The minute you get an appointment in the palace, you have already forgotten your earlier responsibilities. "That is over, I am too good for these things." Do you know when we are elevated in the world, we find ourselves: 'I am too honorable to do these menial things, this is below my dignity—sweeping, moping, swabbing, washing; I need to hire somebody'—if you have no time, hire somebody but you have time fire that person, unless that person needs that job. Think about it.

1 Samuel 17:34-35

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

He is not ashamed of his testimony. Think about it; you are called for a corporate job interview: why do you think you can do this job properly? Because every time my mother told me to clean the kitchen, I have made it spotless and my mother has said, "You do an excellent job," would you be able to say? That's what he is saying. The king is looking for a champion who will fight Goliath; the head of the philistines who is a giant and his testimony is: Daddy used to give me sheep to take care of and whenever wild animals came after the sheep, I went and risked my life and always saved my sheep. If he hadn't said it, nobody would have known it, but God picked him as a champion because God had seen him faithful with a few sheep and he was looking for somebody who would be faithful with a few small things to hand His Kingdom over into his hands. This is the parable of the talents. A young boy was faithful with his few sheep; he has been given the kingdom and God is not ashamed to be called as the Son of David. He thinks who cares about the sheep? God does.

Are you faithful with little things? See, God can deliver us from terrible sins—everybody prays for healing and deliverance, you should pray for healing and deliverance, okay—the most terrible things God can deliver: look at *1 Timothy 1:13*, the things God delivered apostle Paul from,

1 Timothy 1:13

¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

"I was formerly a..." what? Blasphemer. The Spirit of God can overcome a life a life of blasphemy against a living God, that is what he was: a blasphemer.

Second thing: “I was a violence against those who do not have the power to defend themselves” -that was Paul. A life lived out for persecuting those who did not have the power to defend themselves – a man of violence. “I was a blasphemer; I was a...” and then, “I was an insolent man,” KJV will say, “a violent man.” He was a persecutor and he was a violent man and his actions would actually lead injury and death to so many; and Acts 7:58 actually tells you that’s how he begins. God already knows this guy but he is brought to our attention with that statement:

Acts 7:58

⁵⁸ **and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.** Who is this? Stephen. **And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.**

So, as a young man, he is a blasphemer, persecutor, and he is a violent man. And God can deliver you from all these things.

1 Timothy 1:13

¹³ **although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**

And he says, “I obtained mercy for all these things.” Lot of people have obtained mercy for these things, and worse things; that doesn’t mean God can trust them. Why did He trust Paul? Why did He trust Paul to give the entire Gospel into that man’s heart? Look at the previous verse.

1 Timothy 1:12

¹² **And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,**

‘Faithful,’ that’s the reason he got the commission. See, if you are faithful, He can override everything else in your life because He knows this guy is faithful in little things, he’s got that order; that discipline that the Kingdom requires in his life, he’s got that. And you know what! I can clean him off all this and anoint him with My Holy Spirit and he will run his race because he is faithful, he is faithful. And that’s the thing God is asking - Are we faithful? Can God trust you and me? Will we be counted faithful in little things? If you and I can be counted faithful—let me tell you; there is no limit to what God can do through your life, if God can find us faithful. We have to be faithful to God’s Word, we have to be faithful to God’s name. Remember, we read *Psalms 119:133*! Now read 31 and 32.

Psalms 119:131-132

¹³¹ **I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.**

I was faithful for Your commandments, for Your law.

¹³² **Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name.**

He was faithful to God’s Word; he was faithful to God’s name and God ordered his steps according to His Word. Can we?! Look at *Revelation 3:8*, because this has got to do with a person: His Word and His name.

Revelation 3:8

To the Church of Philadelphia

⁸ **“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; meaning: unimaginable opportunities in front of you, now and eternity, for the sake of the Kingdom. Reason: *for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*”**

“Very little strength,” you are not somebody who’s got a lot of power and money and influence, nothing, you got very little strength. What do you have? You have kept My Word; you have not denied My name. When it comes to little things that My Word talks about and what My name is interested in, My reputation is interested in, you have been very faithful, very faithful.

Therefore, God says, “You know what, I am going to open this door and I am going to keep it.” What does an open door mean? There is no limit, there is no limit for you, now and in eternity, no limits. I am not setting any limits, I am just keeping the door open and no one will be able to shut that door for you, why? Because you have been faithful to My Word, you have been faithful to My name and you had very little strength. So, God says: Are we faithful in little things? Are we working on being busy on being faithful in little things?

Psalm 75:6-7

⁶ For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. ⁷ But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.

We are always looking for the promotion from the left or the right, but we don't realize, real eternal promotions comes from above and is always looking for those little things, those little-little details. There is a proverb in English: *"For the sake of a nail; A kingdom was lost,"* it was war and the runner who had to reach with the news; his horseshoe—in the hoof of the horse, one nail came off, he said, "Doesn't matter", but as he went further and further, the horse started limping and as the horse was limping and after some time, it started walking. By the time he reached the message to the commander, it was too late; the battle was over, reinforcement did not come - because of a nail; a kingdom was lost. That's what God is talking about: "Exaltation," "Exaltation," everybody want. What God is talking about in *Luke 19:17*, it is God who is saying,

Luke 19:17

¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

And verse 24,

Luke 19:24

²⁴ "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.'

Who is this fellow? Who was not faithful in that little thing. Both of them were given one mina each: one thought; let me be faithful with this. The other thought, "Ah! Small thing, why bother!" Without realizing that the master was going to judge them on that small thing. We are not talking about salvation here, okay, don't get all rattled up; we are talking about eternity and rewards. Let me tell you: you can have the best start in life—*Judges 13:2-3*—best start!

Judges 13:2-3

² Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. ³ And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

Kya baat hai! Think about it! An angel of the Lord appears and tells; without praying, without asking, nothing, supernaturally; sovereign choice of God—comes to this lady and says: you are going to have a son. And next verse 5,

Judges 13:5

⁵ For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

Everything is told in advance. Imagine! Conception hasn't even taken place, you already know entire future of your child, destiny of your child. Wish we knew all things, right?

Judges 13:12-14

¹² Manoah said, "Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"

Can you tell us the instructions, order? What order, discipline? Today we will study Physics tuition and math tuition; that's not what Manoah is asking, Manoah is asking what are the disciplines that I have to teach him and what is the nature of work he should do because his destiny is fixed by God. Please tell us what are the disciplines! What is the order! What are the things I have to teach him?

¹³ So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful.

He says: "All the rules which I have is for the mother. The boy's rule, you want to read the book, it's written what a Nazirite should be—but all the rules I am giving to the mother."

¹⁴ She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."

He says: “The future of the child is tied with the obedience of the mother. If she is separated from the world; she will frame him the way he will go; if she is the woman of God, untouched by the drunkenness of the world, she is going to determine his future; he will see her, she will impose these on him, she will frame his mind and soul according to the Word of God and not according to the world, and he will fulfill his destiny.”

Did you see, the rules were given to the parents for the success of the child. See, we need to understand this—in 2 Peter 1:5 onwards, whole list is given.

2 Peter 1:5

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

Everything begins with faith; without faith, everything else is useless. You have to be saved before you have an eternal future, otherwise you have - in hell. So there is no future there. Nobody is doing anything over there, other than mourn and cry, there is no work there, okay. So, anybody looking for employment? Don't look for it there, there is no work there. The only things that work there is worms, the worms don't die there, they are busy biting you day and night, because Jesus preached more about hell than Heaven, so I cannot change the order.

“Add to your faith virtue,” your faith is there and then start working on adding to your faith. What is the first thing mentioned over there? Virtue, and virtue is a very big word, very-very big word, and one of the virtues God demands His children add to their faith is - faithfulness. And add to that, self-control. Virtue is faithfulness. Faithfulness to what? To the Word of God. What does the Word of God say? Now, turn me to Samson:

Judges 14:8-10

⁸ After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion. ⁹ He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

¹⁰ So his father went down to the woman. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so.

We will see three important things here:

1. He knows he is a Nazarite; he knows he is not supposed to touch a dead lion, dead animal; so, he never allowed his steps to be ordered by the Word of God. He was more moved by his hunger, by his belly, by his meat.
2. His parents were very casual about it: he came and gave them the honey, and he has come from the Palestine territory; they didn't even ask him, “Where did you get the honey from?”

When our children were small, when they came back from school, and there was something in their bag which we know did not go from the house, the first question is, “Where did you get that from? This is not part of this house, where did that come from?” ‘My friend gave me.’ “What's your friend name? Or, gave me or did you take it?”

Look at the father, who has been given an entire divine destiny of their son, they didn't even ask. So, what was it? They were very casual about his upbringing—the rules that would set him apart as a Nazarite.

And what is the next? He gave a feast to the young man. Who were these young men? Philistines. What is the Nazarite eating with the Philistines?

Now let us go back and read 14:1,

Judges 14:1

¹ Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.

And he came back and said, “I want her.” You know why he went for the Philistine girl? Because he had no control over food. I have taught this over and over again: every lust of the flesh is already there in the baby, and the first thing you teach the child is; how to eat, and what to eat and what not to eat, and when to eat, and how much to eat, because if he learns control over his food and orders his belly with the Word of God; he will be able to exercise control on everything else. When you fail there, you fail in everything else. They set the whole young man's life for disaster though he was called before he was conceived and set apart to be a deliverer of Israel.

3. His parents were not faithful in little things.

And these are things which we preach and people get upset. I am telling you; parenting is a full-time job and thankless job. *Fathers discipline their children as they saw fit*—Hebrew 12,

Hebrew 12:9

⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

“We paid them...” what? Respect, not thanks giving. When my children are small, when I smack them, I don’t need your ‘thank you,’ I want you to see that you obey me.

“We paid them...” what? Respect. When they grow old, they will say, ‘thank you.’ No child says thank you when they get disciplined, neither does God expect, “Thank you God for spanking me,” ‘No, I want your reverence, just obey.”

This guy had no reverence for the things of God, you know why? Because he was goofed up right from childhood, messed up, and we don’t realize how these plays out in eternity—the future of God’s people is messed up.

I keep telling parents, especially mothers, I will tell you, if you are going shopping; as far as possible, do it in small places, don’t take your children to the mall; they are small, they may have their mask on, their eyes are soaking in things, things, things... then you are teaching them memorize, “Do not love the world or the things in the world and if you do, the love of the Father...” they are already full of the world, and who took them there? You took them there. You did not put a premium on their soul, you are just like Manoah and Mrs. Manoah. You do not know their prophetic future is going down the drain. Thank God! He gives His Spirit to overrule all these—not overrule so that you go through fasting and prayer and flogging your flesh back into shape, so these things don’t affect you anymore, but how much life and time is lost fasting and praying for things which should have been natural—if we were ordered when you were young.

On the other hand, *1 Samuel 1:11*, another woman: no angel, no vision, no dream, no prophecy, nothing; she is broken in her soul.

1 Samuel 1:11

11 Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

What is she saying? She is praying what was told to Samson: “Let not a razor touch his head and he shall be the deliverer of...” You know what she is saying? She made a vow and is saying, “O Lord of hosts,” ‘Jehovah Sabaoth’ – “he shall be Your captain, he shall be Your soldier. You give me a son; he shall be a warrior for You; I will frame him in such a way, he will deliver Israel.” That is another mother. No promise, no vision, no prophetic word, nothing, and sitting before a half blind, useless priest, and God still uses that useless vessel to speak to this woman and God touched her womb. *1 Samuel 1:21-22* is interesting.

1 Samuel 1:21-22

21 Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

Every year they go, every child would like to go to Shiloh, now it is Jerusalem; after that it became Jerusalem when David moved it to Jerusalem. Oh boy! That is the festivity; whole village is going, singing songs of ascents and all that. Who doesn’t want to go? Little Samuel must have heard all these stories- the others and all saying - Elkanah, Peninnah, other children- all the stories, what else people have! This is the only drama in their entire life: no movie, no theatre; this is the drama. And what does the mother say

22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever.”

He says, “yes.” Thank God he is a nice man, he is a wise man. If you are a wise father and you know your wife is more spiritual, hand the children over to her; don’t interfere. If you are a wise man! And in most cases, women are more spiritual than men. You look at prayer meetings and all, they are always there; men are very rarely there. And often, in most homes—often, I am not saying always—most often the mothers are more spiritual and you as a man knows the mother is more spiritual, tell her: the disciplining I will do; you train them in the things of God.

And he was wise, he agreed. *Hebrews 5:13*—understand spiritual implications.

Hebrews 5:13

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

She says: he is still not skilled in the word of righteousness; once he is ready to handle the Word of God, his steps have been ordered by the Word of God, I will take him to the house of God and release him. This is no festival; I am not

raising him for a festival; I am raising him for God. Teuhaark liyenahi; Parmeshwar k liye. For us, everything is a festivity: when is Christmas coming? I have to take that old faded tree out, hang a star.

'Weaned,' you have to understand the significance of this word.

Genesis 21:8-9

⁸ So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

Once the child is ready to be a young man—spiritual, this is spiritual truth, okay—you will see, the man of flesh will start scoffing, the division is made there. Till then, Sarah did not say Ishmael need to go. The day he was weaned, and she saw the man of flesh scoffing, she said, "He needs to go because that's his elder brother, I cannot have his influence on this young boy's life, he needs to move out of this house, I need to protect him because that fellow has no dreams, no ambition with God –this is a boy of destiny, I need protect him."

One thing Hannah was absolutely, put her money on: "I am going to teach my son to be faithful to God's Word and to God's name." And Elkanah was wise man, he gave it over. Now, see the actual picture in the temple.

1 Samuel 2:12-17

¹² Now the sons of Eli were corrupt, that's a very soft word; they did not know the Lord. Who were these? The sons of the high priest did not know the Lord. **¹³ And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling.** Remember, this is not the Lord's custom; this the priest's custom. The priest has ordered his step according to his own word now. **¹⁴ Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot,** meaning: it doesn't matter which container it is, he wants his meat, **and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.** **¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."** Today, he wants to eat fried chicken and you don't boil it, just give me fresh before you put it for the Lord, I want the fresh, good one; legs are all for me, gizzard is for the Lord - it is happening at the temple. I am telling you; Hannah is a very wise woman. Eli thought she was drunk; no, she was very sober, she knew what was happening in the temple and she said, "I am not going to release my son to that place until he is weaned of milk, until he knows how to honor the Word of God, until his steps are ordained by the Word of God.

¹⁶ And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force."

¹⁷ Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

You see, sons of Eli?! Where is the problem with them? Belly. And verse 22,

²² Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

You know why that happened? Because they fell in food; these are all appetites. No control over food as they were growing up and they lost control over everything else. They were not faithful in little things. All young men sitting over here: I am telling you; we are living in Eli's priesthood now, whole world has gone over, and you need to be very-very careful, don't take these things lightly if you are saved, if you are not saved; first get to faith.

Luke 12:42

⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

Can God trust you with responsibilities? Can God trust you: all young girls sitting over here? If you get married, can God trust you? In due time you will feed your children what exactly they should eat and not what is easy for you? If you add flavor, they will gobble it up, then one day, their destiny will be gobbled up by the devil. You can make everything easy these days, that's why I said parenting is a very difficult job: the first 10-12 years, you frame them then; they run rest of the time, they know their choices and they will not go against their choices because that has become them; the choices have become them. "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice," can you be a steward who will do your duties?

Luke 16:10

¹⁰ He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

'Least,' little thing, chota-chota baaton me. A father asked his son, "Clean your room, I will come in the evening and check it out." The son cleaned his room. You know what the father did? He wiped the top of the door- that's exactly what I did in the Sunday school. First thing I went to the Sunday school and rubbed my hand on the chairs and the benches – yesterday I asked, "Is Sunday school room ready?" Ready! Today I realize, nothing is ready. But he said, "Father, why top of the door?" Father said, "Is the top of the door is the part of your room or not? Answer that question." So, though we use in humor: when we say, see that your socks don't have holes, because boys think socks is not part of their attire, because it is inside the shoes. There are terrible things about these gender you guys don't want to ever hear, because when we used to have men meeting, I used to give them nicely. Little things!

Luke 16:11

¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Are you faithful with money? Now, don't be legalistic, okay. When you are talking about being faithful with money, ultimately you have to be faithful with God. People are very legalistic; they will sit with their laptops and everything: "How much do I have to give Modi?" They never worry about how much they have to give God. They honor and rever Caesar, they burn incense to him every year once, especially in the month of March. When it comes to God, no faithfulness at all, but ultimately you don't realize, the gold and the silver belongs to Him. I hope you read today's devotion and I was thinking on the same lines when I read, "Lord, will I have to one day, just re-register this church and get out of these whole thing?" because things are getting worse and worse. I didn't like the pandemic because people took the account details from Sammy and they started sending it by online. Do you know when you do online, when we file this thing, they want your PAN card number and your adhaar is linked to it? They know everyone who puts the money in the church, once it is online. And things are getting worse and worse every day.

Yesterday, a woman was being beaten up somewhere in North India because she refused to spit on her Bible. Woman beating up a woman. Day before yesterday, it was a whole set of people who were beaten up outside the church and making to do sit ups; three days before that was a pastor found dead on the roadside, a missionary found it and no case reported. Every day you hear this. You want to be known? Do you realize what is coming? Do you think your faith is so strong that you will stand up and say, "No, this is what I believe and I will not bend down my knee before Caesar." Where does the strength come from? It comes from God.

Luke 16:12

¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Let us be honest; all of us, almost all of us sitting here, live in somebody else's house, right? We are tenants. Are we faithful as tenants? "Lord, I am waiting for a mansion when I come to Heaven!" God says, "I see how you take care of that man's house. How can I give you mine?" We use other peoples' houses, we use other peoples' vehicles, we use other peoples' everything... are we faithful?

1 Timothy 3:11

¹¹ Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

All sisters sitting here, when you become wives, be faithful in all things.

Hebrews 3:1-6 (NIV)

³ Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

So, when you fix your thoughts on Christ Jesus whom you confess, what is the first quality God says, "Fix your eyes on"? He was faithful to the One who appointed Him. What is the first thing God says, you try to imitate the life of Christ Jesus? His faithfulness to the Word of His Father and His Father's will, and His Father's way.

² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's

house," a bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Four times; what is the word used? Faithful! Faithful! Faithful! Faithful! Moses was faithful as a servant; Jesus was faithful as a Son.

Galatians 4:1-2

¹Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

When you are a child in the Kingdom of God, or naturally, when you are a young living with your parents, what are you? Do you know that you are no different than your servant? "Do this, do this, don't do that, don't do this"; that's what actually the parents say and that's what the servants are also told: "Do this, don't do that." You are not given an autonomy to sit and discuss about the affairs of the house, no! you are getting it wrong. What is the first thing that you teach your child? To be a servant, so that he will grow up and become a son. If you are not faithful as a servant, you will never rise up and be faithful as a son. A father never tells his son: "Do this because you are my son," "DO IT! and that's it." 'Why?' That's not an option; why should I do is not an option. Does the servant ask his master, "Why should I do it?" Understand this. If we go through that process; we will come through faithful as sons. What did Hannah teach her son? To be faithful to God. Why did God choose Samuel out of all the others in the temple? You know why God chose Samuel? Read *1 Samuel 32:35*, God is telling Eli,

1 Samuel 32:35

³⁴ "And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day.

³⁵ I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who is He telling? Eli. Why? Because I have seen the little boy how the mother is bringing him up; I picked him up, he will be My faithful servant. How do you know that he will be faithful priest? Because he is a faithful servant at home; he listens to what his mother is saying now. Therefore, he will listen to Me and be My son and My priest when he grows up. And he is just a kid! Three or four years old. Lord has already seen; his steps are ordered by the Word of God. And what is that?

³⁵ I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. That's a son- a servant does what is according to the mind, according to the mind you speak: "Do this." Son does according to the heart, he knows 'do this,' but this is the way Dad likes it—he has known the Father. Are you getting the picture?

In Revelation, John sees a vision of Jesus,

Revelation 1:12-13

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

This is not the belt, the belt is in the waist, this is the golden sash around His chest. Why is He having a golden sash around His chest? Go back *Isaiah 11:5*,

Isaiah 11:5

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Righteousness was His belt and faithfulness the sash. That's why keep your eyes fixed on Christ Jesus, He is the Apostle of your faith, who was faithful. That's why Solomon will say in

Proverbs 20:6

⁶ Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

What a question! A faithful man who can find? So, start like all these greats in the Bible—Joseph, David, Daniel; all started in small things and one day, God handed over big things into their hands because they were faithful. If you are faithful in small, small, small things, and then you go up higher and higher, more responsibility is put on your shoulder, the day of reckoning will come, it will come.

Daniel 6:3-5

³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

That created havoc; they have to bring him down, because he is going to be above us.

⁴ So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

You know where he started? Khane k upar, peene k upar, (on eating habits and drinking habits) he began there, now the entire administration is trying everything possible, doing a google search, FBI check, CBI check, every check- they can't find anything on him; you know why? Because he is faithful.

⁵ Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

That's what is happening in U.S now. Yesterday, Amy Barrett has been nominated to be the next supreme court justice- the next 40 days will be hell for her, there will be no stone unturned in her life history to find something to see she will not make it to supreme court; she will be put through every scanner, anything. Why? Because you are going to the supreme court and you are going to be a conservative judge and they will come after you. How old is she? 48. How many children does she have? Seven: five children of her own, 2 adopted from Haiti and the youngest is special need. Where is she reaching? Supreme court of U.S for life, before she retires, Jesus will come back coz she is appointed for life. The one who died last week was 87, as Supreme court justice. How old is she? 39 years younger. You know what they are going to check her out? Whether she is faithful! You know why she reached there? Because she was faithful with seven children, she was still faithful in all the affairs of the government.

One child- we are gone. White lady with 5-white kids, 2-black kids and one special needs kid, and while working in the court, the system says- she mentored a blind person to go up in the court system—mentoring a blind student, and we have no time because we are so busy. Hats off to people like that. Ginsburg also—I didn't like her policies but you have to appreciate something—you know, all the years she was in supreme court; she went through 3,4 bouts of cancer, she never missed a hearing- even from a hospital, she would partake of the hearing through video conference, never missed the hearing- 87. And we need red bull and blue bull to work for two hours, you know why? Because our steps were not disciplined when we were young. As we finish, *Daniel 7:25*, this is the problem – who is this? Antichrist. And it is coming very soon, he is probably already in the picture, may be being raised up somewhere, we are not aware of it, but already there in the picture, I think so.

Daniel 7:25

²⁵ He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and God will allow that. And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

What do they change? The law. The question is: they will change the law and it's being changed everywhere—where the law of man does not tally anywhere with the Law of God, what do you do? Will you be faithful to the Law of God which cost you your job, your life? That's what they did for Daniel; they changed the law for 30 days just targeting one person. Every NGO's, every office bearer of the NGO has to produce aadhaar, new bill, targeting whom? Us! "We want to know you; we want to know your PAN card; we want to know every detail of yours who are running NGOs." That's what Christian organizations are right? "I want to keep a tab on you."

One law against one man, it will come. Question is: will you be faithful? How far will you be faithful? Do you think God will make concessions for His children? Read!

Revelation 2:10-11

¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Not some mild cough and fever, tribulation! When God says ten days, you actually don't know how long it is. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. "Lord, can I apply for voluntary retirement?" 'No, no VRS, no golden handshake.' In God's Kingdom, VRS is not an option. "Be faithful until death," do you understand how important it is as you frame your initial years as a child in a Christian family or as a child in the Kingdom of God; what is the virtue God is looking for? Frame your life with faithfulness! Because there is a time coming, final war will come and Jesus will step down for the war. In *Revelation 17*, He will come down to war, in verse 12 onwards...

Revelation 17:12

¹² ***"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.*** There are seven kings and ten horns - and sometimes, I think seven political leaders and ten corporations, because everything is a lie. India will be finally owned by one or two men; everything is being sold to them. Corporations are going to take over everything, and they control our lives. American election is controlled by google and Facebook. ¹³ ***These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*** ¹⁴ ***These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them,*** who is that Lamb? Jesus, ***for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."***

And those who are with Him are who? All three. Many are called; few are chosen and among the few are chosen; very few reach the end faithfully, and when He comes to fight this battle, He doesn't bring all who were called, He doesn't bring all who were chosen, He brings with Him all those who were faithful, because when you are battling, when you are in war, you know what you want? I want a man who is faithful. I want a man who is loyal; I don't want a man who will cut and run. Even God has a commander - when He comes for the final battle; He is looking for those who are faithful, not those who are talented and smart; those who are faithful. This is one of the greatest virtues in the Kingdom of God - Be faithful.

So, when Pastor Vijay and I preach, one of the things we are looking is: not how pleased you are, whether you are sleepy; are we faithful to the Word? And one thing I constantly tell worship team – especially these days is, please worship at home; that's what makes you worshipper, not singing here. Be faithful in that secret closet. You have been given a commission for a season to lead God's people in worship—be faithful in your worship because when you are not, it shows. Anybody can sing; few can worship. Be faithful in your worship at home because He who sees you in secret will reward you openly one day, and those who are called to pray – not here, be faithful in your prayer closet! Be faithful!

Whatever you are called to do: little things, whatever it is, God says, "Would you be faithful? Can I find a faithful man? That's what God is always looking. Look in the book of Genesis; they all had faith but one man was faithful, so thirteen chapters are given to one man who is faithful. He was faithful in his father's house, he was faithful in Potiphar's house, he was faithful in the prison, he was faithful over all of Egypt because he was faithful in little things; he could be put in charge of great things.

40-80, God's eye is on that man, who is that? A shepherd in Midian. What is He saying? Let me see he will be faithful in his father-in-law's flock! And when He found he was faithful with his father-in-law's flock, God said, "Good! Now I will handle My flock into your hands because I found you faithful." People wanted a king; God gave them Saul, God wanted a king; and He picked David and you know why? Because he was faithful in little things. In Babylon He found faithful people: a Nehemiah who was faithful; a Esther who was faithful, a simple teenage girl; a Daniel who was faithful—oh, how it works! Jeremiah prophesied—Jeremiah is not in the scene—Daniel reads, calculates—seventy years are over. "Lord, the time for your children's captivity has come." "Why should I care? I am ninety; the satrap; I am going nowhere; I won't survive that journey; it's got nothing to do with me; it's got to do with God and His people." I am sure he got into his prayer closet and he started praying and God touched Cyrus' heart and said, "Let My people go." Faithful!

Are you faithful? Let me ask you, all the men, because, now you can't wear your footwear in the church- did you polish your shoes? I did. Nobody is going to see the shoes, it's got nothing to do with nobody; it's got to do with the discipline you have ingrained in your life, these are things which you do. Can you imagine Samir's joy when God says, "Well done, my good and faithful servant! One thing I saw, you polished shoes very well all the days of your life; I am going to give you the commission, you polish My shoes all of eternity." You know what, I will give my right hand for that job, to polish Christ's sandals for the rest of eternity. You don't know what eternity is like! Everybody who is righteous and reach there, will hunger and thirst to serve Him, and God says, "I am sorry, you were not faithful; you were not faithful; you were not faithful... but you were faithful, you move this side."

Hallelujah! So, if you don't remember anything of the message; be faithful! Remember to be faithful to whatever.

Let's pray!

Closing prayer:

Father, we just come to You this morning, we just thank You; we just thank You; we just thank You. We are here in Your house, each one of us alive, well and saved because You were faithful. Your Word says: even when we are unfaithful, You are still faithful because You cannot deny Yourself; that's Your character, that's who You are—the Faithful God! That's Your name; the faithful One. Israel still has a remnant who worships their God in spite of the apostasy, because You are faithful. There is a remnant church who still stands in the gap and intercedes and proclaims the Gospel because You are faithful! And we are here today after 12 years because You are faithful! Make us faithful, Lord. Help us to get on to that daily grind to be faithful in those little things, there are big things in Your Kingdom. Everything we have and own, belongs to another man—the Man Christ Jesus. If we are not faithful with the things that belong to another, how will, one day in eternity, we have what will belong to us? Help us to prove our faithfulness in this life, and I pray the young and the old in this church, and those who are hearing – will receive and work on that discipline, that order, to be faithful in everything.

Thank You, Father, thank You! I commit the rest of the day, the next service, everything into Thy hands, O Lord. Be with Your people around the world who have heard, who have listened, help us, help us, Lord, to be faithful. For many are called; few are chosen, but when You come, those who come with You are the called; the chosen; and the faithful.

Thank You, thank You, thank You, Lord!

Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Benediction:

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