

*Father in Heaven, we just want to thank You Lord, Your presence is already here in our midst. Lord, we just want to thank You that You are a good God and Your mercy endures forever. Thank You Lord, thank You, thank You Father, for the song that we heard even before prayer, we just want to thank You. Lord, a generation will rise trained, disciplined, focused, separated and sanctified and set apart who will truly, Lord, be lights in this dark world. Lord, Your Word says, Oh! Lord, in the last days, evil will abound but Lord those who know their God will wax strong and will do mighty exploits. I pray Oh Lord that You will raise up a generation who will wax strong, who will know their God and who will do mighty exploits in these last days and therefore I pray that You would speak to our hearts this morning. Prepare us, prepare us continuously through the ministry of the Word, sanctify us, wash us by the water of the Word and set us apart, so that we'll be blameless, blemishless, wrinkles; the Bride of our Saviour, prepared and adorned for His coming. To that end I pray that You would bless and anoint the ministry of the Word and give us Your hearing ears and seeing eyes. We thank You, we praise You, we give You glory. For in Jesus' name Amen. Amen, Amen.*

We've been looking at mysteries and in Deuteronomy chapter 29 verse 29, the Lord, through Moses will say, "The secret things belong to God, but what has been revealed has been given to us and for our children forever." The secret things belong to Lord. But what has been revealed? There are so many things that are secret in the Bible. We will not understand those secrets unless the Lord gives us the revelation. Because the entire Bible is revelatory, the natural man or the soulish man or the man of the mind alone will not be able to understand the things of the Spirit of God, because the words of the God are Spirit and Life. And therefore we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word to us. And in order for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word to us, there is a conditioning of the mind, there is a conditioning of our life so that we can create an environment in our self because we are all three parts, right? We are body, soul and spirit or spirit, soul and body, in that order. So that we can be prepared beings for the revelations of the God to come and speak to us, so that we are prepared for the last days. Lou Engle, one incredible author, he wrote a book on 'Being a Nazarite'. He makes a very interesting statement on fasting. He says, "Fasting is like creating a runway in a wilderness for the revelations of the God to land." I thought it was a very interesting depiction, you know. Fasting is a runway in a wilderness so that the revelations of the Lord can land. You know, it's a preparation. There's a conditioning of our own self; there's a disciplining that we have to go through for God to entrust us with His mysteries. Matthew chapter 13 I just want to set up the premise for today's teaching.

## **Matthew 13:10-12**

***<sup>10</sup> And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup> For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.***

And then He goes through a series of parables of the Kingdom of God and then He expounds of a few and He leaves the other exposition to the disciples and when He finishes the entire chapter He signs off with a couple of verses which are so fantastic. Look at what it says in the last verses, this is chapter 13 verse number 51.

## **Matthew 13:51-52**

***<sup>51</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."<sup>52</sup> Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."***

Remarkable, isn't it. Have you understood? I mean some of the parables if you read through the entire narrative, He doesn't expound them; He expounds the parable of the sower, He expounds the parable of the wheat and the tares and other parables He leaves it to the disciples to interpret by themselves those parables. And then He says, "Have you understood this parable?" and they said, "Yes Lord." And then this is how He signs off the entire chapter. Look at this beautiful verse, one of my favorite verses in the Bible. ***Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and things old."*** I told you the word 'treasure' means thesaurus; He's got the mysteries of the Kingdom now, but who is this person?

He is a 'Householder' or 'a Steward' or 'the good man of the house' or 'the master of the house', 'the owner who has been given the ownership of the mysteries.' To get a picture of this particular verse I want to look at it in different translations to get a complete rendering, a more interesting rendering, an easy rendering as to what this verse talks about. Let's look at in the New American Standard Bible (NASB) this is what it says,

**Matthew 13:52**

**52 And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure new things and old."**

**Jesus said to them, "therefore every scribe..."** first thing, everybody has to be a scribe. You know what it means, who is the scribe? The word comes from, there is a Greek word called "Grammateus" okay grammateus order okay, now if you learn that if you have in our school, one of the things that most children struggle with is English grammar; so many prepositions, participles and past participial, present participial, you know to crack a particular, a particular exercise even the instructor has to struggle. It's not easy, okay. Very scientific, very grammateus, exactness. Okay? Look at what it says - *Therefore, every scribe* or a grammateus.

And one of the things that we need to teach students is to become exact; to practice exactness. Okay. To be able to be precise in their workings out, you know, whatever field that you are in. For example Mathematics is an exact science. Okay. So He says, "Every scribe," now you don't stop at the scribe level, okay. That scribe has to become a disciple. That's the second stage. Every scribe, not all scribes become disciples by the way; a lot of people stay at the scribe level. I'll introduce one scribe whom actually Jesus rejected; he did not reject Jesus apparently, but Jesus said, "I'm sorry sir I can't take you." And then - **who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of the household**. This is the third stage or a steward, **who brings out of his treasure**. So if you look at this entire passage the starting point is a scribe. Okay? then you become a disciple and then finally become a steward of the household. There you have been given the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. So in order for you to be entrusted with the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, the revelations of the Kingdom of God. And revelations are not for you to be proud or to see how knowledgeable you are or better than your peers.

When Daniel was given revelation in a dream he goes to Nebuchadnezzar and he says, "It is not because I have many special gift that the Lord of Heaven has given me this revelation; it is His and I just condition myself; I made my self; I prepared myself in my mind and in my disciplines in all this years that God could give me. It is God who gives." Okay so, in order for you to become household or a steward of the mysteries of God, from a scribe, the challenge my dear brothers, the challenge, the biggest bottleneck one has to cross is to become a "Disciple". That is possibly one of the most.

You see I mean I was studying and listening and meditating, apparently Moody and Charles Finney were one of the most powerful evangelists of Yesteryears and you know that the statics says that in Moody's evangelism only forty percent of those people who got evangelized would never back slide and stay on the course. What happened to the rest of the sixty? Okay, you know why? Disciple; the struggle is to become a disciple. Because in the very word 'disciple' there's an implication to be disciplined. And you know what, we have tremendous inertia. We have Newton's first law in our mind -every body continues in its state of rest or in uniform motion unless acted upon by an external forces. Oh, we have tremendous inertia to change. Like Pastor says, we are like the truck driver who has to steer, we don't have power steering, we have manual steering. We have to steer you because many of us we are reluctant to change. And you know many of the struggles, if you look at life, life is a conflict and who is the person who is opposing? And many times we wonder who is the fellow who is opposing? You know that fellow is there right inside you. There's a force, it's called the force of the flesh. The old man who is six-thousand-years-old at least. The dinosaur per-historic almost, if you will. That guy is reluctant to change, even after being born-again. That's my point here; he is reluctant.

So if God has to make us people who are entrusted with the mysteries of the Kingdom, there is only one pathway. What it that? Read this all - 'Discipleship The Pathway To Stewardship!'

Why am I saying this? And many of us are satisfied at the scribe level - "I know my Bible. I know that this is not doctrinally right." Now you are like the Church in Ephesus, "We have proved those who call themselves Apostles and are not, and we have found them to be liars." I am not saying that we should not be sound in doctrine. I am not saying that we do not have the capacities are the faculties in our mind to be able to discern what is right and what is wrong. But we don't stay there. Why am I saying this? Look at the challenge here, look at the challenge. This is

Matthew chapter 8, this is after Jesus heals the Centurion's servant etc., there are so many miracles that happen in Matthew chapter 8,

### **Matthew 8:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> *And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. <sup>19</sup> Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

*And when Jesus saw great multitudes*, you know everybody get excited with miracles, what did He say? **He gave a command** to whom? **To His disciples**, **"Let us go to the other side."** Now the point here is, what is on the other side? What is on the other side? What is awaiting on the other side? You know what is awaiting on the other side? There is a guy who is who has a legion of demons, fierce, at least couple of them in the tomb and the Bible says in 2 Timothy chapter 3 it says - *in the last days fierce*, the same word for 'demon possession' is used in 2 Timothy chapter 3 when, when Paul in under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says - ***in the last days fierce times will come***; times of incredible demonic oppression. Okay, that is the other side. That is what is waiting on the other side, and you have to go through a storm or go through a time of testing where you have learnt, through the storm, to lean upon Jesus, to be disciplined through the storm, so that when you go on to the other side you're prepared and equipped to the face the challenges that the demonic will throw at you.

See we're not living in ordinary times; ex-ordinary is an understatement. Technology is changing, what? How fast? I don't even know. By the time you learn Java you're already outdated, by the time you finish learning. Java has already come. You see then now we have something called python. Okay so you see, things are changing at such a rapid pace and there has been an acceleration of the way things are deteriorating in society. You know I'm really amazed as to how people even dress in our own country. I mean I was in IIT for 8 years and I was shocked. When I was in college, I mean I am not that old okay, see, I used to have girl-students in my class who were decently dressed, conservative. Now if you come to IIT every year the t-shirts become tighter and the skirts become shorter. And how do they come to the professor? They do 'song and dance', "Sir how do I do this? How do I do? They keep dancing. You know sometimes I used to really get, when I used to get Emails, "Sir, can I come and work with you? "What is your gender?" I have to ask those questions. You see? How rapidly things have changed. And that is what is waiting on the other side. And if you remain at the scribe level, you know what Jesus has to say to the scribe?

### **Matthew 8:19**

***19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."***

Who is that? Scribe; just graduated with Ph.D. Scribe, right, grammateus was exact science. He said, 'Sir, I'm prepared now to solve the problems of the world.'" Really? Do you know what He says, what Jesus says? ***"foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests*** where? In your heart, ***but the Son of Man...*** "Sorry sir, you are not prepared for this. The moment you started you failed because I see you heart. You are not prepared to face the opposition that is there on the other side, it is impossible for you. The moment you see the storm you will jump and swim back." See, thank God the disciples stayed, and they saw a miracle. They were prepared.

So the challenge therefore for all of us and the great commission is what? Matthew chapter 28 verse 18 onwards.

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* It doesn't end there. *Go therefore and make what? Disciples.* Is it there in your Bible? In other words you become a disciple and make disciples. See, let me tell you something. You can never teach something that you are not thorough in. Otherwise the students will know. Students, I mean if you come to some university IIT they will start laughing at you, they'll know.

So He says, 'First you have to become a disciple and then you have to make disciples.' And that is exactly what He says, in Deuteronomy chapter 6, it says, ***Hear O Israel the Lord your God, the Lord is One.*** Okay, ***thou shall love the***

**Lord thy God with all you heart** etc, etc and then? He says, **'these things I command your today you shall keep in thin own heart** first. And then **you shall teach thy children**. In other words, you have to learn them first, you have to practice them first, you have to prove them first, in your own life, so that when you speak to your children there is conviction, and you know, "This works my daughter, my son." Otherwise, you'll just be giving theory, you are a scribe. How many of you like grammar? Wren & Martin. Abba!!! How many of you like stories which have grammar? Ultimately you will be just grammatically correct. You'll be a person of the letter, not of the spirit. And the Bible says - **the letter kills**, what brings life? **Spirit brings life**.

So there is an opposition inside your own self. Let me tell you something. All the problems and the conflicts that we face in our world if you trace to the root of the problem, the root of the problem is rebellion in our own heart. There is a rebel star, if you will. Mega star, rebel star, power star, stylish star and rebel star, all rebels. That fellow, if he is not tamed, if he is not tamed he has to be crucified; we cannot just leave him alone. What has to be done to a rebel? "Oh! I have taught this fellow. He is a drunkard, he is a glutton, he doesn't listen to me, I've disciplined him, disciplined him, disciplined. What shall I do to this guy?" Deuteronomy chapter 21, do you know what the people have to do? Stone him.

I'll introduce that person to you very soon, okay. Ezra chapter 7 verse 10 the scribe, Ezra was a scribe, the scribe of the Old Covenant. Look at his, what is a, mission statement, if you will, the mission statement of Ezra Shastri garu. Okay, Ezra means Shastri. Okay. Ezra Shastri is essentially the Telugu rendering of 'Ezra the scribe.' Ezra scribe means Shastri, Ezra Shastri. Look at what it says Ezra chapter 7 verse 10, the mission statement of the scribe called Ezra.

#### **Ezra 7:10**

**<sup>10</sup>For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**

What? Ezra right from childhood you memorize the Law? But I do not know the law just because I have it in my mind, I still have to seek it, I have to seek it, I have to understand what it means. I have to know what the implication of each and every judgment, and the statute, and the ordinances that the God had given me. So first, what does he do? He seeks the Law of the Lord, to do what? First, to prove it in his own life. See, I can never tell you the mysteries of the fasting, if I haven't fasted first. I cannot talk to you about the mysteries of faith if I have not walked by faith first. That's the reason he is says, he's talking about holding forth the mysteries of faith in a pure or a clear conscience. How is it possible? How can I hold it? Because I proved them in my own life; the principles of faith. So what does he do? He does them first, and then what does he do? **and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel**.

Then he says teaches statues and ordinances. And the word for "teach" is fantastic. Do you know what the word for 'teach' means? "to make disciple" the Hebrew word is "lamad" from which we get Hebrew word "limmud" which means to be a disciple. Lamad, to teach, to make a disciple. And what does it mean? Actually, in this context, "to disciple others and prepare them for war!" That's what it means. I mean this is remarkable!

You see, there was war. The first war the first war in the Bible, five kings against one man. Do you know that? How many kings against one man? Five kings. Now that person, it says that he had 318 trained young men who were born in his household. You know very interesting word you know what the word for train means? The train word comes train word the word train comes for the Hebrew word "hallak" which means 'to disciple, to prepare them.' For what? You know where's the other time it occurs in the Bible? **Train up the child in the way that he should walk, so that when he grows up, he will not depart from it**. What do you think? Is it a promise or not? Absolute promise - train up your child. That's exactly what he did. He had 318, he didn't have children of his own when he fought the five kings. But do you know what he did? He had 318. God was watching Abraham, my dear brothers and sisters. His name is 'exalted father' before he can be promote to become a 'father of nations' can he father 318 soldiers in his own house who will be at his command, who will be trained, who will who will go and fight his battle? God was looking at him, "Can I trust Isaac into his hands? What he is going to do with 318 children who are not his? Will he disciple them." And you know what He says about Abraham, later in Genesis chapter 18 – **"I know Abraham that he is going to command his household to teach statutes and judgments so that they may learn to fear God."** He proved himself with 318, not his own children, who were trained in his own household, so that they could become people who are at his command, united with the purposed of the commander. Think about that.

So, when you're having your own child, what are you preparing them for? You are preparing them for troubled times. You're not going to mollycoddle them, you want to disciple them, through the process of discipleship. See,

discipleship begins with you and in your own home; when they see the father, they should have reverence for him because they know him, "This man is disciplined in the ways of God."

Understand this, we have treasure. Where? In earthen vessels, but there's a process to acquire that treasure. You need to understand that. You cannot circumvent the process. I mean, you know the entire trip was fantastic. You know, it was walking and talking and speaking and living together with pastor. So, we were having breakfast, okay wah! Coimbatore breakfast okay and chutney! Wah! Wah! Wah! What chutney that was! Okay! I had chutney several servings. Okay, the chutney, it's not putnal papu chutney. In Hyderabad they'll give you putnal papu chutney, they call it kobari chutnay, coconut chutney. What is there in it? Papu. There you go, authentic coconut chutney. The texture and the taste! Kay bath hai! So, I had several servings of upma and also pongal, with sambar of course, it was finger licking good. Not KFC. And we were having a discussion and then pastor was saying, "You know what, this is the first breakfast I'm having in 2022." And the person who came to pick up us from the railway station, he said, "First breakfast? You don't have breakfast, sir?" He said, "No, no I don't have breakfast." "That is the reason why you are like this." And you know what? Pastor made a fantastic statement. He said, "You know what, everybody wants to have the anointing of Elijah but nobody want to have the diet of Elijah." The diet plan of Elijah. How many times did he eat? Twice; morning and evening, that's it. You see? There's a process. To make one Elijah it took so many years; to make him so united with God, - "If I be a man of God..." boy! What a statement! "let fire come down from Heaven and consume you." Whoo! Whoo! Goosebumps only. That power. He was so united with God, with the purposes of God. So when Elijah speaks God speaks; Elijah's will God's will; Elijah's thoughts God's thoughts. What do we have? Do you want to acquire this treasure? Do you want to become a steward? Look at what it says in 2 Corinthians chapter 4.

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-10**

***<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— <sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.***

But how did I acquire this treasure? I'll tell you the process. You don't like it. ***We are hard pressed yet not crushed, we are perplexed, persecuted, struck down always carrying about in our body.*** That is how this acquisition of mysteries has happened; it is not the easy route, you see? I'll tell you something, everything in the Kingdom of God starts like a gift. But it is perfected through practice. I'll say that again, "Everything in Kingdom of God starts as a gift; righteousness starts as a gift; faith starts as a gift; Holy Spirit, okay, He's the One who comes and convicts us of sin and conviction starts as a gift, but it is perfected through repeated us and practice. Okay so discipleship therefore has several questions. So I'm asking myself - what is the essence of discipleship? I mean there are several dimensions that I can go into, several dimensions and trajectories that I can take, but I'm going to choose three question; three questions that I'm asking myself as to what entails to be a disciple and what entails the process of discipleship. Who can be a disciple, first? is the question. What has to be disciplined or disciplined? Second question. What to learn or what has to be taught to make him a steward through the process? Okay. I'll have possibly time for the first two questions and then I'm just going to briefly touch on of the last question.

First, therefore: Who can be a disciple?

Why is it important, why is it fundamentally important for us to be disciplined? It is just not important for us to be born-again. Believers are made in one day; you believed and you entered into the Kingdom of Heaven. Discipleship is a lifetime. Okay, like pastor was taking about in 2 Peter chapter 1, he is talking about faith, add to faith virtue, that is a lifetime. You are never arrived with virtue. What is the fundamental problem and who, who can therefore be made into a disciple? Who qualifies to become a disciple? Why is it important to be a disciple? Why is the quintessence of Christianity disciple? It's a question, right?

Look at what it says in Jeremiah chapter 13 verse 23. See, they're going into captivity. Who is going into captivity? Not Israel, but Judah. Judah is going into captivity. The point is that these guys have been warned and warned and warned and warned and warned. Jeremiah is thinking, "You know this message finally I'll preach, and the conviction of Holy Spirit will come upon them and at least a bunch of guys will fall flat on their faces and repent." But he is not seeing any result. I mean they are literally hamstrung to go into captivity; they've been wired. He's breaking his head and he says, at one point he is so frustrated he says, "I don't want to preach anymore," and he says, "I can't stop preaching. You know why? Because the word of God is like (what?) fire shut in my bones. I have to speak otherwise

I'll just break out." So, he is preaching and preaching and preaching and preaching, he's hardly seeing any result. I mean at least he preached and prophesied at least for twenty-five odd years and how many converts did he get? One Baruch and one Ethiopian eunuch, and those people who even remained in Israel, in Judah and who are not led into captivity, those fellows also did not change. Because when God asked them to stay in Israel, in Judah, do you know what they did? They were already making plans to go to Egypt, and they come to Jeremiah and say, "Please can you inquire of the Lord as to where we should go? Should we stay here in Israel or should we go to Egypt?" They've already made up their mind to go to Egypt. So Jeremiah goes. Okay fine I'll just go and inquire of the Lord. He goes and inquires of the Lord and then he comes back, and he says, "Guys, don't go to Egypt. Stay here. Build yourself houses, you will prosper." You know what they say? "No, we don't want to listen." Even discipline has not changed them.

And if you look at the entire book of Jeremiah, there's one verse in the Book of Jeremiah which kind of amplifies this problem and tells us what was fundamentally wrong with Israel or with Judah. This is found in Jeremiah chapter 13 verse 23, look at what it says.

### **Jeremiah 13:23**

***<sup>23</sup> Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.***

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? It's a rhetorical question, and answer is no. Then he says, then also can you do good who are, what? Accustomed to evil and even trained to do it? You know what the word for accustomed is? "disciplined" to evil and even trained to do it. That is your problem; the problem is that you have become disciplined in evil. It's like this, you know through repeated practice or through repeated loving certain thoughts to come into your mind. It's like, you know, when you go to some places in the mountains, you will see one path, okay. Now how come that path has been formed in that mountain? It is because many people have trodden down that path over and over and over and over again. So there is one path like that. Okay so many people have been disciplined and discipled to think wrong, so all the demons like, you know the demons are like hordes of a drones. Because we all robotics now we want to think about demons as drones. Okay, drones, as they're looking for runways. Okay or they're looking for helipads, okay – "where can I go and land?" You know what has happened? There's one path. Where? In our mind, accustomed to do evil; we are bent to do evil. So what happens? You don't have to go and gossip, gossip finds you. I mean, do you know some people already, always, get the information, it's skirted you, you, you, you, you, you, you and it goes to that one person. How come? And that person always gets information, because through repeated gossip and repeated murmuring they have made pathways in their minds, so then the gossiping demons are there flying in the air they see for paths and they say, 'Oh, that path, that path.'

And similarly, the Word of God, the Word of God, the living Word, the Rhema Word of God is hovering around to find places where it can go and find a resting place, so it circumvents the Herods and the who and the Ananias and Caiaphas and all the tetras and the 'who is who' in Rome and in Judea and the Word of God finds one man in the wilderness called, the John the Baptist. Why? That man has been disciplined to think right; for 30 years in the wilderness, separated from this world, separated from the thought patterns of this world and he's been meditating and waxing strong in his spirit and practicing the Word of God. And then the Word of God finds him. You know why? Because you have thought patterns that have been established in your mind.

That's the reason why Jesus, Pastor was telling the other day, you're not accustomed, we are so reluctant to change, I mean I look at my own life; it's an amusement, amusement park only. Like we just had breakfast okay, pastor and I, we just had a breakfast and we were just walking down and you go to Coimbatore, Coimbatore is full of shops, cloths, place of cloths showroom; the city is the cloths showroom okay. Pastor was like looking at the clothes and says, "I want to buy this for my wife," and I was like, "Okay, okay fine, fine good, good for your wife," and then I'm just walking, "Oh that like that looks good for sister Alisa may be," and I'm just not even thinking, reluctant to change okay. So then the shopping is done, the bill has been paid, I'm just nonchalant walking as if nothing has happened and we came to the room and he said, "Vijay, I think you should also buy something for your wife." And I mean "Pastor? if I buy? I am accustomed not to buy, I am disciplined to ignore, I am disciplined to ignore. Okay, then maybe if I buy she will think I'm strange." Then I thought about it, I said, "Okay fine, because now pastor said, I mean man of God is there, you have to, even slightest suggestions have to be obeyed." So I said, "Okay pastor I'm just going for a walk to have coffee, you have your rest." And then I go to the clothes showroom and I get the dress. Then I come back home and I give it to my wife and she says, "This is not from your heart, it is from your father's heart."

How can an Ethiopian change his color, a leaped his spots? You see? That is what I'm talking about; we are so reluctant to change; we are people, we are stubborn stiff-necked people. If you are honest with yourself, you will say Amen to that. We are, we want our own way. That is the reason why I'm so excited when Joanna was singing about the Cross and I said, "Please Joanna, always the Cross in your mind. Okay, don't go to these modern day songs with feelings and things. Please, stay like this." Where do you find children speaking about the Cross and the Blood of Jesus? Who will say, 'I'm a wretch'? Can you find one young man who said, "I'm a wretch! I'm a worm! I'm a nobody without the grace of God"? Who will say? Who will find? You would ask any child, "Do you think you are a wretch?" they will say, "No."

"What amazing grace! How sweet the sound! That saved a wretch like me." That's a confession of a man who found God. "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's Blood. Died He for me who caused Him pain, And for me who Him to death pursued. Amazing love, how can it be!" "Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night, Thine eye diffused a quickening ray. I woke the dungeon flamed with light. My chains fell off my heart was free I rose went forth and followed Thee. Amazing love how can it be?"

Where do you find young people talking about this? "Would He devote His sacred head for such a worm as I?" is a confession of a hymn writer. Where are worms in worship teams these days? Where are wretches in worship teams these days? And that is the reason why there's no anointing, because they're not been accustomed to think that there is something wrong with them. We have a bunch and generation of rebels, my dear brothers and sisters. The problem is me, not my neighbor.

Look at look at Jeremiah, look at what he says, 'Do you know why you are not able to change? Captivity is there, right there the war is there, Nebuchadnezzar is there, you are going to 70 years of captivity. You can still change but you will not. Do you know why? It is because you have been disciplined like the Ethiopian and the leopard. Your nature will not change. Jeremiah chapter 2 look at what it says 23 and 24,

#### **Jeremiah 2:23-24**

***<sup>23</sup> "How can you say, 'I am not polluted, I have not gone after the Baals'? See your way in the valley; Know what you have done: You are a swift dromedary breaking loose in her ways, <sup>24</sup> A wild donkey used to the wilderness, That sniffs at the wind in her desire; In her time of mating, who can turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves; In her month they will find her.***

How can you say, 'I am not unclean'? How can you say that? I mean you're living in denial. Have you seen young people of this generation deny, deny their unbelife, their uncleanness. "I'm not unclean," "I have not gone after the Baals," ***look at your way in the valley, know what you have done a restless young camel*** and look at what it says the next verse. ***A wild donkey disciplined, disciplined to the wilderness in her heat sniffing the wind who can restrain her lust? No, no who seek her need to weary themselves in her month they will find her.*** You don't have to go finding for gossip, gossip will find you, lust will find you, anger will find you, murder will find you, disobedient will find you, because you're a wild donkey, you are Ishmael. You will mock at the things of God.

Genesis chapter 16 verses 11 to 12, look at what it says about the wild donkey. Who is says this? This is from the horse's mouth, this is Jesus Himself, the Angle of the Lord.

#### **Genesis 16:11-12**

***<sup>11</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction. <sup>12</sup> He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."***

***And the Angel of the Lord said to her: Behold you are with child and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael.*** You know who Ishmael means "a man whom God hears", but the man who will never hear God. That's what it means. Ish means "Man" El means what? God. Ish-ma-el, Ish-shama-el, Ish means "Man" Shama means "Here" El means God - "Whom God hears". A man who is totally self-focused, who will say, "Lord hear me, hear me, hear me," but when God says he will not hear. I like Derek Prince prayer, you know, "Lord bless me, bless my wife, bless my son John and his wife. Ask for no more, in Jesus' name Amen." When God says, "I want to speak to you" you say, "Sorry" that is Ishmael. Genesis chapter 16 verse 12, He shall be a wild donkey of a man, a wild donkey accustomed to the wind, disciplined to do the evil, he's got a nature of the flesh, he is a man who is not of the spirit but of the flesh, he was a plan of the flesh, he was a thought patterns of this world, he was the result of the thought

pattern of this world. His hand shall be against every man, every man's hand against him, you know in other words he will not listen to anybody, nobody will listen to him. That's exactly what happens in many homes; father will not listen to anybody, children will not, by induction, mathematical induction is going on over here. Children will not. Look at this. See you need to understand this, this is a fundamental problem. So what is the solution to this problem? What is the God-ordained path for this problem? Genesis chapter 12,

#### **Genesis 12:9-10**

***<sup>9</sup>And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. <sup>10</sup>Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."***

And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. What did he do? Scoffing; he was mocking, he was making fun, he was ridiculing, he was making sport. 'Hey, be sportive man! Come on! You're not a sport! That's what young people say, "Be sportive! Why are you so conservative?" Koncham stylish ga undala. Do you know what the Bible says? **cast out this bond woman and her son**, why? **Because this guy is not going to be heir with my son Isaac.**

So Isaiah chapter 54 verse 13 so this guy is the man of the flesh; he has to be cast down. In other words he has to be disqualified, he has to be rendered inactive, in other words. And something new has to come out. Who has to come out? A new spiritual person; born of God, born of the Promise, born of the Spirit, born of the Word, who can be taught. There's no point disciplining the Ethiopian or the leopard. Look at what it says in Isaiah chapter 54 verse 13. We will like this, right?

#### **Isaiah 54:13**

***<sup>13</sup>All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.***

***<sup>13</sup>All your children shall be taught by the LORD***, Kya bath hai! I like that; all your children shall be taught of the Lord. Okay and look at what it says, actually in the amplified translation. Look at what he says, beautiful translation. The amplified translation is very interesting - ***all your spiritual sons will be disciples of the Lord and great will be the well-being of your sons*** (AMP).

So, he says, "Understand this, that person cannot be disciplined." So, who has to be disciplined? First, the person has to be born of the Spirit. Born of the Spirit. How are you born of the Spirit? Believing that Jesus died for your sin, He was buried and He rose again for your justification, and by repenting of your sins, making peace with God and with man and becoming a brand-new creation in Christ. Why? ***If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, behold everything has become new.*** John's Gospel chapter 6 will say,

#### **John 6:43-45**

***<sup>43</sup>Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.***

And therefore Galatians will say in Galatians chapter 4, we know this verse very well.

#### **Galatians 4:28-29**

***<sup>28</sup>Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup>But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.***

So who is Isaac? He was born of Promise that means, of the Word. He was born of the Spirit. He is not born of the flesh. That is a born-again person. Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say? ***Cast out the bond woman and her son, for the son of the bond woman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman.*** So, the first step: Who can be disciplined? Who can become a disciple? Who can qualify as to becoming a disciple? It is a person who is born of the Spirit, who is born of the Word, who has been born-again into the Kingdom through receiving Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and, there's lot of other things that has to happen. He has to commit himself to a lifelong process of discipleship.



So, the first who has to be disciplined now? What has to be disciplined in this new born-again person? Is the question. First thing, who has to be disciplined? Second, what has to be disciplined in this new born again person? What has to be disciplined? Let's try to understand this. Hebrews chapter 10 let's move and let's see a few verses here.

### **Hebrews 10: 5-6**

**<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.**

Therefore, verse 5 onwards therefore when He come into this world okay, He said, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but what did You prepared for Me? A body, everybody say body. So, what has to be disciplined? The body okay, everything is the body it's the, it's the vessel which carries your soul and your spirit. Body without the spirit is dead, spirit without the body also doesn't make any difference. So the body has to be surrendered, the body has to be disciplined. So, let understand what has to be disciplined in the body a little more.

### **Hebrews 10:7**

**<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'**"

Again we know these verses very well, a body has to be disciplined. So, first what should you do in that process of discipleship?

### **Romans 12:1**

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

***I beseech you therefore brethren that you present, offer your bodies,*** okay that's the point. So the first thing that has to be done is a surrender of your body, to whom? It says - ***acceptable to God***. Who is God? Is the question now in this. Now let us zero it, narrow it on a little more. Okay body has to be disciplined, we know that. Look at what it says as to how Jesus was disciplined or disciplined. We know this verse very well. This is the mystery which is given. This is not a revelation, this is something which is talked about Jesus and prophesied about Jesus in Isaiah. Isaiah chapter 50 verse 4 in the NASB translation okay.

### **Isaiah 50:4**

**<sup>4</sup> "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 Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples. So that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.*** Everybody say, "He awakens me morning by morning!" Okay again say, "He awakens my ear" who was there? Somebody is there – 'HE' who's that HE? God, Spirit etc. Everybody has their own understanding but let me tell you the way I look at this particular word "HE" who is that He? This is how I understand - He is a Person and that disciple is a person who has offered his body to God-ordained leadership. "Discipline of surrender to God-ordained leadership" because 'HE and me' are there. Who is that HE? God.

I mean, we have our third daughter now okay. So, I sit with her and I'm reading through her PACEs okay. So she reads one chapter of the PACE-work, which says, "I am special. God has a plan for me" etc. etc. Etc. So, "God made everybody different. No two people in the world are the same." And I say, "Honey you know, you are special. God has a plan for you. God has a plan for a special plan for you and no two people in the same house have the same plan." She is very happy. Then the next part of the paragraph reads, "God has a plan for me now." Oh! What is the plan? Now, I have to study, I have to read, I have to learn, I have to listen to my parents. That is the plan for the special purpose now. Everybody says, "I'm special, I'm special, I'm special." How many of you think that you are special? Come on! God has a special purpose. God has a plan for me. Okay, if God has a plan for you, what is God's plan for you now at this time? To give your undivided attention to the person who is teaching you the Word.

See, otherwise you can forget your calling. You are the very special and you will go to hell all the way special and a very special place in hell will be reserved for you. Special now. Now that is where I feel, I'll tell you something, the Bible does say that all our children will be taught of the Lord. Yes, but the Lord uses somebody. In all the Bible there are very few people who have been directly disciplined by the God. Abraham, one person. Not Isaac, not Jacob, not even Joseph. Second person if I am right in my order is Moses; directly disciplined by God, not Joshua, not Caleb, not

the entire batch who's going to enter into the Promise Land. Then if my, through the book of Judges you will find God finding one person here and there etc okay. And then you go the kings, Saul, David etc. and then you come to Elijah; the man was directly hand-picked by the God; disciplined by God. But not Elisha. Jesus was directly disciplined by God but not His disciples. Saul, who became Paul, was directly disciplined by God. I feel I have my reservations and that but it's okay let's say that he was directly disciplined by God because he says, "Three and half years in the deserts of Arabia, I was taught the Word by God Himself, therefore I received revelation from God. Flesh and blood has not revealed to me etc. okay fine. But not Timothy, not Titus, not Silas, not Demas, very few people.

So there's a very interesting doctrine in the foundations. Hebrews chapter 6, Hebrews chapter 6. We know these foundations very well and one of the often-misunderstood doctrine. Often misunderstood fundamental doctrine. I'll show you that doctrine today, I'll introduce the doctrine to you. I don't think we might have discussed it in some contexts, but I want to show you some interesting pictures in the Old Covenant as to how this doctrine manifests itself in practice.

### **Hebrews 6:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.***

*"repentance from the dead works" the first foundation doctrine. "Faith toward God" is a second foundation of doctrine. "Doctrine of baptisms" is third and the fourth doctrine is the "laying of hand", fifth doctrine is "resurrection from death" and sixth doctrine is "eternal judgment".*

1,2,3,4,5,6. After three fundamental doctrines the *"doctrine of baptisms"* and *"repentance on dead works"* and *"faith toward God"* comes the very important doctrine called the *"doctrine of the laying of hands"*. Where you impart what we call as the spiritual gift or a spiritual impartation happens so that the ministry and the work of Jesus Christ can continue in the next generation. Okay, so as I told you, in the Kingdom of God there is no election, there's only selection. We are called 'the elect' but election has become a very misunderstood term in these days. God chooses, there is nothing by vote, "let us vote the next pastor", it doesn't happen. God has to choose.

So, remember, Elijah comes around the mountain, he sees Elisha, he takes this mantle, puts on Elisha and he walks. And Elisha runs behind Elijah and he says, "Please, can I say good bye to my father and mother?" And do you know what he says? "What has this got to do with me?" In other words, "I did not call you, I did not call you, I did not choose you, God told me and I put the mantle on you," in other words, "it was not for me to give you any anointing, it was not for me to call you. It was God who called you, even though He used me as a vessel." So, when you say, "I'll go and say tata to mamma and papa, what is that calling have to do with me? It's not about me, you decide it right now."

So in the Kingdom of God, nothing is by election, there's nothing by vote. God chooses unilaterally. What the laying on of hands does? It recognizes the purpose, the person who has already been chosen by God. Do you understand? Laying on of hands is a very important thing. It says that laying on of hands is a recognition of the person to the office to which God has already chosen that person for. Let me give this example, okay. Numbers chapter 27, one of my favorite passages in the Bible.

### **Numbers 27:15-17**

***<sup>15</sup> Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: <sup>16</sup> "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, <sup>17</sup> who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."***

Then Moses spoke to the Lord, okay *Moses spoke to the Lord saying, "let the Lord the God of the spirits of all flesh..."* I like that now. How is he? How is he talking to God? *The God of the spirits of all flesh set a man over the congregation.* Now you know Moses he does nothing without consulting God. Because he already made a mistake, he asked the people to choose 12 spies, okay. They chose okay, when they chose 12 spies what will happen? You will be in the wilderness. If you choose you will be in the wilderness. If God chooses you will be in the Promised Land. So, he already made a mistake, he asked the people to make a choice, those fellows came and spoke bad report and they were in the wilderness for next 38 years. So he says, "Lord please, Lord, *set the man over the congregation. Who may go out before them and who can go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which do not have a shepherd.*" And this is his heart. He says, "Lord

choose the next shepherd”; he says, “Lord I have some resumes in my mind. I’m short-listing a few resumes, I have Caleb, I have Joshua, I have Phinehas, I have Bezalel who has build the tabernacle. I have so many people that I have shortlisted who are full of the Spirit of wisdom etc. He’s a very good engineer etc. I mean, I have shortlisted all these people. Who is Your choice? Who is Your resume?” Look at what God says, okay in Numbers 27.

### **Numbers 27:18-20**

**<sup>18</sup> And the LORD said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; <sup>19</sup> set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. <sup>20</sup> And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.**

*And the Lord said to Moses take Joshua the son of Nun a man who has the Spirit in him. Kya baat hai! And what do you do? Lay your hand on him. Now what is laying on of hands doing? It is recognizing the person who has already been called to an office. It's not choosing now, it's recognizing the person who is already chosen; you understand. The one who's been called to the office. **Now set him before Eleazar the priest.** So Moses, when you come and endorse him now, when you're coming and endorsing him now, it's as if you are doing that on my part, and everybody knows that it is God's appointment. He is not hired, therefore he cannot be fired.*

That's exactly, the gifts and calling are, what? Without repentance. He is not hired, therefore he cannot be fired. In other words you cannot fire a prophet. Who are you to fire a prophet? The prophet has fired you. You cannot fire a shepherd. ‘Shepherd, oh! from this day onwards you are not my shepherd, Go! Bye! Bye!’ It's not going to change anything, because it's not your appointment. Even if he has to be removed God has to remove him. That exactly the reason when David had opportunity after, opportunity after opportunity to kill Saul, do you know what he says? That is God's appointment, how can I touch the Lord's anointed?” He cannot be fired, God has to remove him. Okay, by the way, all these things I've learned from pastor okay. He cannot be hired and therefore he cannot be fired. So that's what this is. All these tongue-in-cheek are from Pastor James several years back in all our conversations.

***So, set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation and inaugurate him in their sight and you shall give him what? Some of your authority, not complete, to him that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.*** You see now, what is God doing? He has chosen a person and the people, if they have to be disciplined and disciplined, they have to learn and to submit to God-ordained leadership. So, you cannot say, ‘I'll be disciplined by God Himself’ and not submit to God-ordained leadership. It doesn't work, it doesn't work that way. I'm not talking about other churches; I'm talking about what the Biblical standard is. Okay, then what happens? **<sup>21</sup>He shall stand before Eleazar, the priest, the high priest. A type of high priest, or a picture of her the Holy Spirit, and who shall inquire before the Lord for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him – all the congregation.**

So God chose.

### **Numbers 27:22-23**

**<sup>22</sup> So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. <sup>23</sup> And he laid his hands upon him...**

Let me tell you something, why was Joshua picked? This is my personal understanding. Joshua, when the Amalekites came and fought, remember at Rephidim, Moses looked at Joshua, “Go and fight.” No questions asked, ‘What are you going to do? What are you going to do, Moses?’ ‘I will go and pray. You go and fight.’ ‘I see? Can we reverse orders?’ ‘No, you go fight. I pray.’ Look at this, Moses is on the top of the mountain praying, when Moses' hands are down who's losing? Joshua is losing. Did he give up? Did he complain about Moses? ‘What are you doing Moses? We all trusted in you, we believed in you, you're letting us down.’ Nothing.

You see, this is what God is looking for. Will you submit to God-ordained leadership? Can you be a person on whom God can lay His hands on? That is the reason why Paul tells Timothy. Please don't lay hands on anybody. Do not be partakers of others people's sins, please. Now what happens? What happens because of the impartation? What happens look at this? This is one of my favorite versed again, Deuteronomy chapter 34. I'll look at this and I say, ‘Lord, You are awesome; Your promises are fantastic.’ Deuteronomy chapter 34 and verse number 9,

### **Deuteronomy 34:9**

***<sup>9</sup> Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.***

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom why? Because Moses laid his hands on him. Kya baat hai! "May the Lord give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation." That will remain a prayer, unless you surrender to God-ordained leadership. He is full of the spirit of wisdom. See Joshua ka time ayega, apna time ayega. Joshua's time will come. Your time will come. Wait, surrender, submit, go through the process.

Look at what it says in 1 Peter chapter 5. People don't like these verses. So anything you don't like, you can expect it from my mouth okay.

### **1 Peter 5:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,***

So the time of exaltation has come. Moses is asking, "Lord, Lord, whom shall I lay hands on? Because if I lay hands on him it is as if You are laying hand upon him. So, tell me, Lord, who is already under Your hand? Tell me Lord, show me Lord in the Spirit who is already under Your hand? Who's got the Spirit of submission in him?" Now the Spirit of God is hovering around here in this place, everybody is looking; in your mind, because submission starts here, in the mind. It's called the humility of the mind, it's an attitude. Who is meek? Who's under God's hand? Who's under God's hand? Here is this congregation who's under God's hand? Who is under God's hand? Anybody there? Can God say 'that is the guy with the Spirit, because he was already under My hand,'?

Because it says that the Earth was formless okay. Darkness was it, was you know what, Hebrew is fantastic you know "Bereshit Bara Elohim". "Beha-arath" and "Shammai" okay He created the heavens in the earth. The earth was without form "Vas-Tohu va-Vohu" that is the word: Tohu wa-bohu" means was formless and dark; there is absolute chaos, and the Spirit of God hovering, 'Where should I land?' and then the Lord spoke, "Let there be light!" and the Spirit came. In other words, here also, lot of people who will never surrender to anybody, you know what they are? Formless without order, and the Spirit of Lord wants to come and give you the impartation but you will not allow, because you will not surrender. I'll tell you something, you have already made up your mind, whether good or bad. Some people who have already, 'You can convince me, but I have already made up my mind what to do. I will listen to you and I will clap, if you want my claps, I will give you likes also on YouTube, I'll subscribe to your YouTube channel but I'll not listen to you.' Leviticus 19 again favorite verses,

### **Leviticus 19:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. <sup>3</sup> 'Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.***

'I will fear only God, not father and mother.' If you can't fear your father and mother, whom you can see, how can you fear the God whom you cannot see? It is not revere, it is fear, fear. 'Daddy is my friend, my best friend.' 'I am a friend of God, He calls me friend.' When did Abraham become His friend? Tell me, when did Abraham becomes God's friend? When he tied Isaac on the altar and he was about to kill Isaac, God said, "Abraham, Abraham, stop! Now I know that you fear Me," and Abraham became a friend of God. That is where he became a friend of God. 'We are buddy, buddy.'

### **Leviticus 19:32**

***<sup>32</sup> 'You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.***

*You shall rise before the gray headed man, look at this, you shall rise before the gray headed man and honor the presence of old man and fear your God. So, how do you fear God? Let us come to the brass tacks – Do you fear, do you reverence God, the men of God, servants of God, whether they are young or whether they are old? Do you fear them? Do you fear your father and mother? Children, in your homes, the one who's taking care of you, whether it be a father, because many people come from single homes. Do you fear your mother who is taking care of you? Or your father who is taking care of you? or do you murmur and complain against your father? These are very important. This is what we call old fashion. Jeremiah chapter 6 verse 16.*

### Jeremiah 6:16-19

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' <sup>17</sup> Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.' <sup>18</sup> Therefore hear, you nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them. <sup>19</sup> Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people— The fruit of their thoughts, Because they have not heeded My words Nor My law, but rejected it.

Thus says the Lord, stand in the ways and see (there are several ways), ask for the old paths where the good way is, (where are the good ways?) Here, in the Word of God. Ask for it and what? Walk in it then you will find, what? Rest for your souls. "Come to Me all you who are heavy and burdened, I'll give you rest." And then what else? "Take My yoke upon you and the learn of Me then you will find rest." So, what happens? And I set watchmen over you saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, 'we will not listen,' therefore hear, you nations, and know Oh congregation what is among them. Hear Oh earth behold I will certainly bring calamity on these people, the fruit of their thoughts because they have not heeded My words, Nor My law, but rejected it."

Ask for the old ways! You know, I'm telling you something, in some of the things in our own culture, the way people from non-Christian backgrounds honor and respect. You know something I was stunned when I went to this wedding the reverence that a Muslim man was showing pastor and a Hindu man with his dhoti and this thing, he was bowing low and greeting, "Pastor, Pastor garu, Pastor yes sir, yes sir." I never seen and it's genuine, it's not aathivenayam durthalakshanamu no. But Christians, they stand with their head high, "Okay Pastor." This is how many Christians walk. I mean I will tell my children, there's one sutram in our school, what is the sutram? Guru mukastya vidya labyadhe, Guru mukastya vidya labyadhe in other words 'Honor your Guru, reverence him, there is an impartation.' I'll give you another example, 2 Kings chapter 13, 2 Kings chapter 13,

### 2 Kings 13:14

<sup>14</sup> Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die okay. So, prophets can also have illness okay, then Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over his face and said, 'My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen.' 'My father, my father,' he is weeping; the same cry that Elisha made when he was seeing his mentor Elijah being taken up in the whirlwind, 'My father, my father! The chariots of Israel!' You know who is the chariot of Israel? not the king who has the chariots. All the king's horses and all the king's men could not put humpty together again. He had all the entourage with him, he had everything with him, the cavalry with him everything. But he cannot win one battle, you know why? Because there's only one man who is actually the horse man and the army of Israel, who is that one man? Elisha, and Elijah in the previous generation. He is crying, 'My father, my father!' Then look at what happens.

### 2 Kings 13: 15-17

<sup>15</sup> And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. <sup>16</sup> Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. <sup>17</sup> And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."

And Elisha put his hands on the king's hands... what is happening now? There is laying on of hands which is going on and there's an impartation which is happening. Okay, an impartation which is happening okay. Then it goes no **and he said open the east window**, the window of the east, **so he opened it and he said shoot and he shot the arrow of the Lord's deliverance**. Now he shot an arrow, but who's the arrow of the Lord's deliverance? The king. Okay, 'you are' because it says, **'as the arrows in the hands of a mighty man so are children in one's youth**, okay. So, he is the arrow and the arrow of deliverance from Syria for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them. Till when? Till you have destroyed them. Okay I'm giving you an impartation okay. He teaches my fingers for war etc. "I am making you a warrior" there's an impartation in the spiritual realm which is going on through the laying on of hands. And then, you are the arrow of God's deliverance. Then he says then he says, **"Take the arrows," and he said, "strike the ground," so he struck the ground**, tak, tak, tak, ha! This is how I imagined it, okay. And he, man of God was angry with him, "You shall strike Syria till they are, what? Destroyed," How many times did you strike them? One

two three, enough? Then the man was angry and said, "If you would have struck five or six times. You would have struck Syria till you have destroyed it, but now you will strike it only three times. You have not struck them enough. You have to strike till they are destroyed. But you did not do it. It was three times only." You know what that is? Lazy.

I'll tell you something, the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of God are full of lazy people, full of spiritually lazy people. For several reasons that laziness can be caused because of several reasons. I'll tell you I'll show you one you know one had a fantastic mentor but who was kind of lazy, okay.

### **2 Timothy 1:6-8**

***<sup>6</sup>Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,***

Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of hands. Now through the laying on of hands. So Timothy was already called by God but through the laying on of hands there was impartation of spiritual gift, there was also an exaltation to the office. *For God has not given us spirit of fear but of power and of love and of sound mind.* I remind to stir up the gift, what has happened to the gift? You stopped using it like this king; three times only. What has happened to you? You are crippled by fear. Why are you crippled by fear? Next verse, ***<sup>8</sup>therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings of Christ.*** He is like, he looked at Paul and he said, "Aaba! If I get to this office, my whole life full of risks, I don't know what is waiting for me, I go with Paul, everywhere I go with him there are only sufferings and beatings and thrashings." Lazy people. I'll show you some one, one lazy man okay in the Bible. Proverbs chapter 26 verse 13 some fantastic proverb.

### **Proverbs 26:13**

***<sup>13</sup>The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!"***

Say everybody the lazy man says there is lion in the road a fierce lion in the streets. It's too much of the risk. If I go this path too much of a risk. That's the reason I like the three lepers, "Why do we sit here and die? If we go back, we will die. If we stay here, we will die." Just lazy people; they are crippled by fear – 'What is going to happen? What is going to happen?' Let me tell you something, I think it was Mark Zuckerberg I think he made this statement, "it's a great risk not to take a risk." It is a great risk, he took a risk in the wrong side, but if you take risk for God, you will never lose. You invest in God; you never lose. You may lose here but on the other side, full benefit.

### **Proverbs 26:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup>As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. <sup>15</sup>The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.***

As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed, what does he do? He turns on the bed. Emmanuela, she is here, okay, "Please get up" she will keep tossing on the bed, clockwise, anti-clockwise and sometimes she curls like a shrimp and she says, "I'm not getting up." Where is the door going? Nowhere. You come back till Jesus comes that door in Jeevan Jyothi will stay there. You can admire the door, you can paint the door, you can decorate the door, but it's still there, it's not going anywhere. Look at this next one, ***a lazy man buries his hand into the bowl and it wearies and grieves him to take it back and put it in his mouth.*** You know it's like I told my children, it's like mother makes breakfast in the morning, your father irons your clothes, when you were a small baby, he gave you a shower as well, okay. He took the auto; he took you to school and he made you sit in the class. Who worked hard? Okay everybody, every one of your parents have worked hard now, now what are you supposed to do? Take the bowl called mathematics and put it in your mind and what do you say? "Oh! Tables!" You should see the faces of people when I ask them tables, it's a grievous exercise for them. So, I have to tell them, "You know what God does not bless lazy people."

Do you know who wrote the first Gospel in your New Testament? What is the first Gospel? Matthew, who was Matthew? What was he doing? What was he doing? He is doing mathematics. Matthew the mathematician. He was very busy, credit, debit, credit, accounts, accounts, accounts, accounts, accounts, accounts because he says, "You know, the Kingdom of God is like a man who is taking accounts, account, accounts. You see maximum accounts in Matthew only. And he is very serious in his tax booth, trying to balance the accounts. You know there is two degrees

in intermediate, something called as CEC. What is CEC? Commerce, Economics and Civics. There is another called Math, Economics and Civics. If you want to become a very good economist and a commerce graduate, which intermediate graduate background should you have? MEC. 'CEC is easy. Who wants to go through all the trouble of balancing accounts?'

Matthew was very serious in his tax booth and Jesus said, "Aaba! Kya precision hai! You're perfect in your accounts, worked very hard in your math, the first man who will write My first Gospel will be the mathematician called Matthew." Matthew the mathematician. Even doctor will be third, Doctor Luke is a third, first is mathematician. Even Luke, because you know why? Doctors don't know mathematics. So he also has to write about accounts, where should he learn from? Matthew. So he says, 'The Kingdom of God is like a man who goes to his householder, and asked for accounts.' Aray how do we tally accounts? Matthew, he knows very well. And you see how precise Matthew is? He knows which prophecy to be applied where. Where did he get this precise from? By learning math.

So, if you are disciplined in Math, you will be called to be a preacher of the Gospel. And that too the first fellow. Kya baat hai! Kya baat hai! All the mathematicians can pat your shoulders, now. You see, let me tell you, I tell my children, you should see, I mean a new one who's added into our family now. I have to create interest for her now. She has to she has to learn it. So I said you know what, numbers have feelings, I tell her honestly. I mean I feel that. I genuinely feel they have feeling okay. Numbers have feelings. If you call six an odd number it'll feel bad. And then she is looking at me and said, "Papa? Haa? are you? What do you think Papa's joking or is he serious?" She is like, "I don't know."

You see, so the first Gospel writer. I'm telling you, this is exact science. You know how difficult it is for Children to learn and study. Food is given, tutor is given, tuition fellows will come and teach you, for you it is a grievous exercise to put it in your mouth. Enna macha? And you know what, "One day I am going to win a nation to Christ." Whom are you kidding? Whom are you kidding? Yourself. Okay take MEC. Okay take MEC. Understand this. We have a generation who is lazy, who's been given all privileges and it's a grievous exercise for them to study. That is the reason why Paul tells Timothy, "*Study to show yourself approved unto to God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth.*" Work hard. You've been given a gift. But your lazy. Fear had cripple you, risk taking, taking risk has crippled you, but God is saying, "Let Me tell you something, the accounts are always positive on My side. I will settle all accounts one day; you take a risk for Me and you will never lose with Me." Morning by morning God awakened His disciple. Can God awaken you through your father and your mother at least? How many of you know, you'll get up in the morning and the first thing the alarm starts, you switch off the snooze button. That's what you'll switch off, first thing. Not even the alarm, snooze. Please don't disturb me, you fellow. You see.

If you can overcome sleep and this fellow, the tummy, seventy to ninety percent of discipleship is already over. You should be like Samuel who worked hard in his sleep, "Samuel, Samuel," he just got up like that, "You called me? You called me?" Eli is saying, "Baba! You sleep, you fellow. You don't sleep and you don't let me sleep." I mean I don't sometimes Eli might have wished, you know, 'look at this kid, not born in a Christian home, under a high priest and look at my children, lazy, gluttonous.' You know what the Bible says? ***None of the words of Samuel fell to the ground and he was established from Dan to Beersheba as a prophet of Israel.*** Do you know why? He overcame his sleep. You know where is the maximum amount of sleep that happens? the deepest part of your sleep? 3 "O" Clock in the morning, it is what we call as REM Rapid Eye Movement okay, that is when all your dreams are very clear in your mind. You know Rapid Eye Movement you know who is coming who is going the story is very, very clear. That is when God use to call Yeshua, "Yeshua, Yeshua, get up." And He got up.

You see, you have to burn the mid night oil to become a disciple. Lord, we toiled all the night Lord, yes and we caught nothing. No problem, no problem but at My Word. My Word will come only to those people who have toiled all the night and nobody else, nobody else, no lazy bones in the church. Understand this, discipleship. Do you want to become stewards of the mysteries of God?

#### **Proverbs 26:16**

***<sup>16</sup> The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.***

But can we be disciple? A lazy man is wiser in his own eyes, than seven man who can answer discretely. It means, this guy is totally unteachable, you cannot persuade him. He has already made up his mind. Read the book of Proverbs, tremble whenever the lazy fellow comes. Look at yourself there and take correction. First thing your body

has to be disciplined; overcome sleep midnight oil you burn; did you not burn when you are studying? I mean I remember for my one exam because I wanted a 100, I wanted 100 period. I'm not going to get less than 100 is what I thought myself 48 hours without sleep, I just, I mean I would the entire week I was studying and before the exam 48 hours I was dotting every i, crossing out every t I said I am going to get a 100 period.

You know a lot of people say, you know what, before the exam you have to take some rest, your mind has to be fresh. I said, non-sense. 48 hours of studying and studying and my adrenal was pumping okay when I went to the exam full of adrenaline and then 3 hours of exams ta, ta, ta, ta, ta I wrote I came out. 100 and then I went home and slept, people wanted to do combined study with me. Then I said, I had a friend no Nityanand timma raju from Guntur he said Vijay next time onwards nee tho time antedi combine study chestay champa meeda kotu I will never do combine studies with you. What is this studying ray? Without sleep. For an earthly job, for an earthly degree, for a 100 on this earth. You know, we don't have that kind of fire, we are lazy people who are entitled, so we have something called as merit store in our school. Earn your merits. "I want that," that costs 2500 merits, you'll not getting it for free. Earn it, it's available for everybody, we're not partial here. Earn.

So, the body has to be disciplined. Second, in the body there's one very important part which as to be disciplined, what is that? Everybody say, "ear" the ear has to be disciplined. What in the body? The ear has to be discipline, the senses. Our first sense - he who has your ear has your body. What is that? He who has your ear has your body. 'Mahima stand up,' why did she stand up? Because I have her ear and therefore I have her body, simple. Sit down. See, he who has your ear has your body. That is the reason why it says, *a body You have prepared for Me* in Hebrews chapter 10 and He says in *Psalms 40* the same passage says, 'My ears you have dug, you have pierced.' Proverbs chapter 5

#### **Proverbs 5:1-9**

***<sup>1</sup> My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, <sup>2</sup> That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup> But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. <sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. <sup>6</sup> Lest you ponder her path of life— Her ways are unstable; You do not know them. <sup>7</sup> Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. <sup>8</sup> Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, <sup>9</sup> Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one;***

*My son, pay attention to my wisdom.* How, how, how, how? *Lend your ear to my understanding.* Lend your ear. Please, give me your ear. Give me your undivided attention. Means what? I am all yours. I am here. I've circumcised my ears, circumcised my ear. I have prepared my ears so that God can speak to me. You see, discipleship is a training which we have to become what we call as intentional. We have to become intentional in this. Okay, understand that, ***if anyone desires to do My will*** or other translations will say ***if anyone wills to do My will***. John's Gospel chapter 7 verse 17 ***if anyone wills to do My will he will understand the doctrine***, who will understand? He who has your ear.

*Proverbs 5: <sup>5</sup>that you my preserve discretion and your lips may give knowledge for the lips of an immoral woman drip honey and a mouth is smoother than oil, but in the end, she is bitter as warm wood sharp as a two edged sword her feet go down to death her steps lay hold of hell <sup>6</sup>lest you ponder her path of life her ways are unstable you do not know them.*

Where did it start? With the hearing. *Therefore, hear me now my children do not depart from the words of my mouth remove your ways far from her do not go near the door of her house lest you give your honor to others and your years to the cruel one.*

You know what? So many young people have lost their years because they have not given their ears to their parents, godly parents especially. They have not given, disobedient to the parents is the norm, you see 2 Timothy chapter 4 verse 2.

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

***<sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires,***



***because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season convince, rebuke, exhort with all kind of longsuffering and teaching. Why? Do you know why? because a time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, they will not like teaching. Why? According to their own desires because they have itching ears. They have to always have somebody to come and scratch you, to pamper you, to make life easy for you. That is the reason why prophetic, what is prophetic word, 'correction, rebuke, teaching, rebuke, teaching, *all Scripture, given by the inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for rebuke, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that a man of God may be complete and thorough prepared for every good work.* But you know what the problem is? You will not hear. Do you know there is a very fired up prophet in the Old Covenant, his name is Amos and he was just a farmer. He is just a farmer, he was a herdsman, from herdsman from Tekoa, if I am right. Herdsman from Tekoa and he goes, he's in Judah by the way and he is called as a Prophet to prophesy to the Northern kingdom of Israel and when he goes and prophesies they don't listen to him. Look at what it says about the people, his audience in Amos chapter 2 verses 11 and 12 this is the Word of God.

**Amos 2:11-12**

***<sup>11</sup> I raised up some of your sons as prophets, And some of your young men as Nazirites. Is it not so, O you children of Israel?" Says the LORD. <sup>12</sup> "But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink, And commanded the prophets saying, 'Do not prophesy!'***

I raised up some of your sons as what? Prophets and some of your young man as Nazirites. Who are Nazirites? Those people who have listened to the prophetic word and taken correction and become separate. You know, I'll tell ,I'll give you an example. This is one man of God who gave this a fantastic example. This man of God fired up consecrated and he does not watch movies, he has no bad company and he's like really, really on fire for God and there's one Hindu neighbor of his comes to him and asks to this question, "I mean you are a Christian, there are so many other Christians, why are you so much against movies? I mean so many other Christians also watch movies, you're also one of them. What is wrong in watching movies? Why don't you watch movies?" etc. Now he didn't want to put the other Christians down, now he asked God, "God, how do I answer this guy?" And Lord gave him an answer, "You're a Hindu right?" He said, "Yes, I am Hindu." "You see that guy with mala? Ayya appa mala okay, is he a Hindu?" Yes, he is a Hindu, "Does he wake up in morning?" Yes, he wakes up in the morning. "Does he walk without shoes?" Yes, he walks without shoes. "Do you walk with shoes?" Yes, I walk with shoes. "Do you say swami, swami, swami like the way he says swami, swami, swami? You use all kinds of language, he does not use he is also a Hindu, you are Hindu. What is the difference?" And that guy said, "Sir, he's a sanctified Hindu." And you know what he said? "I am a sanctified Christian."

Sanctified. Why don't you be like other people? What is this dressing all the time? Uncle laga, aunty laga? Ha! Lot of people have a problem with salwar. I told my children, "It's not important what other people think about you. For two people it's important; what God thinks about you and what your father thinks about you. That's it." If you have a backing of God and the prayer of your father; if you have a backing of God and prayers of your father and the blessing of your father and nothing and nobody can touch you, nobody.

Joseph had a backing of God and the prayers and the blessing of his father, nothing could touch him. Everybody is doing Joseph, why are you so different? "My God, my God, my God." I remember, when Jacob is blessing, he's laying hands, that's another impartation that happens right? It's remarkable. Jacob calls his two children Manasseh and Ephraim and he crosses his hands like this and he starts blessing and the word of God is fantastic, it says, "he laid his hands on Ephraim and Manasseh and blessed Joseph." Wow! Wow! Whom did he bless? Joseph, whom did he lay hands on? Ephraim and Manasseh. Think about that, put in your spiritual pipes and smoke it. Why are your children blessed, Joseph? Because your father. Ephraim and Manasseh are asking granddaddy, "Why are you blessing us?" Because of your father, your father never ever disobeyed me, he always surrendered me, surrender to me.

What kind of legacy are we living for our children, my dear brother and sisters? And what did you do? ***Amos 2:12 But ye gave the Nazirites wine to drink.*** You said, "Arrey, don't be like this, don't be like this. This is all old fashioned," and what did you tell your prophets? ***Do no prophesy,*** don't prophesy. That is the reason why the Bible very clearly says - *be careful as to what you hear and be careful as to how you hear and we have to pay much careful attention to the things that we have already heard lest we drift away.*

Discipline your ear. So once you discipline your ear, do you know what happens automatically? You have your mind; I tell my children, I say, "Read it loudly." Why? When you read it loudly it goes into your ears and then it goes into your mind. You know most of the people whom I know, even, even my school, we have children who read loudly and I have to say, "Now just jus tone it down a little, I understand where you're coming from, but it is disturbing the others in the class," because I read loudly. But I'm in my church office, I like church office because I can read loudly English Bible, Telugu Bible, any Bible I read loudly, because you know what is happening? When I read Bible, it is coming out of my mouth and is going through my ear gate and then it's going into my mind and it's framing my thoughts. So, read it loudly, you know what happens? There will be concentration and you will exhaust yourself and you know that you worked hard and then you can go and have your food. Because those who would not work should not eat. Oh, I have read with my mind I'm tired. I don't think so. Exhaust, read loud, speak to yourself, prophesy to yourself, speak to yourself, teach yourself. You know I go to the bathroom and I just go singing only, anywhere in the world, then I listen to my own hymns. Just keep on memorizing and speaking to myself. I sing to myself speak to myself memorize myself. I memorize and memorize so many Psalms and so many proverbs now, so many songs, just I just love it. I want my mind to be occupied with the things I have spoken from my own mind because it says, 'this book of the law shall not depart from where? From your mouth. These are principles which I have learnt, even from godly people right from childhood. When we were growing up my parents us to say, "When you're studying, study and read how? Loudly." Mansulo chaduvukuntuna nenu.

### **Romans 12:1**

***<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

How does that happen?

### **Joshua 1:8**

***<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.***

This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate. How do you meditate? You speak the Word to yourself and the Word speaks to you. And then you start meditating, you start thinking. Oh, this is what it says? I speak it loudly. Oh, this is what it says? It's like I'm getting used to the voice of God from my own mouth. Discipline your ear.

### **Psalms 1:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.***

But his delight is in the law of the Lord and what does he do and in his law, that he what? Meditate. You know what the word for meditate is? The word is ye hegey. Hegey means like a lion sitting on its meat and eating. Have you seen a lion eating its food? Serious business. It's like so many of you eat your mutton curry, you know, very serious don't disturb. Very serious in their eating process, quiet, don't disturb; don't even touch my plate. And you are in full concentration on eating. Half than that, not even 20 percent of concentration is on reading. And you are thinking that you will get all the revelations and the speakings of God in your mind. How is it possible? So, meditate. Delight and meditate. Meditation is fantastic. It says, meditate means think over like a lion thinks over its food. The lion that hunts its prey.

You know how the lion hunts its prey? If I don't get my food today, I'll die; my entire survival is depend upon getting that fellow. So he will do everything in its capacity to target that thing and get it. That is a sight to watch on National Geography and then you should think about this verse, the parable. What is a parable? *how serious a lion is for the prey.* Am I as serious for the Word of God? What happens to that fellow? *He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.*

You know one, one of my students in our school, he gave me a greeting card for my birthday. He says, 'He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water' etc. Etc and he wrote this verse and gave it to me on the first page of the

card and I opened that card and he says, 'Sir, thank you for being that tree in my life.' And I was touched, I said, "Boy! What a promise!" I mean this is like a sixth grader Phinehas you know, many of you know Phinehas. How you thought? "Thank you for being that tree in my life." You know out of the mouth of Babes you have perfected praise. And I said, "You know, Lord, what a responsibility You have given to me." Sometimes you look at children, you know what, when I'm doing devotions you should look at this kid, he come little late because some issue in his home and he sits in the last chair and when the devotion is going on, he is like this like (peeping from left and right to get a better view and heard better) he wants to get eye contact. Phinehas. And my daughter is there next to me, yawning. I'm just kidding. You know what, he is listening to me like this and a prophet is never recognized in his own town okay. These are parables in your own home. You see. Understand this. Read loudly. You shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters. Why? Because his mind is thinking on the Word of God. Is there fruit in your life? Constantly thinking. Because as the man thinketh so is he. Discipline your mind.

That is the reason why he says in Jeremiah chapter 4 verse 3 *Oh, Israel how long will you have vain thoughts lodging in you?* You are harboring evil thoughts. Harboring, do you know what harboring is? You have dropped anchor now. The evil thoughts have dropped anchor in your life. How long? Vain thoughts, evil thoughts lodging, taking rent in your mind without paying rent.

### **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>***"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.***

You know why he trusts in the Lord? because he meditated upon the Word. You see the same verse? *He shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river and not fear when the heat comes but its leaf shall be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought but will never cease from yielding fruits.* Do you know why? Because he is taught over the Word of God. Over and over and over and over again. His life will be fruitful as deep roots, okay. Understand this. That is the reason why Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 7 let's read that together.

### **2 Timothy 2:7**

<sup>7</sup>***Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.***

<sup>7</sup>***Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.*** NIV

Where does insight come from? From the Lord. But when does it come? When you reflect. You want revelation without reflection? That's a problem. Did you not reflect? ESV is very interesting - ***think over what I say, think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understand in everything.*** Understanding comes from above, who gives it? The Lord. Train your mind, discipline your ear and there are two other things to be disciplined. After you train your ear and your mind, the Lord will give you, what? A discipline tongue. Then what happens? Through your tongue you will be choosing life and not death, because you have thought on the words of life; your mind is framed by the Word of God; you are thinking and reflecting on the Word of God. And what happens? Your thought patterns and your speech and your speech and whatever you speak will be inspired by the Word. I have got many things to say but it is difficult for you to bear now. We'll stop here, let's this morning, you know what God is asking for each one and every one of us? First thing - a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step. What it that? Surrender the best that you can. So can we stand in the presence of Lord this morning and by faith let us surrender, surrender.

Surrender to the will of God, surrender to the purposes of God, to the best that you can and say, "Lord, so many times I sing 'I surrender all' but some many times I don't mean it. But this morning Oh Lord to the best of my ability I want to surrender myself." And if you what to surrender raise your hand this morning, as an act of faith and say, "Lord I surrender, to the best of my ability Oh Lord, to the God-ordained leadership, to Your Word, to the authority of Your Word and to the leading of Your Spirit. Discipline me Oh Lord. For God has not given me the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of self-discipline."

*Closing prayer:*

*This morning I pray Oh Lord, all of us beginning with me, Oh Lord, who's been called to be the assistant pastor of this Church, Lord I surrender to the best that I know how, to Your leadership, to the authority of the Scriptures and to the leading of Your Spirit and I pray that prayer for every brother and sister of mine here, beginning with the eldest to the youngest, all of us we want to surrender. Work and wrought Your disciplines in our lives. Some of us have already*

*made decisions Lord, decisions to disobey but I pray Father the conviction of the Holy Spirit will come and we will take correction. We will change our direction, we will change the seed, we will not sow in the flesh but sow to the Spirit, because You said in Your Word - for God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows that's exactly what he's will reap. And I pray Father, this morning, even as we surrender we will sow to the Spirit so that we will not reap corruption but eternal life, life Lord, life Lord this morning. Enable us to surrender to God's leadership, enable us to surrender our ears Oh Lord to the Word and our mind to meditation. Father, I commit all of us into Your hands and even as we go about this next week, the words that You have spoke let them ring in our ears, let them burn in our hearts, and let them wrought life in us and let them bring light to those people with whom we come in contact with, even through this week. To that end I pray that You would bless us. Thank You Father for this day. We praise You, we worship You, we give You glory. For in Jesus' might name we pray. Amen.*

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

*God bless you!*