

Can we get close to God?

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Father, this morning we come to You, it's a new beginning, it's a new month. It's the Day of The Lord. If this is The Day of the Lord, then Lord I pray, the Lord of the Day will speak to us. Help us to hear, help us to acknowledge the paucity our hearing if we are not able to hear, to come to You and say, "Lord unclog my ears. If I don't even hear any other voice, I need to hear You. For You alone have the words of life. Speak to me this morning, teach me Your ways, order my footsteps as each day passes by, let my footsteps grow firmer and firmer in the way of the Lord, my ears able to discern even the softest whisper of the Holy Spirit, the gentle impression on my spirit knowing God is here and He's speaking. For You promised, "I will guide you with My eye." Teach us, speak to us. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Six months are over and the seventh month is here, second half. We looked at voices, we looked at choices. You don't make a choice behind which there isn't a voice. The only issue is, is it the voice of God or is it the voice which is not of God. It is the only thing that ultimately will matter. We also looked at waiting. We've also been looking at the blocks in hearing the voice of God. There are blocks, we need to deal with the blocks. Sometimes our ears are clogged; there is a heavenly ENT specialist, He can unclog your ears and we will see that the problem wasn't with Him, the problem was with us. We looked at waiting, the most difficult thing. We think we can wait and children are, we are also children when it is something we need and suddenly the child in us comes out and we realize how difficult it is to wait. Those who have waited on the Lord, have never lost, not even time.

Those who wait on the Lord the Bible says, one, they renewed their strength. Two, they soar up like eagles, they don't paddle like turtles, that's not what is written. It is written they soar like eagles, what does it mean? They make up for the lost times. They take off and their strength has been given to finish what they had been waiting for. So, we looked at waiting. Waiting is never, if you know, when you are waiting it doesn't mean you are doing nothing. You are doing what you are being called to do, yet you are waiting for something specific. Laziness, sloth is never encouraged in the kingdom of God. Please understand that young people. If you don't want to work be scriptural: don't eat, because the Word of God says, "If a man will not work, He should not eat." So, don't eat, if you don't work.

Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Be wise. The wisdom of God teaches us how to walk, to make quality decisions. That is the wisdom of God. Be wise, don't be unwise. It's good to be clean but it is good to be clean and wise. Don't be a foolish virgin. Be a wise virgin. The Old Covenant had the letter of wisdom, New Covenant we go beyond that. Remember for years we prayed from *Ephesians 1:17*.

Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

What was that prayer? Father, give us the spirit of wisdom. There is the Spirit of wisdom. This is Paul's prayer for himself and for us, for the church. This is my prayer, pray this. We prayed this Sunday after Sunday for years. "Lord give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. I want to know You Lord. I want to know You, I want to know what You want me to do. I want to know primarily understanding the will of God. I want to understand the will of God. The Bible says in *Ephesians 5:17*, "Understanding the will of God." Not assuming the will of God, not presuming the will of God. Understanding the will of God and I told you something about the will of God, we may not understand it now fully, but if you obey, one day when you understand, you will see, "It actually was good. It was pleasant and more than that it was perfect." That is the difference between the will of man and the will of God. It is perfect and the perfection of His fulfilled will goes beyond this life, it just permeates into eternity, forever and ever you will realize, "Wow! Thank God I didn't miss the will of God. I didn't realize it was so good."

So, don't presume, don't assume. Understand the will of God because some choices outside the will of God can cost us heavily, years and years. We can miss the perfect will of God in one choice. Like let us say in marriage. Boy O Boy!

Be careful! Do not be yoked with an unbeliever. All young people listen carefully, you do it, forget the perfect will of God, you will be struggling all your life. Don't let emotions, feelings make choices for you. Even the big names in the Bible when they did it, they lost years in their life. Abraham made a choice, he was just emotional about staying with his father above the revealed will of God. How many year did he lost, we really do not know. You go read the account carefully, we will never know how many years he lost because it is not told when God spoke to him first, the age is not mentioned. The only age that is mentioned is when he obeyed and entered at seventy-five. So, if God spoke to him at twenty-five, it was fifty years he lost. If God spoke to him at fifty, it was twenty-five years he lost. One choice. Remember David? One choice. Moses, one choice. Let's look at Moses.

Exodus 2:11-14

¹¹ Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹² So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" ¹⁴ Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So, Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"

The next thing, he's running for his life. Did you see the order? Verse 11. *Now it came to pass in those days when he went there, to look out for his brethren.* He's got zeal, he doesn't have much wisdom, all his wisdom is the wisdom of the Egyptian. He doesn't have God's wisdom, he is extremely wise in the ways of the world because the Bible says that. He does not have the wisdom of God. And you know what? He saw something, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Sometimes we see an event and we miss the big picture; the event moves us. One guy beating another guy, immediately he took his sword out and missed the big picture, next thing you know, forty years, he's cooling his heels at the backside of the desert. Don't get moved and do rash things. It is the wisdom of the Egyptians to take the sword out. He's thinking like an Egyptian, zeal without God's wisdom. What are you planning? Honestly Moses, what are you planning, what are you thinking?

Yes, we know you have Egyptian wisdom, we know you are a general, are you thinking about a revolution, an insurrection, getting all the slaves into groups, training them and fighting the Egyptians? Do you know if God had gone with Moses' way, how many Israelites would have died? How long the insurrection would have gone on? That was Moses' idea. First thing, he took the sword out. That was what he's planning. I will train them, we will become an army, we will fight, we will get out. The Egyptians had soldiers, they had horsemen and they had chariots. These were slaves who do not know how to fight. Moses' way would have brought a slaughter in Egypt. Forty years later, God's way, on stick. Not an Israelite died but to understand God's way he had to wait forty years because his mind was full of man's wisdom.

So, don't assume, when you see an event, a situation don't assume you know what to do. Ask, where does my wisdom come from? Zeal is not equal to wisdom. Don't assume. So, we have a God who speak. God had to come and speak to Abraham before Abraham will move. God had to come in a burning bush and speak to Moses before he started understanding the ways of God. David had to have his Ziklag burned down before he ceased from his own way because one thought, "If things go on like this, one day Saul will kill me." One thought, your own reason. Before he knew, you are in the philistine territory. Scripture says, he lost sixteen months. Which is not true. He lost eight years and four months. He lost sixteen months in the philistine territory but in Israel, he lost seven years because the rest of the tribes will not accept him as king because they knew he was with the philistines. One idea causes loss.

So, don't presume you understand the ways of God. Don't presume you understand this is what God wants me to do, don't assume it. Wait on Him. Get back with God. Somebody wrote in a prayer list, I want to get back with God. The New Covenant is so completely different from the Old Covenant. That's what Jesus comes and says. He says, "I will not leave you orphans," I'm going to send you somebody just like me, He will be with you, He will be in you, forever. That is the Spirit of God, that is the Spirit of Jesus Christ, a real Person. If you are saved, He is in you and He speaks and He guides. He will tell you where to go and how to do. We have to learn to hear from Him. There is a Person, everybody will leave you one day or the other, or you will leave. It will happen. People will go, people will die, everything, everybody will leave, there is one Person who will never leave, now or forever. It is the Spirit of God, it is the Spirit of wisdom, it is the Spirit of revelation, it is the Spirit of love, it is the Spirit of power, it is the Spirit of sound mind, it is the Spirit of God.

So, the simple question today, this morning is - How close do you want to be with God? Do you know that it is left to us and not left to God? It is left to us. Each one of us chooses in our life how close we want to be with God. God has removed every barrier; the curtain has been rent from top to bottom. There is nothing stopping a child of God from coming to God. Absolutely nothing stopping you. Not even sin, because sin can be taken care of, nothing stopping. You and I decide how close we want to get with God. Only you and I and I'm not talking about callings. Don't get this idea about callings into your mind. That is where people go wrong. "O, if I get close to God that means I am called." No. *Ephesians 4:11*.

Ephesians 4:11

¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

There are only five callings and very few are called for that. But everybody is called to be a witness for Christ. Only five callings, there is no sixth calling. Because people always have this miss understanding, those who are called are very close to God. No, everybody can be close to God. Everybody, there are five callings and there are giftings. Gifting also does not mean you are close to God. John the Baptist had no gifting yet he was very close to God. He didn't operate in any gift. Jesus operated in every gift He was very close to God. Get this picture very clearly. There are only five callings. There is no calling called prayer warrior, there is nothing like that. There is no calling called worship leader, everybody is called to be a worshipper. Whether you can sing or not, play an instrument or not is irrelevant before God. Everyone is called to offer Him the sacrifice of praise. Whether you can hold a tune or not is irrelevant to God. You are called to be a praise and worship leader in your own way, that is not a calling, that is a life. All are called to have an intimate relationship with God. Therefore, the cry of Jesus, "Come, all who are weary, heavy laden come." All who are thirsty come, all who are thirsty, come." And if you look at your faces, some of your faces, you don't want to go to God. You want to get out of church and go to the nearest theatre. They don't have to invite you, you invite yourself, pay for it too. Don't think of ministry, think of relationship, your ministry is secondary, your relationship with God is primary. In *Acts 9:19-20* Paul, when he stepped out, so zealous,

Acts 9:19-20

¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

He took off like a rocket. Go to *Galatians 1:14-18*

Galatians 1:14-18

¹⁴And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

Three years he went incognito, you couldn't find Saul. God says, "Stop your ministry, get into the closet with Me. Yes I have called you, you are called. You are called to be an Apostle, but first get to know Me before you go out." Three years later, when he comes out, what he says is, "What I give you, I did not learn from man, I heard from God." Because we can be zealous like Paul and even his zeal God curtailed and pulled him in. He said, "You know what, it is not ministry that is important, it is intimacy that is important." That is what Jesus is actually saying, "Get to know Me." If you were not so busy with Mody's security arrangements, you would have heard yesterday's Q and A, people are so busy I don't know.

Forty years God waited. God had to light a bush on fire and Moses had to turn aside and then God spoke. For some of you God needs to light a fire in your life and still you won't turn aside, then only God can speak to you. You waited forty years to get this man's attention and a nation's destiny is hanging on his life because he's so busy. People are so busy they have no time for God. One word from God will change your life. One word from God. The Bible tells very clearly, when God saw Moses turned aside, aside from what? From his daily routine. What are you doing? Going after sheep for forty years. You can't get this man's attention, so he puts a bush on fire. He has seen many bush fires but this time he says, "The bush is not getting burnt, let me see what is happening." Then God spoke. What will it take us to catch us attention? What will it take for God to speak to us, not to go out and preach but God as a Father

wants to speak to His children and He has much to say to you personally and you may never have to share it with anybody.

Read the Gospel according to John like we saw yesterday, from chapter 11 to 17. Three and a half years of walking with Jesus, Judas is gone and as soon as Judas is gone, Jesus says, *"Now the Son of Man is glorified,"* do you know what He says, He opens His heart and He speaks to them. He bares His heart. And you know what He says after that, *"I no longer call you servants, now I call you friends."* My question is, we all sing very casually, *"What a friend we have in Jesus!"* Really! Is God my friend? Is God your friend? He's willing to be friendly, but the question is, Is He our friend? There's nothing stopping God from becoming our friend. In the twinkling of an eye when Jesus comes or death takes place, both will be in the twinkling of an eye. If you are not saved, the only thing that matters is, do you know Jesus. If you are saved, the only thing you will realize in eternity that matters is, how well do you know Jesus. That is when you would realize, I should have used my time better. How well do I know God? In eternity that is the only thing that would matter. How well do I know God? And that relationship starts here. It doesn't start there. It starts here. Look at a portion we looked at last night. *Luke 16:19-24* familiar portion.

Luke 16:19-24

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

In a twinkling of an eye. Go to *John 1:18* and then come back to this.

John 1:18

¹⁸No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Now go back to the same story. So, it was that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. Before the New Covenant, before Jesus overcame death, all the saints went to a place which was called Paradise and the other name for that place is Abraham's bosom. First thing to notice: this is a beggar but when he died the Bible says, *"Angels came."* Not one angel. To take a soul, you need only one angel. But to take Lazarus, escort of angels came. He's not taken to the periphery of where Abraham is, he is taken to the bosom of Abraham. What does that tell you about Lazarus' life on earth? He had an intimate relationship with God, though he was a beggar and when he died the only thing that mattered is how well you know God.

There was a man who had all the time in the world. He had money, he had power, he had riches, he dressed well, he ate sumptuously but when he died, he's so far away from Abraham and his entire cry, do you know what his cry is? It is for a drop of water. You can't drink water in hell. What is his cry? He's crying for relationship, one thing that is most terrible thing about hell, there is no relationship in hell with God or with man absolutely no relationship. You are in solitary confinement for eternity, no relationship. That's what hell is. That is why people put in solitary confinement go crazy, they go mad. You know what he is crying for. He is cry for fellowship. There is no fellowship in hell. Think these things, dwell on these things. We have been given time. We know God, the Spirit of God lives within us and the question is - do we long to have a relationship with God?

Last night that's what we were discussing in the Q and A. One man, his name is David, He says, *"This is a man after My own heart."* That is a man who was after a relationship with God. Before his Psalms, don't read his Psalms with our carnal eyes and ears. Read the Psalms from the heart of David. When David is talking about the Psalms, he is not exalting a Person's Word. He's exalting the Person, and therefore His Word. *Your Word have I hidden in my heart.* It's all about You, Lord. *The Lord is my Shepherd that's why I will not want.* It is absolutely personal. All his musings are very personal. He is after a relationship with the living God, an Old Covenant person, he should have been born in the New Covenant. I don't know how many Psalms he would have written.

So the question is this - Do we long for God? Do you long for God this morning? God longs for us. Adam has sinned, Eve has sinned but the Bible says at the regular time in the cool of the evening, Jesus came. Evening and the morning

were the first day, so the Jewish system begins in the evening not in the morning. So, at the appointed time, Jesus came. Their sin did not stop Him, His longing to fellowship with them. They ran, He didn't. They hid, He didn't. God doesn't run from us, God doesn't hide from us. We run from God, we hide from God. He came looking for them and God has never changed. To Israel He says, "All day long I stood with My arms outstretched, but who has believed our report?" So, can we just sit down, spiritually sit down, put all the other thoughts away from your mind, wandering minds? Still bodies, but wandering minds. Thoughts that are fluttering around. Can we focus? Like Mary, sit at Jesus' feet? One thing He said will not be taken away from Mary, the fact she knows how to sit at My feet.

John 6:5-6

⁵Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"⁶ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

Understand this, God will test us. He already knows what He is going to do but He will test us. Some people were tested to go to church or not. You passed the test and you came. See, people never ask these questions when it is connected to office, movies, should I go, or should I not. When it comes to church people have many queries. Should I go or should I not go? Should I read my Bible, should I praise God today, should I worship? So many questions. Jesus asked him a question to test. Remember God ask questions to test even though He know what He is going to do. Month of July, August, July, September He knows what He is going to do. The question is that some of the questions He asks us are test. Familiar passage, response is.

John 6:7-9

⁷Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Wrong question! What he should have said, "Five loaves, two fish. What do You want to do with this? I will stand back and watch for the miracle." They had already seen but the problem is, it doesn't matter how many times you see, the question is do you believe. June is over, He took care of us till June, July is another month, do you believe the God of July? Do you believe? Wrong questions! Martha, Martha! Can you imagine Martha had sat down with Mary and was listening and when Jesus finished, she suddenly says, "O I forgot we need to feed all these people, all there is, is one loaf of bread and little chicken curry." Jesus would have said, "Give it to Me," she would have experienced a miracle in her house. All the issues we face are because we don't give time to God. There are people sitting in church and sleeping. It is not because they are lazy because they work hard and they don't have time for God. You will keep working harder and harder and harder unless the Lord builds you labor in vain, you will wake up in the morning. These fundamental principles will never change for any man. You don't make time for God, I promise you, you will never have time for anything in life. That is the way time has been ordered by God. You will never have enough time for anything but you learn to make time for God, you will always see there is time for everything because will renew your strength and God will add speed to your actions. He will give you wisdom, He will give your revelation, He will give you what you call, cutting edge technology. He will give it to you. You don't make time for God, you will realize life will never change. If God is not first, God is not there at all. That is the way He operates. Don't change these fundamentals.

If the first six months you didn't learn this at least the seventh month, make this decision, because God will test us to see what our response is, we are very economically minded. Management people we are, we came from the Indian school of business. One is saying two hundred denarii won't be enough, another is saying five loaves two fish. In economics, one looks at the demand, the other looks at the supply. The demand is so much, supply is too little, what can we do? That is how we always look. We forget the third factor; the third factor is God. That never comes into our mind. The third factor is, there is Somebody who is in me, who is with me, for Whom nothing is impossible, can I put these issues into His hands? Can I turn this problem over to Him? Can I please pass my life into His hands? Can I just do that? Look at *Matthew 14:18* what Jesus says,

Matthew 14:18

¹⁸He said, "Bring them here to Me."

Bring them, what little you have. He says, "Give it to Me!" it is not what you have that matters, it is in whose hands you place it that matters. If you give me a cricket bat, I'll probably use it to kill a rat that gets into my house, you give it in Sachin's hands, it changes. It is not the bat that matters, it is the person who holds the bat that matters. In your

hands it looks too little, it cannot even feed a man because it is a lunch of a boy a little child but Jesus says, "Would you give it to Me?" That's what He's asking Moses. What is in your hand? He's got nothing that is his own. Everything belongs to his wife. So, he does not ask him, what are you wearing, what is in your pocket? Nothing, he says, "What is in your hand?" Because God knows there's one thing which is his, which is one stick which is not Zipporah's. He says, "This stick?" That's enough. What did you do with the stick? I took care of my father-in-law's sheep. He says, "Put it before Me. Put that stick before Me and take it up." Once he takes it up, the stick has changed. It is called now the rod of God. All that God needs is that one stick to bring Israel out of Egypt. All those forty years while he carried the stick and heard the bleat, he never thought what the stick would do, because he never knew what God could do with a stick. Did you see that?

Ehud was a left-handed man with a small little sword. Left-handed is already disqualified. Not a right-handed man, a left-handed man. In those days left-hand means you don't have flexibility with the hand that is strong. A small sword. You know a left-handed man with a small sword brought victory for Israel. Do you know what is written? Israel had rest for eighty years. Not two years, not twenty years, not forty years, eighty years because one man took his left-hand and said, "Lord, here it is. Use me."

Shamgar was not even a shepherd. He had an ox-goad and the Bible says, with that ox-goad he delivered Israel. Jael just had a hammer and a tent-peg and she delivered Israel. What Barrack couldn't do, she did. Samson had just three hundred men, empty pitchers and torches, he delivered Israel. It is not what you have. It is whom you believe. It is whom you trust. Into whose hands you place what you have. Everybody is trying is trying to do things for God in their own strength and they are going nowhere, even if it's your own career. Let me tell you one thing. You do anything in this world in your own strength, I can find hundred others who are better than you, any skill. They are good. They are too good. What makes us different is God. It is God who makes the difference and when God makes the difference, they have no answer to God. But God is looking for people who will hand over their lives, what little they have into God's hands and that's what God is asking us this morning, "Give it to Me." When Jesus began His ministry on planet earth, do you know what He began with? Six, empty stone jars, that's what He began with. Six empty stone jars, He began His ministry and the Bible says, His disciples put their faith in Him at the end of the day. That's with what He began. He looks around and sees there are six empty jars, that's enough, ask them to fill it with water. That too, stone jars, that too, jars that was kept to collect water to wash their feet of people. That's all He needed.

Matthew 14:19

¹⁹Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass...

If you think it is an exception, go to *Matthew 15:34-35*

Matthew 15:34-35

³⁴Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" and they said, "Seven, and a few little fish." ³⁵ So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

Every case He tells them to sit down and you read the narrative carefully, only those who sat down were fed. That's why He told Martha, one thing will not be taken from Mary. If you learn to sit down, God can feed you. God doesn't feed anxious worrying people who are pacing day and night, what should I do? God says, "Sit down! You want Me to feed you, sit down." Sit down, learn to sit down, learn to wait on God. Learn to sit down. Can we sit down? If only Martha had sat down, it would have been a different story.

Exodus 12:41

⁴¹And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

After how many years? To deliver Israel out of bondage of four hundred and thirty, it took God only one day but it took God forty years to make that man who led them out to sit down. The entire work was just one day. One day, they were out but to do one day's work, he needed a man who would learn to sit down. It is not the work that is difficult, it is getting people to be with God, to pray, to stand in His presence, to wait in His presence that is so difficult. We saw on Friday. How many days did Nehemiah build the wall? Fifty-two days. How many days did he pray? One hundred and twenty days. For months he was praying to hear the Word of God and once he heard, the wall was built in fifty-two days. So, the waiting period is what was difficult not the building. It's not the building that

is difficult. There were so many problems when he went for the construction project but because he was a man who learned to wait on the Lord at every point he heard and he had favor and it was done. These principles do not change. It doesn't change for us, it didn't change for Jesus when He came down to planet earth. It never changed. When He came down to planet earth He waited thirty years, He waited for His Father's will, He waited for His Father to move. He didn't jump and do anything. He didn't do anything. And this Moses now that he understands it was not as difficult as I thought, actually it was too easy. When he brings the children of Israel into the wilderness, what is his prayer?" Lord show me Thy ways. These are Your people, not my people. So, this is Your problem, not my problem."

If you think these are your children, they are not your children, these are His children. So, your children are not your problem, these are His problems. So, teach me O Lord how to take them from point A to point B. Teach me, not Doctor Spork, not psychology, there is somebody who will tell you because they are His. Do you know what God said? You are going to have problem with these children but I have promised you one thing, My presence will go with you, I will give you rest. This was a man who learnt to know God. You have to learn to know God. God knew this man and this man knew God. It didn't come easily, he spent time with God. In *Numbers 12:6-8* there is an issue. Siblings rose up and this is God's personal testimony about him.

Numbers 12:6-8

⁶Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

Meaning, there are people God uses, using gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are gifts. Dream is a gift, vision is a gift. God can use gifts and there are gifted people

⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. ⁸ I speak with him face to face,

He said, "I speak with him face to face." What is He talking about? What does that term mean? Though Moses never saw His face. God says, 'I speak face to face.' He says, "There is an intimacy between the two of us. He is very close to Me." If it is possible in the Old Testament how much more is it possible in the New Testament. You don't have to be called for a task like Moses, you don't have to be ever even known by the world but that does not mean you cannot have a close relationship with God. When Moses died it was God who took him up the mountain. When somebody in the church dies, I bury them does that mean I dug the grave. No, but it is always said, "Who buried?" Pastor buried. So, it is written God buried Moses, angel Michael dug the grave. Is it written? Michael the Ark Angel over Israel came personally because Satan was contending for the body. God is overseeing the funeral service, angel Michael was in charge of the body, why? This man is My friend. You tell me in human history who has been buried by God but Moses. We have to learn to think on these things. Don't be an Aaron and a Miriam or a Korah, Dathan or Abiram. Two cases, *Numbers 12:1-2* and *Numbers 16:1-3*

Numbers 12:1-2

¹ Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. ² So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.

Numbers 16:1-3

¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; ² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. ³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

What is common between Aaron and Miriam in the first case and the others in the second case? They are all assuming a relationship with God. Don't assume and presume a relationship with God which you don't have. All the congregation of Israel is holy but Moses is more than holy. Don't assume because you can actually have a relationship with God. You don't have to assume it, you don't have to presume it. You can actually have a relationship with God. You don't have to presume any of those things because here is God wanting and willing to have a relationship with His children. So, when they ask Him, "Lord, teach us to pray," He's not talking about prayer first, He's talking about a relationship first. That must have blown their minds away. He says, "This is how you need to pray. **Our Father.**" You will not see that in the Old Testament. "Almighty God, heavenly . . ." They wouldn't even utter His name and here He is making it very personal. He says, "You know what, you can call Him Abba, my Father."

And through the Sermon on the Mount, you go and read how many times He uses the term, your Father. The sparrows in the world, the lilies, the pagans but your Father. What is He harping on? He is harping on a relationship. He says, "That is the reason I came." There are two blocks. One is the block of sin, I have come to take care of it. Second thing, now that I have taken care of sin, I have come so that you can go to the Father. I am not the destination. I am the way. I have come as the eldest Son to get all His children to have a personal relationship with the Father."

The Father doesn't relate with all the children the same way. He relates according to their age but He has a relationship, He longs to have a relationship with everyone. And that is what God is talking about and when we miss the most important part of our life on earth, building on a relationship with God we are assuming, when we enter into eternity, don't assume. You can be very sure on earth, right now, while living on earth, you can be very sure about a relationship with Your Father. So, every day sit down, learn to sit down, learn because what we are talking about is intimacy, what we are talking about is a relationship and for a relationship, the most important thing is a word with four letters. T-I-M-E. Relationships are built on an over time. That's what God has given us. When God says days are evil. He's saying the days will steal your time. Be wise. When the midnight hour the cry came, "The bridegroom is here!" the only thing that mattered was whether they had oil in their lamps not whether they had lamps. They all had lamps. That is the Word of God but only five had lamps, a personal relationship with the Lord of the Word. Everybody had the Word, five realized the voice is missing.

On that day the only thing that mattered is, do you have a personal, vibrant, intimate relationship with your Father and He is willing to have that relationship and don't take it for granted. A lawyer comes and asks Jesus, "Lord what is the greatest commandment of all?" Jesus just says, "The whole Law and the prophets hang on two hinges." It's a door on two hinges. Love God with all your heart, all your might, all your strength. And second, He says it's very close to the first one. It's almost exactly like the first one. Love your neighbor as yourself. So, what is Jesus talking about life. When He is talking about life it is about relationship. It is about relationships. Please understand this. Don't assume any relationship, it takes time to build, secure relationships. Eating from that tree what it broke was relationship with God, man with God, man with man. Both relationships were broken. What happened in the Garden of Eden was a breakdown of relationships – both with God and with man. So, don't assume your marriage for granted. Marriage has been short circuited right from the Garden of Eden. Do you know what *Genesis 3:16* says?

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

You know what, He is telling, as a wife and as a mother, your relationships are going to be short circuited. Your children will give your sorrow, and you will always try to control your husband and instead he will control you. That's what marriages are. It's a fight for power. It's about control. Once people get control they don't let go off easily. It's not about intimacy, it's not about relationship. It's all about control. This is between a man and the woman. Go the next chapter, man and man. *Genesis 4:8* what happened to human relationship.

Genesis 4:8

⁸Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Talk, walk and kill. This is man and man, the other is man and woman. Every human relationship has been short circuited by man, by the fall, because he does not have a relationship with God. He does not have a relationship with man; either with his wife, his home or his brother. Don't take it for granted. It takes time to build that relationship with God, to build a relationship with one another. Life is all about relationships. In *Ephesians 5:31, 32* this is how Paul through revelation from the Spirit puts it.

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹"For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

He's saying what happens in the home is what happens in the Church. God is looking for intimate relationships. He is looking for oneness and if that is not achieved, it doesn't matter how great the pulpit is. The pulpit has failed. It doesn't matter how successful your children are, the home has failed. This is the primary intention. Don't take it for granted, either your home or your relationship with God. Don't take it for granted. Either loving God, loving man, it

takes time, it takes priorities. Putting God first and man first because your entire work is focused on God and man. What are you working for? What is the purpose of your work? It is related to God and it is related to man, otherwise you will make work the idol of your worship. Let us get to man first. This is a warning.

Case study of God's own special man, godly man. The Lord's anointed, the giant slayer, the sweet Psalmist of Israel. What is his name? David! Right? And there is a lady called Bathsheba, Uriah's wife. Uriah is no ordinary man, by now we know. He's a godly man, he's a righteous man. Uriah is not a Dumbo to marry a loose woman. She's a godly woman, not only that. She is Ahithophel's grand-daughter about a man whom David testifies that when he speaks, it is like the counsel of the spirit of God. She is not an ordinary woman. She's not an ordinary woman, he's not an ordinary man. So, the simple question is, how did that godly man and how did that godly woman fall? Man who knew God, man whom God loved, a man about whom God says, "This is a man after my own heart," and how does Uriah's wife and Ahithophel's grand-daughter with such powerful influences in her life, how does she fall? Ask these questions. Man is man, woman is woman. They are not the same.

Man, the way God made it. I'm using a psychological term, it's a Christian psychological term. Man has what is called, impulsive desires. Woman has what is called selective desire. It is not the same. Man is a creature of his eyes. He sees something, his desire can come up but five minutes later, if that thing is not there he will forget it. Women are not like that. So, David saw Bathsheba, she was naked, immediately impulsive desire. Who is she? Get her. If she had walked away it would have gone. It would have been forgotten. Understand this. David's house is very close to Bathsheba's house and that's why he's able to see her. Bathsheba is another person. So, Bathsheba's house is very close to David's house. David must have had many palaces. This must be one of the palaces where he stayed to run away from all his wives. Let's be brutal and practical. So, her house is very close to his house because he is able to see. So, she must have seen David. She has seen him many times. Uriah is a career soldier. He's a good man, strong man but he's been away for a long time. Women long for something which is called non-sexual affection. Men are not like that, women long for non-sexual affection. When Uriah comes from the war, he doesn't go home. You don't need to go home to your wife to have sex, you can go home to talk to her. He doesn't go. Bathsheba is used to long absence of her husband. There is no affection there.

You know what happens? When godly women think, they compare. I wish my husband was more like David. I wish because I've heard so much about David, he's so kind to his servants. He's so kind to people, he talks, he's so gentle, he's so compassionate. I wish, I wish, I wish. So, godly women get this one thought in their mind, I will never fall. But if I fall, it will be a man like David. So, when David calls her, there is no resistance. Don't assume your relationships. It is built over time, it takes time, it takes effort. Mighty men have fallen because they did not build on relationships. Build your relationship with God, build your relationship with man, don't assume. It takes time for both. It takes time. The Kingdom of God is built on relationships. People assume so many things. Suddenly, the wife has packed up. Where are you going? I am leaving. You are leaving? What happened? Precisely nothing happened. That's why I'm leaving. I've been waiting for twenty years for something to happen, I'm just leaving because you assumed, you presumed.

Philistines have surrounded you, you have your back against the wall, you are calling out, 'Lord help me, Lord help me, You know who I am, these are Your people.' There is absolute silence in Heaven because you assumed. After ignoring God all these days and weeks and years, now your back is against the wall, you assumed when you call He will answer and He was waiting for you all these days and your closet was empty while He was waiting. Don't assume your relationship with God or with your spouse, don't assume. Because we assume things. Are you assuming? Because it takes time to build relationships. You know what David says, "One day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

Let me tell all the men who work here? You need to go to work at nine O' clock tomorrow, you don't set your alarm, you sleep, your wife is panicking, she comes and shakes you, "Honey, Honey aren't you going to work?" Work, no. Why? Is it a holiday? No. Then? I decided to spend the day with you. Have you ever done that? Why? Sometimes, you'd be surprised, "Honey please go, I have made other plans." As parents have you ever done? I have done, when they were small. You don't wake the children up. "Oh, it's eight O' clock, the rickshaw is gone." You are not going to school today. Why? Because I want you. We are just chilling today. What will we do? We will eat, watch a kosher movie, we will play in the evening. Tomorrow you will go to school. Would you do that? Now, let's go from man to God. I'm not going to work, I'm not going anywhere. I'm shutting myself with God. Would you do it? Think, think on these things Paul says. Think on these things, because when you go to Heaven and you have no friends, what a

boring place. Hi, forty years on earth you never said hi. Now, in heaven hi, hi, hi, now there nobody has time for you. Are we getting it? Think on these things.

Isaiah 50:4

4“The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.

The question is - do you listen? When you get into your prayer closet do you listen to God or you are talking all the time? Do you listen? The first thing God taught His Son is to listen and not to speak. That's why we have the old English adage which says children should be seen and not heard. And children of these days, they only want to talk, they don't want to listen, because they have Google-knowledge. Do you listen? Because we are talking about relationship, we are talking about intimacy. Do you listen? Every man in the Bible whose life was drastically changed and nations were changed is because he heard not because he spoke, he heard. They heard. Noah's family would not have been saved if Noah had not heard. Noah heard, God spoke to Noah. God spoke to Abraham. Isaac would have gone the same way as his father to Egypt when God spoke and said, "Don't go!" They heard. Do we listen? Gift is one thing, presence is another thing. Are you operating on a gift or are you operating because you heard? When God saw Moses turned aside, He spoke. Moses' life would never be the same again. He had heard the voice of God. He would never be the same again.

2 Corinthians 3:7

7But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses

What is God simply saying? It will show on your faces if you have come out from the presence of God. You know face doesn't have to glow but you will have peace. You cannot meet God and having heard Him, come out of your prayer closet all anxious, what to do. It will never happen. If you have heard Him, it will show. The question is do you listen? Have we learned to listen? Have we learned to listen to your husband? None verbal communication, do you listen to your body? God has made our body in such ways, it speaks to us before the sickness comes, are you listening or are you ignoring it? Your bikes fall apart because you don't listen to your bikes. If you listen to your bike you will know it is time for servicing. Just start it up and go, never listens to the car. Look at my driver, he takes one car, immediately he will know there is a problem with it. He will stop, pull up on the side, get out and check where that one little sound came from, because he's listening to the vehicle and he knows if the sound is not dealt with now, tomorrow it will cost ten times more.

If you listen to your body now, your bill will be much less later, listen. Above all, listen to God. Listen, it's a part of communication, it's a part of intimacy. Part of communication is listening, are you listening. Listening comes this way, not this way. Top down. It doesn't come the other way. Listening comes top down. When Moses comes from the presence of God, they don't need to talk, they have to listen to him because he's already heard from God, what more can you add to it. When you go to your doctor, tell your symptoms and shut up. Let the doctor talk, you don't tell him how to diagnose you. When you go to your lawyer and you have explained your problem, shut up and listen. He will tell you how he will argue the case. You don't tell him, I'm hiring you but I will tell you how to argue my case because I don't have a black coat, go buy one. You need to listen, learn to listen and whom to listen to because if you listened, better. Our relationships would be stronger, it takes time and after listening, talk above all with God, be brutally honest with Him. He's one person you can be absolutely brutally honest and He's never surprised. Never surprised. Tell Him, only Him, certain things can be only told to Him. Lord, can I call my husband Nabal, will he drop dead? Tell him! And He will say, "No honey, he will not drop dead, but I put him there to refine you."

With God you can bare your heart and tell Him as it is. You are not going to surprise Him. He's knows your thoughts before you think anyways, so better let it out, vent. You can talk anything and everything of your struggles to Him, everything. You need to learn to go into your prayer closet and learn to vent and come out peacefully. You will know He has heard you. He may not give you're the answer you are looking for, but He will hear you out. You don't have to be afraid or ashamed of talking to God. Never have to be afraid, "O if I tell this, will I lose my relationship with You?" He says, "Honey, I already know it and I've come to restore you. Don't be afraid. You don't break this relationship with Me. I have loved you with an everlasting love." With man it may not work but with God it works. "Lord it is so shameful I cannot utter." He says, "I already know, utter it, I'll get rid of that spirit of shame over you. I know, I saw it. I'm omniscient, I was there. You're ashamed, I'm ashamed for you but I want to take that shame off. Talk!" That is who Jesus is.

I told you over and over about the Samaritan woman, He sent the all the disciples away, meets her face to face alone and why does she go the town? She's lost two things. One, she's not afraid. The Bible says, she ran to the men of the town. Now, she's not afraid of anybody. Two, she's not ashamed of her past because she said, "He knew, He told everything that I have done and He didn't reject me!" Therefore, she's being freed from the bondage of fear and shame which has been following mankind from the day Adam and Eve fell. What is the first response of Adam? "I was afraid and I was ashamed so I covered myself." God says, "You don't have to be afraid to tell Me what you are going through, what you have done and you don't have to be ashamed too. I may spank you a little but you don't have to be afraid." Learn to talk, don't assume a relationship, don't presume a relationship. Learn to listen, learn to talk. Sit down, learn to sit down with God. Deal with those issues before it becomes cancerous.

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

Cherish, regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. So, the question is, how do I deal with this? Let me tell you a way in the Bible. I found that to be the best way. I'll give you one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament.

Luke 5:4-8

***⁴When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."
⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.
⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"***

Go to *Isaiah 6:1-5*

Isaiah 6:1-5

***¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"
⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.
⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."***

What did you understand from two of these things? One is a prophet, the other is an apostle, they realized their sinfulness when they had an encounter with God. And both of them it was dealt with, they were not running from God, they were running towards God. They had a real encounter with God and they were aware of their sinfulness because what is that stops our intimacy with God. Only one thing sin. And now, what is the remedy to sin? Have an encounter with God, have a daily encounter with God. That is what the psalmist says in *Psalm 19:12-13*. Don't presume and assume even about your sins. What does it says?

Psalm 19:12-13

***¹²Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.
¹³ Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.***

Who can understand his errors? He says not me? I don't understand my error because I think I'm good but he says, "But You understand my error. ***Cleanse me from secret faults.***" Unless you go to God you will not even know your errors. It is like the student who brings to the examiner his answer paper and says, "You did not give me marks." You will ask him; shall I mark it with red ink? No sir, it is right. Really? Student thinks his paper is perfect, the examiner says it is not. That's what it is saying. Can we go to God? Be brutally honest like David, bold like David, Lord, who can understand his errors because every person is like a man who looks in the mirror, looks at his family pack and sees it as six pack. He never sees anything wrong in the mirror, I'm good, I'm cool and he's gone.

You think you are okay in your relationship with God and David says, "I'm not okay, there are secret things in my life I don't know about which you know which is hindering my relationship with you. Would you deal with that? Would you please deal with that? This is a man who hungers and longs for a relationship with God. Do you have the courage to go home today and ask your spouse, or your father and your mother, what is it about me that upsets you? I know what is it about you that upsets me, but is it about me that upsets you? Because I don't think there's anything wrong in our relationship and you will have a revelation. I will reveal to you your secret faults. And he or she will keep you from presumptuous sins. Don't presume everything is okay between the two of us. Don't presume don't assume honey, there are lot of issues we need to deal with, can we sit down and talk?"

I remember a great man of God talking about this. This man and his wife have come and they are talking about an issue. The issue is not really so big, but the issue is continuing. So, he looked at this couple and he said, your issue is not actually so big. What is the issue in dealing with it? The man says the issue is not big. The problem is by the time the issue comes to me, she has already talked to five men and she's asking for my opinion. I'm not the one she asks first, therefore I don't want to deal with any of her issues. Either I'm her husband or I am not. And the Pastor said, "That's a big issue." You see, the marriage is almost at the verge of breakdown over small thing but you know what whenever an issue comes, the first one she checks with is the baker, the candle stick maker and not her husband and then finally when she comes to her husband; "What! You're asking for my opinion?" you need to realize, you may think there are no issues in our lives, that itself may be an issue. Because the fact that you have no issue in your life means there is no intimacy. You are like the parallel tracks of a railway line, going in the same direction but not together, don't assume. Children don't assume.

Elijah was a man of prayer of like passions like this. He prayed it did not rain. He prayed it rained. And he stood before Ahab and says, "I'm the one who stands in the presence of God, there will be no rain, no dew until the word of the Lord comes." We will say, "Wow! This man has no issues at all." God says, "You think so?" First you go stay in Cherith, then you go to Zarephath. Do you know what Cherith means? Cutting away. Do you know what Zarephath means? Refining. This man needs a lot of cutting away and refining before I can really use him. You think he has no issues to deal with. He says, he's got lot of issues to deal with. And when you are in certain situations in life, you need to realize God is dealing with issues in your life so that He can intimately talk to you. Because if you don't focus on what Jesus focused on. Read those three chapters of Jesus Christ towards the end. My Father My prayer is that they may be one as we are one. You in Me, I in You, I in them. What is that all about? What is it all about? Think, think, think. Then, Joshua 1:6. What does it say?

Joshua 1:6

⁶Be strong and of good courage,

You need courage in relationships. Sometimes you need to look in the eye and say, I got an issue but you are always afraid if I deal with this issue, this person will leave. Most relationships are not based on truth, they are based on compromise because they are afraid to tackle the real issues, so they never really have genuine relationships in life because they are afraid. And God is not afraid to deal with issues because He loves, and He's not come here to condemn, He's come here to save. So, He will look, send Nathan, send to David, look him in the eye and say, "You are that man!" Who is that man? You are that man. David dealt with the issue and he needed a man like Nathan who will not be afraid to go to the king and confront him and God knew David that he could be confronted. He would not react like other men. Are you afraid? Fear cripples. Deal with the fear of man, deal with the fear of loss, deal with all this fear because you know what if you don't deal with fears, you will assume a relationship which you don't really have and *Romans 8:31*, there is an interesting verse, powerful.

Romans 8:31

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

If, don't presume. If, we all quote this and God says, "I said if." You swallowed 'if' and say, "God is for us." I said, "If God is for us." The odds are against us we cannot fight this battle we are outnumbered in everything, we are outnumbered in numbers, we are outnumbered in money, we are outnumbered in power, we are outnumbered in influence, we are outnumbered in talents, we are outnumbered in the world by everything. The odds are against us, therefore, if God is not for us, we are done. Don't assume, don't presume, be sure God is for you. *Joshua 5:13-15*

Joshua 5:13-15

¹³And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for

our adversaries?”¹⁴ So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” So, He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”

Are you for them or are you for us? He says, ‘Neither. I don’t take sides, you choose whose side you are in.’ Don’t assume. O, I am a child of God, I will be blessed. He says, “That fellow next-door Hindu, the Muslim on the right will get blessed because they obey My commands though they don’t know Me. You are a rebel from birth and I’m trying to save you from that day.” Don’t assume, don’t presume. Make sure. ***“What does my Lord say to His servant?” Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off.*** Do you want Me to speak to you? First, take your thinking cap off and put it away. That grey matter, that Harvard brains, put it away. Harvard is meant for the graveyard put it away. Don’t tell Me what to do, I will tell you what to do but the first thing you have to do is take your sandals off, why? Because when I go into the world, the first thing in my body that touches is my feet. It’s my feet that take away, it’s my feet that brings away. So, the sandals represent the influence of the world in you. He says, “Take your sandals off, put your ideas, your degrees, put it all away and I will speak to you because what I say to you will not make any sense of any degree you have achieved on earth because when you look and see this city shut in, nobody can go out, nobody can come in, the walls are so huge, the men are men of war and I am going to tell you something which if you don’t take your sandals away, you will not be able to believe and receive. I have already given the city into your hands and this is what you have to do. Six days you will march once, seventh day, you will march six times, then, you will blow the trumpet, the people will shout and the walls will fall without you having to do anything. Can you believe? Take your sandals off.”

Go to school, go to college, get a degree, work hard but when it comes to God, put it all away. You want a relationship with God, put it all away because what He says will not make any sense. Two hundred denarii will not give them a mouth full, five thousand men, women and children besides, you will not understand, give it to Me and make them sit down. Who will make them sit down? You will make them sit down. But Lord to sit them down, you have to feed them and I counted there was only five loaves and two fish. You know how the church began, we had nothing, we didn’t even have a hall. The first Sunday after they met in my house, we said, “We need to look for a hall because the people are there.” The Lord told me, “You will not go out and look for a hall, the hall will come to you.” You want to believe something crazy like that? Monday is over, Tuesday is over, Wednesday is over, Thursday there was a call, “There is a hall in Abids.” Then I go, and the lady comes, she thought it was just for a meeting, I said, “We don’t have money, we don’t have chairs, we don’t have a table, we don’t have anything and this is,” She said, “Okay! You just have to give me twelve hundred.” I said, “Every Sunday?” She said, “O you need it for every Sunday?” “Then you just have to give me a thousand rupees. O you have no chairs, I have forty chairs. You have no table. You can use my table.” That’s how we began, we had nothing and what did He say? “Record your messages,” we haven’t even started a web page, He didn’t tell me that, He said, “Just record your messages.” Then when you are going for the first Sunday service, in a hall, He says, “You will not take an offering. You will teach them how not to give.” Then He said, “Make a website, don’t put your pictures.” No pictures, on our website till today no pictures. You are just the voice, I am the face. You are not the face, would you believe? Till last week, they were asking, podcast, Sammy. Because there are fifteen thousand plus people on podcast, we were not on YouTube, we were on podcast. Did we ever do advertising? Never did advertising, not a pamphlet we printed, no picture of pastor and wife. Nothing we did, never did any of these.

Then YouTube came only because of lock down, did I ask you for money, did I ever ask you for money? Church has a building project put money. In these fourteen years did I ever ask you for money? I actually told you not to put your money if you are not right with God. In fifteen years, the only time I asked for an extra offering was when a senior pastor was very ill and he had to go through dialysis, I said, “Put your money!” “O we have a special needs home, we have a home,” Did I ask you for money in these fourteen years? We run two orphanages which most churches don’t do at all, put your money there, ever I asked you once for money? Never asked. The church’s rent is so much. Do you till today know what is the rent of this church? You don’t know, till today you do not know. I have never told you, I will never ask because the things which He tells you, it is difficult to understand. In retrospective effect when you look back you will be able to truly say, *this was the Lord’s doing and it is beautiful in my eyes*. Because when He tells you something you don’t understand. You don’t understand these things at all but you obey because you took that

worldly thinking cap off and you are standing on holy ground on bare feet. Your Word, I don't understand like Mary said, "I don't understand. Let it be unto me according to Your Word." You said, "I go." Are you getting the picture?

This is how the Kingdom of God works and this is true for everybody individual, any church, any church it is the same. It doesn't change, for every church God has that one format because first Pastor he was called to shepherd the people was Pastor Moses. God says, "Take this stick, take the people out." If I am sending you, I am with you, I will give you rest. Whatever is needed I will add on the way. You don't worry about it. That's not your problem. You have one problem: to hear me out. That's your issue, listen to Me, do it and the rest is in My hands. When every time you listen to Me and don't do what I tell you, it will be judgment. I told you to speak to the rock, you hit the rock. I will take care of the people but I will judge you because you didn't listen carefully." Listen carefully, learn to talk to God, learn to wait on God and don't judge anything before its time because the will of God is unfolding in our lives. Many of the things that are happening we will not even understand in this life, we will only understand when we stand before Him and realize, now I see, now I see. That's what he is talking about, my God who separated me, sanctified me in my mother's womb. But when did he meet this God? When he was twenties on the road to Damascus, he's met this God but he realized in retrospective effect, when I did not know this God because my name was already written in the Lamb's Book of Life, my life was been ordered by this God. Now my life makes sense, it was God who was changing all the things I thought terrible, all the things I thought bad, He was just turning my path so that one day I will meet Him and now my life makes sense.

That's how it works, that's why the Bible says, "Understand the will of God," don't presume, don't assume. We have a Father who speaks to us, who longs to speak to us, when He speaks to us, life is changed and above all you have peace. That's what we need. Ultimately, what are we looking for? We are looking for peace. The Bible says, "They all ate, they all were satisfied." All were satisfied? Why? It is because they were just looking at His hands. What did they see in the beginning, what did they see at the end? Did anybody imagine this would happen? Come let's go to communion.

So, this morning as we come to the end of this service. I want to ask you, to ask yourself a couple of questions. How is your relationship with God and how is your relationship with the body of Christ? The vertical and the horizontal of the Cross and He came to make peace that man could walk with God again and brothers could live in unity again. So, this morning as we stand before God, it's good except for me, you're all bare feet but are you really bare feet. Even as you heard the Word today, what were the arguments in your minds that had no foundation in the Word of God or in the Spirit of God. Are you truly standing before God bare feet? Nothing of the world, no ideas, ideologies? Instead of but God, you are saying but it can be also this way. Are we truly standing on bare ground, the New Covenant is deeper than the Old Covenant? In the Old Covenant God told them, you are standing on holy ground, if you want to hear from Me, whether it was Moses or Joshua He told them, take off your sandals and they heard from God, but in the Old Covenant you hear the letter, in the New Covenant we received the Spirit. The Spirit is deeper much deeper than the letter because the letter brings death, the Spirit brings life. You know what Jesus did at the end of His life? The Bible said, "He wrapped a towel around His waist and He started washing the feet of His disciples." You can go there, I gave the portion in *John 13:6-11*

John 13:6-11

⁶Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." ⁸

Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

We just not need to take out thinking cap off, our Gucci shoes and Harvard brains, put it off, but we need to allow Him to wash our feet with the Word of God. Allow Him to wash us daily, constantly, otherwise we will have no part of Him. Remember that, but remember there was one in His midst. He had heard the word for three and a half years. To the others Jesus said, "You are clean because of the Word." He heard the Word, he was still dirty. His feet were washed by the very hands of Jesus but his mind was still filthy because he was offended and he was planning to betray Him. And that's why Jesus said in the beginning of His ministry, "Blessed are those who are not offended because of Me, because offended ones if they don't deal with the offense, they will betray the very one who washed their feet." Remember that, this is all got to do with intimacy, this is all got to do with relationship because in that one, there was one who walked with Jesus yet was never close to Jesus, though Jesus was close to him, he was never

close to Him. Understand that, because when he came to betray Jesus, do you know what He called Judas, "My friend." Jesus wants to be friendly with everybody but the question is - do we want to deal with the issues of our heart so that we can be His friends? Remember these things, these are important things because like I said in the beginning in a twinkling of an eye, whether death or rapture takes place and you are saved. The only thing that would matter there is, how well do I know God because that's where you take off. That's where you're going to start off. So, keep these things in your mind, build on your relationship with God and don't assume any relationship on earth, work on the relationship that matters. Learn to listen because if you don't listen, you will drift away. Final words for today. Then we will pray.

Luke 9:16

¹⁶Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.

When you give or I give our little, our lives into His hands, He takes it. He doesn't say, it is too little, He doesn't say, "It is dirty," He doesn't say, "it is uneducated," He doesn't say, "It is poor." He doesn't say anything. He takes it and He lifts it up to Heaven. I lift my eyes, where, to the hills. Whenever you are facing a situation, learn to look first up. Moses' problem was he looked to the right, he looked to the left, he didn't look up. The first direction spiritually you look is up, not to the right or to the left. Look up! Whenever you face a situation, don't run to man, run to God first. Look up! When Jesus was facing a situation and it's a crisis situation in our terms. Five loaves, two fish, ten thousand plus people probably and He looks up and the Bible says, He blessed it, He gave thanks. He blessed it, He gave thanks two words are use. He blessed it and He gave thanks, when you and I put our little into His hands, He will not say, 'What is the point? It is too little,' He will say, "Thank You Father, one more life surrendered to You." One more life, thank You Father, I know who You are, I know You are able to do with little. I know what You are able to do." He takes it with thanksgiving and He blesses it.

I know I have preached this before long time ago. That is where people stop, they don't go to the next step the most important step. He breaks it. There are two kinds of people in the Kingdom of God: those who are blessed and used, those who are blessed, broken and used. All the overcomers will be those who have been blessed and broken and used. If you are only blessed, you can only be used for a season. If you are broken, you will be used till the end of your life. You look at the broken people in the Bible, they were used till their last breath. Jacob was a broken man and he is able to say, "The blessings of your father have overshot the blessings of your father and your grandfather." He was used till his last breath. He rose up in his death bed, blessed his children and then he gave up his ghost. Moses was a blessed and a broken man and God personally took him up the mountain and said, "See the land." This is the land your descendants will inherit. Till his last moments, he was seeing the future of the nation he had brought out.

David was a blessed and a broken man therefore, even in his death bed in his last days when a son was trying to usurp the throne, he rose up and saw the throne went to the son picked by God and not picked by man and he set everything for the temple. Not only that he received the blueprint for the temple and told the son, "I have done all the hard work, you just build." He was a man who heard and finished his race till the very end. Every one of them. Don't look for blessing alone, when you are going through circumstances, what God is trying to do is, He is trying to break you. And let me tell you when He breaks you, not a piece will be lost.

Sometimes people don't understand the lessons. When they were all eating and finished, you know what He said, "Pick up the fragments!" Suddenly the apostles have a final commission, twelve apostles with twelve baskets full of fragments. Do you know what He said, you may not even remember it say, even if you give a cup to a prophet in My name, you will not miss your reward in heaven. Every fragment of your life which you did because of Me will be remembered there, maybe forgotten here, maybe you yourself have forgotten, it will not be forgotten there. Every fragment of our life that is done by God through God, for God is been picked up and written down by the angels. That's why the Bible says, "Books were opened." Every detail will be there of what God has done through broken people because He says, there is no waste. Whatever you have done in My name for my glory is not a waste. It has eternal value. Keep these things in mind, build your lives on this truth. Shall we stand?

Closing prayer:

Father this morning You are here in our midst, another month is here, the second half of the year is here but You are here. Truly like you told Joshua, we have not gone this way before but You have gone this way before. You are already gone all these ways, all these days. You have traversed the end of the year already, You have seen the end

from the beginning. Therefore, this morning we say, our eyes are on You, on You Lord. All we pray Lord is first and foremost touch our ears that we may hear Your voice, touch our eyes that we may see, understand, perceive as You see above all even when we don't understand, help us to obey for You said blessed are those who believe without seeing. Because of who You are we don't have to see, we just have to believe because You are the faithful and the true One, God who loves man, the Lord who laid down His life for me, for us, how can we not trust You and I pray Father, we will learn this is not an emotional thing, it is a spiritual determination, we will learn to build on our relationships so that one day, You can say, "That was a man after My own heart, she was a woman after My own heart. That child was after My own heart." Relationship with You and with one another and above all, help us to walk without offense. Thank You, thank You Father, thank You Lord, thank You. Go with us, go before us. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Benediction

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