

GLITTERING FUTURE

GOSPEL MESSAGES

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan

(Former Principal, St. Peter's College, Kolenchery)

Publisher:

PHELIO HEALTH CARE

Kolenchery 682 311, South India.

GLITTERING FUTURE

Gospel Messages

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan

Former Principal

St. Peter's College, Kolenchery

•

Mechankara, Kadayiruppu P.O.

Kolenchery - 682 311, Kerala, India

Phone: (0484) 2689489, 2689889

•

Translated by

Mrs. Sheela N. Kollemparamb

Ernakulam

•

Publisher

Phelio Health Care

Kolenchery - 682 311

•

Design, Typeset & Layout

Special Effects

Kochi - 682 028

•

Cover Design

Swaminathan

Computer Park, Kochi

•

Printed at

Bethesda Printers

Edapally, Kochi - 682 024

•

copyright reserved

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*"It was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son;
But I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.
And the LORD took me as I followed the flock,
And the LORD said to me,
Go, prophesy unto my people Israel"*

- Amos 7:14,15

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan was born in a middle class agricultural family in Kadayiruppu, Kolenchery, Kerala. Three of his brothers died before his birth. He lost his father at the infant age of one and his surviving brother when he was two years old. He could not continue his education after passing out from the tenth standard as he was forced to take up the responsibility of managing his family affairs and working in the farm desolate and desperate.

This young man with a shattered life accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and LORD at the age of seventeen while attending a Gospel meeting at his local church.

Prof. Yohannan started his career as a teacher in the school where he had studied. During his nine-year tenure in the school, he took his graduation and post graduation, as a private student, in arts with first ranks from the Kerala University. Later, he took B.Ed. degree also with University rank. In 1964, he joined St. Peter's College and continued there for the next thirty-three years. He was appointed Principal of the same college in 1995 and retired after two years.

Even as a young teacher, he was an active member of a voluntary gospel missionary group in Kerala. Many well reputed and respected clergy as well as laymen sincerely participated in the activities of the Voluntary Missionary Society, which in Malayalam, was known as "*Swamedhaya Suvisesha Sangham*". As a result of its earnest effort on evangelisation, a large number of people got revived in the Jacobite/Orthodox and other churches.

In 1973, a great spiritual revival swept over Kerala. Prof Yohannan was in the forefront of this movement. The revival was based on the following divine words:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God."
- Matthew 5:8

"Without holiness, no one will see the LORD."

- Hebrews 12:14

When a man gets the born again experience, his deeds and words are changed. But the transformation of the inner-man, thoughts, attitudes, the old nature, etc. is the genuine sign of a true Christian.

Prof. Yohannan preached the Gospel throughout Kerala and many big cities in India. Later, he visited the United States of America several times in connection with the LORD's service. He also visited Great Britain and some of the Gulf countries in the Middle East and addressed several conventions.

In 1997, Prof. Yohannan commenced the '**Amruthadhara**' Radio Ministry on all Tuesday evenings. It is the wholehearted encouragement of the listeners, a second programme, meant for the Gulf countries, was started on all Friday nights. In October 2001, another programme on all Saturdays, from 7:45 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. has been started. These programmes helped to preach the Gospel to unreached and remote areas and segments of people, like in prisons, armed forces' barracks, hostels, etc.

Prof, Yohannan utilized the facilities of television, one of the most influential media today, to preach the Gospel. In 2000, the '**Amruthadhara**' TV programme was started.

Presently, the thirty-minute programme is telecast on Asianet News, Soorya TV and Jeevan TV networks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings respectively.

As requested by his ever-increasing listeners and dear friends, Prof. Yohannan has published his various messages, studies and devotions in book form. So far, as on May 2006, he has published thirty seven books. Most of them are out-of-print within a short period. Few more books are getting ready for release.

Prof. Yohannan is fully engaged in the activities of the CRF by addressing massive Gospel meetings, Bible classes, prayer meetings, counselling sessions, etc. He strongly believes that the need of the hour is **‘the repentance of the repented’**.

He advocates: **“It’s the soul that needs change, not the religion; It’s the inner-man (heart) that needs change, not the church.”**

Prof. Yohannan gets whole-hearted support from his wife, Alice, a retired teacher, in his LORD’s service. The Yohannans have three sons and a daughter, all married. The family is blessed with nine grandchildren.



OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

1. AMRUTHADHARA
2. AANTHARIKA SAANTHI
3. SUBHA BHAVI
4. SAANTHI THEERAM
5. MADHU MOZHI
6. MUKTHI MARGAM
7. NITHYA VISRANTHI
8. NIRAPARA
9. JAYA JEEVITHAM
10. VISWASA JEEVITHAM
11. VADAMALAR
12. DIVYARADHANA
13. ENIKKU KUDIPPAN THARUMO?
14. NEETHIMAN AAKUNNATHENGANE?
15. THURANNA VATHIL
16. VARAVUM CHELAVUM
17. DAIVARAJYAM
18. AMRUTHADHARA (ENGLISH)
19. ORTHUKOLVIN
20. KRISTHUVIL
21. PARISUDHATHMAVU
22. PARISUDHATHMA VYAPARAM
23. PARISUDHATHMA SAKTHI
24. UTHAMA GEETHAM
25. SANKETHA NAGARANGAL
26. MARUBHOOMIYILE NEERPOIKA
27. YONA
28. PACHAVELLAM VEENJAKKI
29. KEREETHINTE VAKKIL
30. ETHRATHOLAM RANDU THONIYIL?
31. ELIYAVINTE DAIVAM EVIDE?
32. PRAVACHAKANALLA, PRAVACHAKA SISHYANUMALLA
33. MUDRAMOTHIRAMAKKUM
34. ENIKKU KAZHCHA PRAPIKKENAM
35. ENIKKU ASAKKU VAKAYUNDO?
36. INNER PEACE (ENGLISH)
37. AVARKKU BHAKSHIPAN KODUPPIN

that time, Yohannan Sir directed me to look upon Jesus. Bible says:

“They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.” Psalm 34:5.

I could read the holiness, love and the Spirit of God in Yohannan Sir. When I was marching through failures, he encouraged me not to lose enthusiasm. I am obliged to him for his timely advice and encouragement, which helped me to reach my present position.

“Glittering Future” is a collection of thirteen messages delivered by Yohannan Sir through FEBA Radio.

As we go through the pages we see God as the Great healer. The testimonies of Mr. Thampi (Christian Book Centre) and Mr. John (Dental Lab) emphasis this. Then the Author explains various reasons for diseases with examples. Mr. Anji explains what change had happened to him when he received Jesus as his Saviour. Jesus is doing wonderful miracles in this century also. Mrs Susan’s bitter experiences show that God can fill the broken heart with peace and comfort. The Author also narrates various examples to show that God can change bitterness into peace.

Finally, he warns that delayed repentance is of no use. Quoting various examples of Esau, Judas, the rich man and five foolish virgins he clearly explains this.

PREFACE

I am very much grateful to God Almighty for such an honour given to me to write the preface for the book, “Glittering Future”. I accepted the task fully knowing that I am not a competent person for that.

Prof. M. Y. Yohannan was my Sunday school teacher. Like me, all students knew that he is unique in his method of teaching. By the grace of God I could attend the prayer meetings there in the hall attached to his house. When I heard the message, the God opened my eyes. I realised what a wretched creature I am. Jesus said:

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement.” St. John 16:8.

I could experience this in that prayer hall. When I saw myself, I got depressed and disappointed. All my sins haunted me like anything. I did not know what to do. At

I believe that those who read this book will get an urge to receive Jesus as their Saviour and dedicate their life to Him and prepare themselves for the second coming of Jesus Christ. I sincerely pray that God may give strength and longevity of life to Yohannan Sir to write more number of books.

Dr. Mary George

*Asst. Professor, Department of OBG.
M.O.S.C. Medical College, Kolenchery*

FOREWORD

“Glittering Future” is the translation of my third book, Subha Bhavi”. Everybody desires to have a better future. Many people are not satisfied with what they have at present. That is the reason why there is tension, frustration and confusion everywhere.

But prophet Jeremiah said in chapter 31:13-17:

“The Lord says: I will turn their mourning into joy and I will comfort them and make them rejoice, for their captivity with all its sorrows will be behind themI will satisfy my people with my bounty Don't cry any longer, for I have heard your prayers..... There is hope for your future.

Jeremiah again says in 29:11:

“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil to give you a future and a hope.

Those who are sorrow-stricken by calamities, disasters, accidents, unexpected demise of loved ones, get peace and calmness when they accept Jesus Christ into their hearts.

David, the famous king, prophet and musician, in the last verse of 27th Psalm, says with full delight:

“Don’t be impatient. Wait for the Lord, and He will come and save you! Be brave, stout hearted and courageous. Yes, wait and He will help you.”

These are the main ideas which led me to write this book. I hope all people who read this book may change their attitude towards life and may get rid of their frustrations and melancholy.

I am deeply indebted to Mrs. Sheela N.Kollempamp, wife of Mr. Anji N.Kollempamp, Jt. General Manager, KITCO, for her hard work to translate this book from Malayalam to English. Her knowledge in English language and Malayalam language is of immense help to fulfil this task. Let our Lord give her His grace and reward for this endeavour.

The preface has been written by Dr. Mary George, who is Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medical College, Kolenchery. Though she is very busy with her official duties as Asst. Professor and

Consultant, she spared some time to write the preface. I hereby extend my sincere thanks and regards to her.

I do hope all the readers will reap good fruits from this book and lead a glittering future in this world as well as in the world to come.

Yours in the mighty name of our Lord JesusChrist ,

M.Y. Yohannan

12.05.2006

Chapter-1

“For I am the LORD that healeth thee”

Exodus 15:26 (AKJV)

I am the Lord who heals you. *Jehovah Rapha*. There are many names for the God Eternal in the Bible.

Jehovah-Jireh: God will provide -

God sees and God cares.

Jehovah-Nissi: God is my banner.

Jehovah-Yah: God is my shepherd.

Jehovah-Shammah: God is there.

JehovahTsidkenu: God is my righteousness.

Jehovah Rapha: God who heals me.

“For I am the LORD that healeth thee” - Exodus 15:26.

Man has body. Man has soul. Man has spirit. Other living beings have only body and soul. Man has body, soul and spirit.

There is sickness in the body; there is sickness in the soul and there is sickness in the spirit. There are many

people who are afflicted with internal and external illness. Scholars foretold that by the year 2000, India, our country would be afflicted with dreadful diseases. Statistics estimated that by the year 2000, 25 percent of the Indian population would be affected by cancer disease.

Scholars anticipated that by the year 2000, there would be 25 percent AIDS victims in India. Today, in this 21st century, mankind is living under the dark shadows of dreadful diseases, fear and anxiety. The power of the Word “I am the LORD who heals you” is very relevant in this context.

How many sick people were healed by our LORD Jesus Christ during His public ministry! He was graciously imparting healing wherever he went. Whenever Jesus went, they brought sick people to Him.

“Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the market places, and begged Him that they might just touch the border of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.” – Mark 6:56 (NKJV)

Healing given to the noble man’s (Royal official) son was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed. The noble man went to Jesus and begged Him to heal his son who was close to death. Jesus said: “Go your way; your son lives.” On that same moment, the boy was healed.

Dear friend, are you in despair and pain due to sickness? Or are any of your dear ones' future doomed due to some terrible sickness? Listen! The Bible says: "I am the LORD who heals you."

A leper was standing before Jesus. He was supposed to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" and must live alone among the society. Leviticus chapter 13, verse 45 and 46 says:

"Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his moustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'. He shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his habitation shall be out side the camp"

One day, such a lonely, despair person met Jesus Christ. He utilised the golden opportunity and begged: "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

When Jesus saw him, he did not avoid him. Instead, he moved close to him. He touched him. Yes, the Creator touched the created. Jesus said: "I am willing; be cleansed." What a wonder! Immediately, his leprosy was cleansed.

Dear brothers and sisters, when you read this, would you believe that Christ is standing close to you? Would you plead to Him: "Lord! my inside and out side are full of sins. Like a leper afflicted with sores all over the body, my Lord, my whole personality is torn, broken and decayed."

Dear one, would you pray: "Please touch me once!"

Numerous people, who were paralysed, blind, dumb, deaf, invalid and demon possessed, came to Jesus Christ and were healed!

"I am the LORD who heals you."

There are countless people who were hurt in the heart, mind tormented with pain, life withered with sorrows, leading a gloomy life. Many many people have come close to Jesus Christ and have experienced mental peace from Him who could heal their inner wounds.

Mr. Thampy, who hails from Pazhanji, Kunnankulam and doing business in Ernakulam, is a person who had personally experienced the Word: "I am the LORD who heals you." Mr. Thampy came to Ernakulam to work as an office boy in a shop. Gradually, by the time he was 38 years old, he became a successful business man in Ernakulam with his own business and a house. But there came the unexpected disaster. He came to know that he was a cancer patient.

Let us hear about that from his own words:

"What was Mr. Thampy's reaction when you heard that you are a cancer patient?"

"I was shocked. I painfully realised the fact that I was a cancer patient at the age of thirty eight. Doctors at CMC

Medical College, Velloor said it was *Lymphoma IV B*. I thought of my wife and two children. We are eight children for our father. Each of my brothers had various types of sickness and financial problems. These were being settled after I had come to Ernakulam. Then came the great disaster. A great disease. I was disappointed. Before that I was born-again and was doing God's work. The thought that still, why did it happen to me, haunted me."

"How was that despair and burden gone?"

"While I was leading such a disappointed life, I came to know Mr. U T George, an Assistant Executive Engineer in the Electricity Board. At that time, he was working in the Ernakulam Major Section. He invited me to the prayer meetings of Kolenchery Christian Revival Fellowship.

After I had heard the Word there, I realised that Christian life was not like that I had meant. I, who boasted to be a born-again person, came to understand that my spirit was in such a pathetic condition. Even though, I was free from sins in words and deeds, my thoughts were unclean and filthy. My inner man was completely corrupt and defiled. I knew that unless I was sanctified all through, I would not enter the Kingdom of God. I acknowledged tearfully that I was a wretched sinner. Merciful Lord granted me conviction of my sins. This worldly life, wealth and sickness were no more any problem for me when I received forgiveness of my sins and sanctification. Wonderfully, Lord

also gave deliverance from my sickness. Praise be to the Lord."

"What have you to say about your sickness at present?"

"Through that sickness, one thing I was sure, that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. I clearly understood what is the meaning of Christian life, what is meant by holy life, how to get sanctification, that all things we see here are vanity and that to prepare oneself for the eternity is the greatest requirement of life. I am so fortunate a person today. Praise to the Lord. With a view to do the Lord's work, now I have started a new firm in the name of '*Christian Book Centre*' after closing my previous business."

Yes, "I am the LORD who heals you." We were healed of our sickness because Jesus Christ the LORD died on the cross acquainted with sickness, bruised and wounded with stripes. Isaiah 53: 4 and 5 (NKJV) says:

*"Surely, He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we were healed."*

Jeremiah says:

*“Is there no balm in Gilead,
Is there no physician there?”*

Jeremiah 8: 22 (NKJV)

There is forgiveness of sins and healing of sickness under the Cross of Jesus Christ. There is deliverance of sins and healing of sickness in the holy Blood of Jesus Christ. Yes, *“The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of sickness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.”* Psalm 41:3 (NKJV).

Dear friend, humble your heart before Christ, who heals you. Plead now itself for healing by the holy Blood. Christ, who hears your prayers, will grant you healing. Pray with faith. Let us pray:

Our beloved LORD, we praise You for the comforting Words of Jesus, the healer. Please touch me with the power of the Holy Word. Touch my afflicted part with Your wounded hands. Smear me with your Holy Blood and heal me. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

★ ★ ★

Chapter-2

“For I am the LORD that healeth thee”

Exodus 15:26 (AKJV)

Previously, we had meditated the same Bible verse. Now let us think of various causes of sickness.

First, sin causes sickness. Psalm 38: 3 onwards says:

*“There is no soundness in my flesh
Because of Your anger,
Nor is there any health in my bones
Because of my sin.
For my iniquities have gone over my head;
Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.
My wounds are foul and festering
Because of my foolishness.
I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly;
I go mourning all the day long.
For my loins are full of inflammation,
And there is no soundness in my flesh. ’*

This Psalm is being written in deep tormenting pain. David clearly writes that the cause of immense pain and sickness is sin. David says in Psalm 31:10:

*“For my life is spent with grief,
And my years with sighing;
My strength fails because of my iniquity,
And my bones waste away.”*

Jesus Christ healed a man near the Bethesda pool, who had an infirmity for thirty eight years. The man took up his bed and walked. Later, Jesus saw him and said:

“Behold, thou art made whole; sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” – John 5:14(AKJV)

That means, the cause for his infirmity was his sins. Jesus clarifies and that worst thing would come up on him if he sins again.

With regard to the most dreaded AIDS, sin was the main cause for its spread.

Medical science says habitual drinking would diminish the reproductive capacity. The probability of liver getting affected is more in drunkards. Inner conflicts, tension, frustration, etc accelerates heart diseases.

The root causes for many of today's diseases are family problems and conflicts among couples. Scientists

have found, while searching for the basic causes for diseases like hypertension, diabetes, etc, that it is mainly due to mental tension, usually indicated by words like worries, cares, chaos, strife, stress, etc.

How many youths are becoming untimely old and succumbing to untimely deaths due to addiction to smoking, opium and drugs!

Nevertheless, complete deliverance from many diseases, with out any treatment could be experienced by accepting Jesus Christ, the redeemer from the sins.

Secondly, sickness is caused by Satanic bondage. In St. Luke 13:16, we see that a woman was bent over for eighteen years due to Satanic bondage. For eighteen years, she could in no way raise herself up.

“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond?” – Luke 13:16 (AKJV)

Jesus Christ laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

The maniac of Gadara became insane because he was possessed by six thousand demons. In St. Mark chapter 5, it is said about him:

“He wore no clothes, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.”

It was only when Jesus Christ rebuked the demons in him that they went out of him. He became right in his mind.

Dear friend, are you under the bondage of Satan? Are you aware that it was due to the bondage of Satan that people are becoming senseless and committing looting, murder, adultery, rape, etc.? Will you believe that Jesus Christ the Lord is cent percent capable of delivering you from the bondage of Satan?

Please read 1 John 3:8-9. There we find:

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

Thirdly, sickness is caused by curse. We read in 2 King 5:27:

“The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever.” (AKJV)

Prophet Elisha is cursing Gehazi. He was the servant of Elisha. We further read that he went out from his presence as a leper as white as snow.

Naaman came to Prophet Elisha and returned healed of his leprosy by obeying the Word of God he received from the prophet. But the prophet cursed Gehazi for his greed and lies. Gehazi lied to the prophet and Naaman. He could not recognise the God’s Spirit in the prophet. The result was eternal curse.

Dear friend, will you look back now to see whether you are under any curse. Are you inflicted by any sickness due to any curse?

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John:2 (AKJV)

God wishes that you should live in prosperity and joyfulness. You should be free from all curse and sickness so that you may lead a happy life. We read in Galatians 3:13 and 14 that:

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”

Dear friend, will you look upon Christ, the donor of all blessings, hanging on the cross like a cursed man? Will you plead to him? “Lord, save me and deliver me from all ailments.”

Fourthly, sickness is caused by criticising God’s children. In the book Numbers, chapter 12, it is seen that Miriam, Moses’ sister, became leprous. Due to leprosy, Miriam became white as snow. The anger of the Lord was aroused against her. Why? She spoke against Moses, the servant of God!

Miriam was Moses’ sister. Aaron was three years older to Moses and Miriam, six years older to Moses. When

Moses, in an arc of bulrushes, was flowing towards death down the River Nile, it was Miriam, who ran along the side of the river to know what would happen to him. At that time she was only six years old. She was a sensible girl. But when Moses was anointed as a God's servant, she collaborated with Aaron to speak against Moses. Consequently she became leprous.

See, she was healed of her leprosy only after Moses himself had interceded for her before the God. She was shut out of the camp for seven days.

Dear child of God, have you ever spoken against any servant of God and inflicted yourself by any sickness because of that? Repent! Turn away from your sins! Wash Jesus Christ's feet with your tears.

Fifthly, because of ministry of God, to glorify the name of God, sickness can be afflicted. This would help us to see and to humble ourselves.

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12: 7 to 9 (AKJV)

Apostle Paul's experience is recorded here. God allowed a thorn in the flesh to keep him in the fullness of glory of sanctification not even an atom less. Day and night, it was always tormenting the Apostle like a thorn. "My grace is with you. Isn't sufficient for you?" the Lord was comforting him even when the affliction was there.

Respected child of God, is the Word of God "*For I am the LORD that healeth thee*" active in your heart? If you wholeheartedly trust the holy blood of Jesus Christ and commence a new life, then whatever may be cause for your sickness, be it sin, demon possession, curse or criticism of God's servants, all would be for the glory of the God and your own spiritual sanctification. For that, will you take a decision now? Will you consecrate your life for Christ? Will you give your heart for Christ?

If so, let us pray. Merciful Lord, we praise you for sacrificing yourself, acquainted with grief, to heal all the sickness in our body, soul and spirit. Let your grace be with me. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Kindly hear our prayer. Amen.

★ ★ ★

Chapter-3

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

St. John 5:6 (AKJV)

Even today, Jesus is asking the same question. Are you willing to be made whole?

Dear friend, Jesus sees you. He is compassionate to you. He is aware of your nothingness, shortcomings and weaknesses. He knows well that for a long period you are swirling around various problems.

Jesus is asking: “Are you willing to be made whole?” Jesus says: “If you are willing I can change all your shortcomings”. Christ assures you that if you let yourself into the hands of the everlasting Saviour, he will set every thing right.

That man who was lying near the pool was paralytic. For the last thirty-eight years he was paralytic. He needs

the help of somebody to do anything. The pool of Bethesda is known as “*House of Mercy*”. A great multitude of sick people were lying there waiting for the moving of water. When the water is moving, whoever stepped in first was made well. Many were leaving healed. But this particular sick person was not getting healing.

He was not only ‘*diseased*’ but was ‘*disappointed*’ also. Now he is ‘*desolate*’. “I have no one to help me into the pool”, he says.

Dear sister, are you ‘*diseased*’ like this paralytic person? Are you crippled? Are you ‘*disappointed*’ like this sick person? Are you ‘*desolate*’? Are you lonely? Are you being haunted by the thoughts like ‘There is nobody to love me’, ‘There is no one to care me’, ‘There is nobody to show me sympathy to me’?

If so, then Jesus is coming to you. Jesus is nearing you, who is deeply desperate and distressed staying in the house of mercy, but with out getting any mercy. Jesus is coming closer to you, who is weak and disappointed because many are being saved but at the same time you are left out.

Jesus sees you. He is aware that for long time you are suffering this sad condition. Jesus is speaking to you. Do you want to be healed? Do you willing to be made whole?

Today many are members of a blessed congregation. They have good fellowship. They congregate in places where mercy is freely flowing. But they are not saved. Even though they are living in house of mercy, millions are not getting mercy. Millions of people can not attain spiritual eternal life even if they are regularly hearing the divine message from the Cross of Calvary. They have meaningful prayers, praises, hymns and worship: still millions are not attaining the eternal life.

Jesus told the paralytic man: “Rise, take up your bed and walk”. The Son of God with authority is speaking. The Creator who has authority over the created is speaking: “Rise, take up your bed and walk”. Immediately the man was healed and he walked taking his bed. He was delivered of his sickness.

First, he was *diseased* – a sick

Second, he was *disappointed* – a desperate

Third, he was *desolate* – with out anybody

Fourth, he was *delivered* – healed from sickness

Fifth, he was *directed* – guided to lead a sinless life

Fifth, he was *directed*. Jesus Christ saw him again. He was given directions. He was shown the way of how to live further: “*Now you are well; don’t sin as you did before or something even worse may happen to you*” – John 5:14 (*Living Bible*)

The root cause for his sickness was his sin. Jesus delivered him from his sins. Along with this, he was healed also. Now he is being given warning. If he sins again, worse thing would come upon him. If he sins as he did before, terrible sickness than the present one would happen. Hence he should not commit sin again. He was *directed*.

Dear son of God, are you realising that Jesus Christ is standing close to you. Do you know that Jesus Christ is dealing straight with you? Will you believe in the wonderful love of Jesus Christ? Could you believe that Jesus Christ is willing to take away all your time-old sickness, poverty and suffering?

Like the paralytic man who was afflicted for the last thirty-eight years, Mr. John’s family, who manages a dental lab in Muvattupuzha, was afflicted for generations. Let us ask Mr. John how his life was prospered.

Q: Could you elaborate your family background and about your childhood?

Ans: I am living in Aroor, near Muvattupuzha. My parents were day-labourers. Aroor Marygiri Church, our parish church, is near to my house. We used to go to the Church regularly for the worship, took part in fasting, and attended the Sunday school. We are three sons and my elder brother used to participate in the church service in the Holy place.

During that time, our family was in utter poverty. What our parents earned from their day-labour was insufficient to meet our both ends. In the mean time, our father was afflicted by mental disease. Forcefully, with the help of our neighbours, he was taken in a taxi to a mental hospital in Trichur. At that time, our poverty aggravated. I still remember the occasions in which we three would be waiting impatiently to grab the food that our mother would bring in a pan, covered with a leaf, from the house where she works.

Q: Then, how was this situation changed?

Ans: When I was grown up, I used to do rubber tapping for a neighbour. Even though our father was discharged from the hospital, there was no change in his conditions and most of the time, he would be sitting near the Aroor Church with his saliva dripping down through his beard. Day by day our sufferings and poverty added up.

At that time, one day, a child of God, who was a participant of the Christian Revival Fellowship, gave a notice to my mother. He also told her that there was a Gospel Convention in Kolenchery and that if she could attend that she might get great joy and peace. She went for that. She received Jesus Christ there hearing the word of God and came back with immense peace.

Subsequently, our father and we all went and attended the prayer meeting. This Christian Revival Fellowship showed us Jesus Christ, the Lord, to us. By this, our family received peace. Our poverty and sufferings had all gone. Above all, our father was healed of his mental disease. Today, he is living in complete sense.

Q: What were the changes that happened after receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?

Complete changes! God blessed us both worldly and spiritually. We, who were once known as sons of '*Bhranthan Kuriakko*' are today living very prosperously. My grand father also had mental problem. Since long years, due to witchcraft, sorcery and demon-worshipping, our family was under curse. Once we had accepted Jesus Christ, our Lord removed all our curses.

Not only that; in our dental lab, about two hundred and odd people are working. I had the opportunity to visit foreign countries like Japan, Singapore Germany and Switzerland for training in dental technology. Today, we, who once could not afford even a bicycle, own three vehicles. God has blessed us in all.

Q: Okay, what is the greatest blessing?

Ans: We were drifting to everlasting doom. I was slave to many sins and filthy habits. Mine was a dirty life. I

would burst out instantly due to anger. I would say, my Lord changed my character and that is the greatest blessing. The greatest blessing is the eternal life granted by Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

Jesus Christ gave healing to Mr. John and his family. He removed their sickness, sins and curses.

Dear friend, Jesus Christ is standing close to you. To those who believed in His name and received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. Praise the Lord. Will you accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and lead a sinless future life? See, Jesus is knocking at your heart. Receive Jesus Christ in to your heart. Commit yourself as though you are His. If so, then let us pray:

Oh! Loving Jesus, we remember the words that you have asked near the pool of Bethesda two thousand years ago: "Do you willing to be made whole?" That question is still beaming in our ears. We are accepting the direction not to sin again. Bless us. Wash us. Heal us. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

★ ★ ★

Chapter-4

"Be opened"

St. Mark 7:34 (AKJV)

The book of Revelation chapter three, verse seven says about Jesus Christ as:

"He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth." (AKJV)

If Jesus Christ opens, no body could shut it.

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." – Rev. 3:8 (AKJV)

"So he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."

Jesus Christ opens shut doors. He can open closed chapters. Jesus Christ springs new shoots and buds to desperate lives. Jesus Christ gives new growth to stunned lives.

Once during Jesus Christ's public ministry, he came to the shore of Galilee. A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him. They begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man and heal him.

Jesus led him away from the crowd. Jesus put his fingers in to the poor man's ears; and spat and touched the man's tongue with His saliva.

Then, looking up to Heaven, he sighed and prayed. Lord felt sympathy on him. He looked at the poor man with a tender heart. The Creator looked at the created with sympathy. Jesus was pained at heart on seeing his condition and he sighed and prayed.

Then Jesus looked at the man and said to him: "*Ephphatha*", which means *'Be opened'*". Oh! Wonderful! Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed and he spoke plainly. – St. Mark 7:34.

Even today, Jesus performs miracles. Literally, he does miracles.

Dear friend, please tell openly to Jesus your difficulties. Jesus Christ would loose your tongue and would remove the dullness of your ears.

Once, King David's tongue was tied up. When sin came in his life, praise and worship stopped. Inner muteness afflicted David. Muteness due to sin!

With repentance, weeping, David prayed:

"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise" – Psalm 51:15 (AKJV)

Merciful God pardoned his sins. He was lucky enough to say: "*Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord*".

Priest Zacharias once became mute, unable to speak. Zacharias doubted the message of God that God would perform miracle and that a son shall be born to him. He doubted the mighty power and mercy of God. Muteness due to unbelief!

Zacharias tells the words of unbelief: "*But this is impossible! I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well on in years.*" –St. Luke 1:18 (*Living Bible*). From that moment onwards, he was unable to speak.

John the Baptist is born. He gazed at the long awaited lovely infant boy. His dumbness, for the past ten months silence, gave him new experiences. He was repenting over his unbelief. God, who sees the repentance of the heart, forgave Zacharias' sin. God also opened his mouth and loosened his tongue and he began to speak, praising God. –St. Luke 1:64

First, ears were opened to hear God's words.

Second, mouth was opened to praise the Lord.

Dear brother, will you plead now to Christ to open your ear, which was defiled due to unworthy words? Will you tell your decision that henceforth, you will strive to hear the words of God?

Confess your sins knowing that it was your sins that made you silent from praising Christ. Decide that you will never backslide to your past way of life. Pray that your mouth be opened.

Third, eyes were opened. –St. Luke 24:31

On the day Jesus was risen, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. They were desperate. They were tired thinking that they had wasted three and a half years. The sight of Jesus' terrible agony on the Cross had made them gloomy. They were walking with their faces down cast.

Then a stranger came up and walked close to them. They could not recognise him as Jesus. *But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him* – St. Luke 24:16.

The risen Christ spoke to them. While Jesus talked to them their heart burned with in them.

When they approached near their house, they invited the stranger to their house. They urged him strongly. So

he went in to stay with them. Even today, Jesus will come with those who urge him strongly.

There, in the house, the guest became the host. As Jesus sat at the table with them to eat, he took the bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. When he broke the bread, they saw the marks of nails in his hand. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

See, Jesus, who opened the eyes of the man, who was blind from birth, who opened the eyes of Bartimaeus, and who opened inner eyes of disciples, is standing close to you! Will you see his Holy Wounds? If so, then it will change your entire perception! Jesus will open your eyes.

Fourth, opened understanding –St. Luke 24:45, 46.

The risen Christ appeared before his disciples. He said to them:

“These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me”

“And he opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures” – St. Luke 24: 44-46

Dear son, Christ is strong enough to change your weak mind. Jesus is willing to open your understanding and give you wisdom, knowledge and judgement. Call up

on him and plead him to open your understanding and intellect.

Fifth, opened heart –Acts 16:14.

“The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.” –Acts 16:14.

During the second missionary journey, Paul and Silas have reached Philippi, a city in Greece, in Europe. On the Sabbath, they went outside the city gate to the river. There, on the river bank, was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira. Paul sat down and spoke the Living Word to the women, who had gathered there. Lydia was a worshipper of God. She was listening to what Paul had said. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

For even to hear God has to open the heart; even to understand what we had heard. Christ has to open the heart even to listen!

Lydia repented. She believed in Jesus Christ and received him in her heart. She invited holy servants of God to her home. The entire family rejoiced.

Dear friend, Christ opened ears, Christ opened mouth and tongue, Christ opened eyes, Christ opened mind, and Christ even opened heart. Christ is he who opens.

Dear brother, sister, Jesus Christ, who two thousand years ago, took the deaf and dumb man aside and with deep sigh said to him *“Ephphatha!”* (which means, “Be opened!”), is standing beside you. He is standing there to open the closed chapters in your life.

Jesus Christ, who, on the Cross of Golgotha, opened his heart and flowed blood and water, is waiting patiently to take you in his heart and to open a new life for you! Are you seeing Jesus Christ? Tell Jesus that from this moment onward “I am yours”

If so, let us pray,

Oh, Lord, till now, my life is filled with ‘closed chapters’. Kindly open my life for you, who opened your side, which was pierced brutally. Make me an inheritor of the grace of life. Grant me a new blessing to lead a life loving you unto death. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

★ ★ ★

“This is what the Lord says: Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded.... So there is hope for your future.” –Jeremiah 31:16&17 (NIV)

Chapter-5

*“I tell you,” he replied,
“if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out”
– St. Luke 19:40*

Man, each and every person, is in the midst of sorrow and misery. Tears, pain and agony are clinging on human life. In how many entanglements are man trapped himself! Only strain and sigh. Think of untold, unexpected blessings for a desperate man, anxiously looking for a better future. What a delightful experience! What a joyful moment! Will not he dance merrily in the unexpected fortune?

It is such a great joy that Christ gives!

In the midst of Job’s agony, he receives a happy promise:

“He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.” –Job 8:21 (NIV)

Prophet Jeremiah says:

Jeremiah again says:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.” –Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Dear friend, are you desperate thinking that your life will never bud again? Why are you discouraged and stooping down yourself losing all hope of your future? Listen, Jesus Christ is strong enough to grant you joyful shouts and words of celebrations in your life!

Hear the promise of living God:

“The sounds of joy and gladness, the voice of bride and bride groom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord saying,

*‘Give thanks to the Lord Almighty,
for the Lord is good;
His love endures forever.’*

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before, says the Lord” – Jeremiah 33:11.

The Psalms of David are songs of praises. They are sounds of joy! They are hymns of thanks giving to the Lord! In Psalm 40, David says:

*"I waited patiently for the Lord;
He turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
He set my feet on rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
A hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
And put their trust in the Lord."*

– Psalm 40:1-3(NIV)

Thanks giving are real praises. Holy worship is that praise, which originates from a pure heart. Holy praise is the experience of standing steadily on a firm rock by a person, who once had gone deep down in life. Many will fear the Lord when they see and hear this praise!

That is why the Pharisees were afraid on the day of 'Hosanna'. Children gave a royal welcome and began joyfully to praise Jesus, who triumphantly entered the city on a colt. The multitude hailed him with shouts of joy. That is why the Pharisees were displeased. Children joined in the shouts that echoed: "Hosanna to the Son of David."

The disciples spread their cloaks on the road. Children strewed flowers on his path. Showering with flowers and waving branches of olive and palm, the crowd greeted the Son of David with Hosanna. This displeased the Pharisees.

Not only that, the throng of excited disciples began to exalt the Lord by joyfully praising in loud voices the miracles they had witnessed:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" This also annoyed the Pharisees.

They said to Jesus,
"Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you" Jesus replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Stone is a lifeless object. In the presence of Jesus Christ, even lifeless objects will become live and praise the Christ. Praise comes from a live person.

The Bible says:

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." - Psalm 150:6

One will also praise, when he is freed from bondage.

David once prayed,
*“Set me free from my prison,
 that I may praise your name.”* –Psalm 142:7

Natural praise will come out of heart as praises of joy when a person is set free from the prison of Satan. The life of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, is active.

That is why our holy forefathers declared: *“It is proper and just to praise the Lord with awe and reverence.”* (*The Holy Mass*)

When sin comes in to life, the heart becomes hard. When we repent over our sins, stone-like hearts will become soft. That is called a ‘broken and contrite heart’. Praise will break out from a broken heart, which was hard before.

Dead stones will praise if man with wisdom fails to give glory to God. Even those stones will cry out in joy. How many people, who are lucky enough to welcome Jesus Christ in to their lives, are praising and adoring the Lord, forgetting themselves! Their broken hearts, which were once hard as stones, are praising and worshipping their Saviour, who had forgiven their sins!

Mr. Anji N.Kollempamp, presently Jt. General Manager of KITCO, Ernakulam is such a God’s child, who had cried out in joy worshipping God. Anji’s heart, while he

was studying in college of Engineering in Trivandrum, hardened because of his sinful ways of life. Let us ask Anji how he got this true worship in his life.

Can you recollect your way of life as an engineering student?

“It was a time of complete freedom from the strict discipline of my family. Full freedom in the college and hostel! A place, where you can live as-you-like-it. An age of reckless living! An uncontrolled life! When I look back now, I feel ashamed of that life. A life wasted in orgies and lust!”

How did you come to repentance from the sinful life?

“At that time, Geogi K.Ninan, my elder brother, was doing internship in Dental College, Trivandrum. One day he came to me and said,

“I’ve dedicated my life to Jesus Christ.”

I didn’t understand any thing then. However, he seemed to be a completely changed person; in his attire, attitude, conversation, and all. But I was not for such a change.”

How then did such a change happen?

“One day, I went, as insisted by my brother, to a prayer meeting. I hope you would remember that day. It was you who came to deliver the message there. The

message shook me as a whole. My idea was to simply sit there, uninterested in all these things, if possible, to nap unnoticed. But, I tell you, those words really pierced through my heart. I began to sob there! I don't know why! Some sort of power, which I cannot comprehend, came to me. Some thing! Love in the fullest sense! A complete relief! An untold feeling of serene peace! I felt so light, as though floating in the air!"

What about your present life?

"I'm extremely happy today. I'm living peacefully with my family. My wife and children are also experiencing the true love and care of Jesus Christ in their lives. The more I know God, the more I realise the nothingness in my life and understand what a wretched sinner I am. The greatest experience in my life is that even though my God keeps me from committing any sinful deeds, He grants me the grace to realise the sinful nature and attitude in my life, so far unknown to me, to repent over it and get sanctified. The Lord, in His immense grace, is leading and keeping me, who once was a slave to the world and self, unwilling to repent, even from sinful thoughts. Today I am experiencing the joy and happiness of praising the Lord."

Jesus Christ, who gave Anji the praise of sanctified life, taking away the sinful life from him, is living! Dear brother and sister, you will also get this holy praise if you will receive Jesus Christ as Saviour in your heart. You will

not be entitled to stand among the holy in the coming life if you could not praise in Holy Spirit in this world. Entrust your entire future life into the hands of Jesus Christ, who is standing beside you, if you are eager to attain this blessed experience. Let us pray, "Jesus, here I am, accept me."

Merciful Jesus, our blessed Lord, we praise you for the Words of love. Dress me up with your praises. Keep me unto the end. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-6

Seven Words from the Cross

'Words from the Cross' is the main theme of meditation in the Good Friday Services. The seven Words from the Cross are the Words of Jesus Christ while he was on the Cross. Similarly there is 'Seven words to the Cross', words uttered by several people to Jesus Christ while he was on the Cross.

Good Friday is remembered as the glorious day of the self sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, for the eternal redemption of mankind.

The seven Words told by Jesus Christ from the Cross are treasures of salvation and love of God. The first, last and the middle Words uttered by Jesus Christ are towards God the Father. In the first and last Words, Jesus Christ called the God '*Father*'. In the middle Words, Jesus Christ called the God '*My God*'. Each Word is very meaningful.

The first Word, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" – St. Luke 23:34 (NIV)

This is the Words of forgiveness. It is the Word of forgiving and forgetting. It is the prayer of eternal love forgiving those who have examined Him, accused Him, judged Him, spat at His face, slapped Him, set crown of thorns on His head and nailed His hands and feet. It is a prayer of patience, a prayer for those who hurt Him – **Forgiveness.**

Dear friend, sister, will you examine your life based on this first Word? Are you not still forgiving those who had wronged against you? Don't you understand that it is against Jesus Christ not to forgive and love wholeheartedly? In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus Christ taught us to pray,

*"Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

Dear friend, can you pray like this? Have you forgiven your debtors? Let 'forgetting and forgiving' be our life principle!

Micah prophesied eight hundred years before Christ:

*"Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of remnant of his inheritance?"* – Micah 7:18 (NIV)

Love is Christ's character. The complete forgiveness. Wars can be eliminated from the face of the earth if man

has this attitude. Peace will reign among nations. Families will be peaceful. There will be harmony between husband and wife. Is not really this love and holiness the character of Heaven? Dear friend, are you ready to accept the depth of this Word?

The second Word from the Cross, *"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."* This is the Word told to the repented criminal. – **Salvation**

Two criminals were crucified on both sides of Jesus Christ, one on his left and the other on his right. Both the criminals, who were crucified with Jesus Christ heaped insults on Him. (St. Matthew 27:44 and St. Mark 13:32)

When one of the criminals heard Jesus pray, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"*, it touched his heart. He turned astonished. Even though he criticised and insulted Jesus Christ unknowingly, when he heard Christ and saw Him directly, it changed his entire attitude and understanding. Traditionally it is believed that this was the criminal on the cross on the right side but there is no convincing evidence to prove that. Suddenly he repented. He told his fellow criminal:

"Don't you fear God," he said, *"since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."* – St. Luke 23: 40 & 41 (NIV)

He rebuked his fellow criminal and testified Jesus Christ like this. Then he prayed to Christ:

"Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Jesus answered him mercifully, *"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."* St. Luke 23:43

Many reasons can be attributed to the promise for the glorious salvation he received.

First, even though he repented at the last moment of his life, he repented at the first opportunity when he heard Jesus Christ's divine Word.

Second, he accepted his own sin and with remorse confessed them. He said, *"We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve."*

Third, he recognised Jesus Christ as his Lord. He realised that Jesus is punished for doing nothing wrong.

Fourth, he testified Jesus Christ, *"But this man has done nothing wrong."*

Fifth, he rebuked his fellow criminal and exhorted him to repent.

Sixth, he believed that even though Jesus had now died on the Cross wearing a crown of thorns, He would return in to His Kingdom.

Seventh, with out losing a moment, he prayed for his salvation.

Dear friend, will you now pray to Jesus, who is being tormented on the Cross, for your salvation?

The third Word from the Cross, Jesus said to His mother, *“Dear woman, here is your son,”* and to the disciple, *“Here is your mother.”* – St. John 19:26 & 27 (NIV) – **Affection**

Mary, Jesus’ mother, with deep sorrow is crying seeing the unbearable agony of her dear son. Joseph, her husband had already left her for eternity. Jesus is entrusting a helper, a son to His destitute mother.

All the disciples had been scattered. Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Nathanael, James and others had all deserted Jesus. John, the disciple, is standing by the Cross with a sigh that he was left alone and sobbing looking at the valley of the cross. He was given a mother.

Jesus Christ will not leave anyone, who trusts Him, as orphans. (St. John 14:18) Even when Jesus was suffering the tormenting agony on the Cross, He never forgot His

orphan mother and disciple. He did not forget the repented criminal. Jesus is the ultimate mercy and love.

The fourth Word from the Cross is the middle one among the Seven Words. From twelve noon to three o’clock in the evening, darkness came all over the land. From the darkness a loud cry burst out, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* – St. Matthew 27:46, St. Mark 15:34 – **Anguish**

Jesus, who in the first and last Words addresses the God as “Father”, in the middle Word, is calling the God as “My God, my God”. Jesus had amassed the entire load of sin of mankind on His head. Later, St. Paul said, *“God had made Him, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”* – 2 Corinthians 5:21(NIV)

Jesus can not call the God *“Father”*, when He was ‘made sin’! Dear friend, you are not entitled to call the God *“Our Heavenly Father”* if there is sin in you.

Anyone born of God is a child of God. The Bible says,

“He who does what is sinful is of the devil.” – 1 John 3:8.

Dear brother, sister, renounce your sins immediately and become son and daughter of God.

The fifth Word from the Cross, "*I am thirsty*" – St. John 19:28 – **Suffering**

Even today, Jesus Christ is thirsting on the Cross. Thirst of love for the lost souls. Thirst of redemption of hell bound souls to make them heaven bound. Thirst of mercy to break the bondage of sin of people bound in sin. Thirst of salvation to lead people, who were tormented by Satan, to peace.

Dear friend, will you quench the thirst of Christ? Will you now forsake your sinful life? Will you abandon satanic forces? Will you be a son of peace in your place and family?

The sixth Word from the Cross, "*It is finished*", is a celebration of victory - John 19:30 – **Victory**

All that has to be done by the God for the salvation of mankind has been accomplished; and completed. All the conditions of the '*Law*' have been satisfied and met. All the sacrifices have been offered. The Heavenly programme has been finished. The Divine plan to bind the forces of darkness has been executed. The Divine Promise in the Eden that the Seed of woman would crush the head of serpent, has been accomplished.

Dear friend, will you believe that Jesus Christ has accomplished every thing for your salvation and

redemption? If so, then dedicate your life before Jesus' feet.

The last Word from the Cross, the seventh one, "*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*" – St. Luke 23:46 – **Contentment**

At last, at the time of His death, Jesus, with satisfaction, entrusted His Spirit into the hands of Father. Leaving peacefully, after completing every thing!

Is not this, what we all want? Dear friend, have you prepared yourself for a blessed end? Are you prepared to leave this temporary life in Earth in peace and delight? Have you entrusted your life into the hands of Jesus Christ? Are you saved through the love of Cross? Have you received a new out look? If so, then praise the Lord committing your life to the feet of the Saviour, who had died on the Cross for you.

Lord, we praise You for the Words from the Cross. We praise You for the grace, by which You have saved me by tasting death. Bless us all, who read this. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-7

“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying?”

– St. John 20:15

The first Word said by the risen Jesus Christ was, *“Woman, why are you crying?”*(St. John 20:15). This is the question Jesus asked to Mary Magdalene.

She was the most sinful woman in the town (St. Luke 7:37). She was possessed by seven demons (St. Luke 8:2). However, when she renounced, repented and confessed her sins, Jesus Christ forgave her sins. Her all sins had been forgiven. The demons were expelled out. Her heart was filled with love and gratitude to Jesus Christ. The one, who had the bigger debt cancelled, will love more!

Mary Magdalene was among the weeping daughters of Jerusalem, who were accompanying Jesus Christ, while He was led away to be crucified. Mary Magdalene was among the weeping women who stood near the Cross of Jesus, when He was in unbearable agony. From the Cross, Jesus Christ uttered thrice to the Father. He spoke to His grieving mother. He spoke to John, His lonely disciple. ‘To

me only He didn’t talk’, Mary could have scorned at Him. No, she did not have any such feeling. There is no place for discord in perfect love. Perfect love can not scorn. Complaints will vanish in perfect love.

Even when Joseph from Arimathea placed the holy body of Jesus with awe and respect in the tomb, Mary Magdalene was there. She saw the tomb and noticed how His body was laid in it.

After Friday and Saturday, on the third day, early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. She came running to Simon Peter and John and said, *“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!”* Peter and John came running to the tomb. They stooped down and looked into the tomb. They stood there worried for some time and then returned home.

But Mary Magdalene didn’t go. She stood out side by the tomb weeping. Occasionally, she would stoop down and look into the tomb. Her heart is throbbing with pain for not seeing Jesus. She is sobbing! Then, behind there is Jesus! She didn’t realise it was Jesus, because she was confused and perplexed.

Jesus said to her, *“Woman, why are you crying?”*

Jesus Christ resurrected to comfort those who are crying. Jesus Christ is living to wipe out the tears of those

who are crying. Jesus came to bind up the brokenhearted. Jesus came to release the prisoners from darkness. Jesus came to proclaim freedom for the captives. Jesus came to console those who mourn. Jesus came to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes (*to give them beauty for ashes - KJV*). Jesus came to give oil of joy for mourning. Jesus came to give garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. These things were foretold by Isaiah, seven hundred and fifty years before the birth of Jesus (Isaiah 61:1-)

Dear friend, have you got the consolation, which you longed for? Has your gloominess gone? Are you free from desperation and clothed with the garment of praise? Jesus Christ is standing beside you to give you the peace and remove the melancholy.

Mrs. Susan, my neighbour in Kadayiruppu, is one such person, who had experienced the entire context of the question, "*Woman, why are you crying?*" Susan lived with her husband for seven months after her marriage at the age of eighteen years. He was working in a company nearby. He died in an accident in his factory.

He had gone to the factory in the morning. Later, what Susan saw was the charred, disfigured body of her husband! How to bear this? Then she was four months pregnant. Sleepless nights! Only grief and sigh! A doomed future! She thought of committing suicide several times.

It is better to hear from her about those days of agony.

Could you just describe about the situation after your husband's death?

How can I tell that? Now I'm forty six years old. A widow for the last twenty seven years! I was married at the age of eighteen years. I had lived with my husband for just seven months. After my husband's death, I was deeply distressed in mental agony over the thought '*Why should I live?*' Finally, I decided to kill my self and attempted for that several times.

But a thought came to me. Let me first see the child in the womb and then die. Somehow, I spent those months in intolerable agony.

Why did you turn back from committing suicide after the delivery?

Then another thought came to me after seeing my son. Who is there to look after my child if I die? He wasn't lucky enough to see his father. What if his mother also dies? So I decided, I would live for my child; I would bring up my child.

How did you happen to meet Jesus in your life?

My husband's parents used to attend Gospel meetings of Christian Revival Fellowship in the Prayer Hall at your

house. My father-in-law told me all about Jesus Christ and His love. Some how, I was not inclined to attend those fellowship meetings.

One day, yielding to the fond compulsion of my father-in-law, I went to a prayer meeting. The moment I sat there, my heart was filled with peace, so far unknown to me. I felt like I was sitting in a new world! The grief, gloominess and despair, all went out of me. I dedicated myself to Jesus Christ, the very moment I heard the Word of God.

How is your life after that?

Today, I am experiencing an untold relief and consolation. The death of my husband is an unending loss, which can not be filled up. But God made that great loss for the good. I am lucky enough to hold fast the Eternal Life. The Lord gave me the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Lord pardoned me the innumerable sins I had committed. Today, I am a blessed one. Praise the Lord!

“Woman, why are you crying?”

Mary Magdalene heard that question. But she could not recognise Him. Many are not recognising Jesus Christ, who came to wipe out tears and keep out crying.

She said, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

What a wonder! She recognised Jesus. Her sobbing stopped. Her grief was vanished. Jesus is not dead! Jesus is alive! How lucky! Marvellous!

She cried out, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”) and fell down before Him.

Jesus entrusted Mary Magdalene to tell the truth to His disciples that He is alive. Thus, Mary Magdalene became the first ever Evangelist in the history.

Dear friend, it is to proclaim His Gospel that Jesus removes your crying. He is entrusting you the great responsibility of announcing the good news that Jesus is alive. Mary Magdalene went immediately to the grief stricken, worried and desperate disciples. She told them that Jesus Christ is alive and that she had seen him.

Even today, Jesus is commanding, “Don’t cry.” (St. Luke 7:13). Jesus wept on the Cross to remove the eternal weeping of mankind. The crying of Jesus Christ, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” echoed through the entire universe in the pitch darkness. Dear friend, your crying of eternal punishment will vanish if the crying of Jesus Christ reverberates in your heart. You will receive the eternal peace and rest.

Dear brother, dear sister, will you bring your desires and apprehensions to Jesus Christ? Will you submit your agonies and afflictions to the feet of Jesus Christ? Welcome Jesus Christ, who put your tears in His wineskin, to your heart. Plead to Him to wipe out your tears with His pierced hands. If so, tell this to Jesus Christ: “Jesus, from now onwards, I will lead a new life, loving you, to console you, for you had suffered on the Cross for me to remove my tears in the present and eternal life.” Decide now; Pray now: “Jesus, from now onwards, I will lead a new life.” Let us pray:

“Jesus, our loving Lord, I praise You for loving me. I praise You for crying for my past sins. I praise You for dying on the Cross to remove my eternal crying. Make me new. Transform me. In the name of Jesus, Amen!



Chapter-8

“The water of Marah became sweet”

– Exodus 15:25

About six hundred thousand Israelites are passing through the wilderness. They were redeemed from the slavery of Pharaoh of Egypt and are moving towards the land of Canaan. Their journey is through hot desert sand. The hot sand is blasting on their bodies like burning coals.

These are days of unbearable agony to them. Are there any trees for them to rest in the scorching sun! No. A vast, unending stretch of desert! A wilderness with out even a shrub.

They are tired of thirst. Their mouths have dried up, not able to utter a word. They are exhausted and tired. All are weak and withered.

My dear friend, is your life like a journey through such a wilderness? Are you being withered due to the agonies of life? Are you mentally tormented with out any

solace, in the journey to Canaan even though you were redeemed from the slavery of Pharaoh, the enemy? Are you being surrounded now by the anxieties and worries?

A large multitude of about six hundred thousand is moving for three days with out water. They are in great distress, unable to make a step forward. They are afraid, whether they will perish of thirst in the treacherous wilderness.

Then, afar, they could see an oasis! Will their joy knows any bounds? Poor thirsty people, they are racing towards the water. A treasure they have fascinated for! With great relief they reached by the side of water. With great thirst, they took a handful of water and drank.

Alas! Each one who had drunk the water is spitting it out! Some are vomiting! What had happened? The water, which they anxiously got, is bitter! They could not drink it.

Dear young man, has your long desired wedding has become bitter? Is your wife's adulterous life tormenting you? Has your great expected married life turned into a life of despair and pain?

Dear sister, you have entered in to that married life with fond expectations. But now, are you desperate and worried? Is your drunken husband spoiling your home and ill-treating you? Dear one, have you been separated from your husband?

Another person got a decent job after completing studies and coming out in colours. But unexpectedly, there came an illness. An incurable one! Counting days for the tragic end! The bitter water of Marah!

It was a profitable business. A flourishing one. Then it was like a bolt from the blue. The business broke! Shortly drowned into debt and no sooner became bankrupt! What to do? The bitter water of Marah!

An untimely demise of husband or wife! Bitter crying on the loss of life mate. Endless grief! The bitter water of Marah!

A child, born after long waiting and fervent prayer. With fond expectation, the infant was groomed. But one day, one of the hands became invalid. Shortly, the leg of the same side was also paralysed. Now, the child is completely paralysed, unable to do anything on its own! The bitter water of Marah!

They could not drink that water. "What are we to drink?" the people grumbled. They complained against Moses, "Why have you brought us out of Egypt?" They murmured with great contempt.

Today, many people are blaming their circumstances. They resort to self pity and murmur against others. They are angry and offending against their own family members due to desperation and misery.

Moses heard their murmuring. He said nothing to them. But he cried out to Jehovah. He presented the problem before the eternal God. He poured out his heart before the Lord. He pleaded his case before the almighty God.

The Lord showed Moses a tree. He cut it and threw it into the water. He put the tree into the bitter water. Moses said, "Now, you can drink this water."

They drank it. "Wow! How sweet!" they exclaimed. Where had all the bitterness of the water gone? They are not satisfied. They drank it again and again. Sweet water in hot wilderness!

Dear child of God, the bitterness in your life will go away. Your agonies will end. Your tears will dry up. Your sorrows will disappear. Marah will become sweet. Because ever graceful God lives!

Moses cut the tree and threw it into the water. It took all the bitterness of the water. It took over all the bitterness that was in the water.

And, the tree transferred its natural sweetness into the water. The tree absorbed all the evil of poison in the water and in turn, transferred its goodness into the water.

Where was that tree? It was beside the bitter water of Marah. It was not far away. That tree was close to the

water. Nobody knew that the tree had such a wonderful power. The Lord showed it.

Dear friend, this tree is beside your bitter filled life. This tree is cut down for you. The sap from it is draining into the bitter water. And the tree is taking away all your bitterness.

Which is this slain tree? Which is this tree that can take out all your bitterness? Dear beloved, now see Jesus of Nazareth, who is standing close to you! See, He is slain for you. His hands and legs are pierced and the blood is gushing out.

His side was pierced with a spear. Blood and water is flowing out from the wound. On his head is a crown of thorns. When the soldiers struck the crown upon His brow, the thorns pierced through His temple and went upto one of the eyes. The blood is trickling through the eyes down His face. Jesus' body was torn like furrow when He was flogged with leather whip fitted with metallic hooks.

Dear young man, dear sister, have you looked at Him closely? Now this tree looks dark and disfigured as it had taken out all the poison of the bitterness! Seeing Jesus on the Cross, about seven hundred and fifty years before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet prophesied:

“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him,
 nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.
 He was despised and rejected by men,
 a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
 Like one from whom men hide their faces
 He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”

– Isaiah 53:2-3.

Dear friend, he took away the poison of your sin. He took away your curses. He took away all your punishments.

Do you have the desire to put this slain tree into your life? Do you have the urge to receive Jesus Christ into you? If so, tell earnestly:

“Jesus, I will live for you since you have died for me.”

Let us pray:

Our merciful Jesus, our greatest merciful Lord, I praise You for the Word, which You had given me. I praise You for making the Marah sweet. I praise You for giving me a new blessed experience. Please bless all, who had heard this message. In the name of Jesus – Amen.”



Chapter-9

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them.

“Call me Marah” – Ruth 1:20

Naomi, in the book Ruth was a frustrated lady by the bitter experiences in her life. She is a widow. The time in Bethlehem was days of fullness in her life. Then she had a healthy, loving and prospering person – Elimelech - as her husband. The couples had two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, both smart and energetic youngsters.

The moment they were in Moab, everything went upside down. The sons each married Ruth and Orpah, both Moabite women. Tragedy began to strike upon the family one by one. Elimelech died; then Mahlon died followed by Kilion. The three men in the family died one after the other. They left behind three widows, helpless and weeping.

Naomi called her young daughters-in-law and told them:

“Dear children, I’m returning to Bethlehem. My future is doomed. I can’t expect a bright future for me. Will my life flourish? You’re not like that. You’re young; stay back here and have a married life.”

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-by. But Ruth clung to Naomi. Thus two widows are returning to Bethlehem.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Marah, because the Almighty had made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty.”

Naomi means *pleasant*. Marah means *bitter*. There was a time of fullness in my life, she was thinking. But those were old stories; just memories. Days of prosperity, a secure time happily spent with the loving husband and healthy sons. A time of fullness in her life! But now, she had lost every thing. A bitter life! When she looks into her present life, it is meant for weeping and sighing. “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Marah.”

Hear what these women tell later about Naomi, who was so desperate:

“Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous

throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age.” - Ruth 4:14 (NIV)

Yes, a redeemer was given. Naomi got peace in her life. A house of weeping had turned out to be a house of happiness. The mute house was again filled with cry of joy. The reason, a redeemer was given!

Dear friend, who longs for a better future, dear sister, Jesus Christ promise you a life full of joy and happiness. Let the Redeemer come to your life.

“You were not redeemed with corruptible (*perishable*) things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 St. Peter 1:18 (KJV)

There was a nice story. Once there was a smart boy. A skilled, craftsman boy! He made a toy boat. A beautiful one! A finely crafted toy boat. How much time he has taken to carve it and shape it! How much trouble he had taken! How many sleepless nights!

One day, he took the toy boat and set out with his friends to a small river nearby. He put the boat into the water and held one end of the string that was tied to the boat. He could control the boat with the string in his hand when it is floating way with the water. Cheering out with

great joy, his friends are following him. They moved on by the river bank.

Unexpectedly, the boat went into a whirl-pool! He pulled hard the string. But it snapped in his hand. His boat is flowing fast down the river. The poor boy cried on the river bank seeing his boat moving away. Even when he came back home, he could not control his sobbing. His parents tried in vain to comfort him. But he could not stop crying.

In the meantime, one day, he went to the city with his father. There, when they went into a shop, he quickly took his father to a showcase. There, in it was a toy-boat! He told his father:

“Appa, that’s mine. It’s the boat that I have made. I want it back.”

“Son, even though you’ve made it, isn’t it owned by somebody else now?”

“Appa, then at any cost, we’ve to buy it.”

They had to pay a big price for that. A large sum! The father bought it and gave it to his son. What a joy for that child! He fondly kissed his boat and said:

“I created you with my own hands. But you happened to be into somebody else’s possession. Now, I am buying you back with a big price. Thereby, I made you my own again.”

Dear friends, this is called “Redemption”. This is what Jesus had done for us. Jesus Christ bought us back, who were under the custody of Satan due to our sin, with his own blood. Bitterness will go when we have Redeemer. Then our sin will also go, character will change, life will be filled with peace.

There are four reasons attributable for Naomi having this redeemer. These are the sum and substance of each chapter of the book of Ruth.

First, Ruth deciding. Ruth 1:16

But Ruth said: “Entreat (*Urge*) me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.” – Ruth 1:16 (KJV)

The decision, to be with God and God’s people. If we are with the God, then we will be with God’s people also. We have to leave our sin to be with God. For, the Bible says:

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God.” – Isaiah 59:1, 2.

Ruth, who had lived with her mother-in-law for sometime, says, “I want to live with my mother unto death.”

Hope we had such daughters-in-law! Hope we had mothers-in-law, about whom daughters-in-law would say like that!

Would each of our homes have then been small heavens?

First, **Ruth deciding.**

Second, **Ruth serving.** Ruth 2:3.

“And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz.” – Ruth 2:3.

Boaz is the shadow of Jesus Christ. It is the image of Jesus Christ. What a privilege it is to serve in the field of the Redeemer! Ruth served in the field of Boaz, the noble and wealthy man. Dear friend, will you take a decision now to serve in the field of Jesus Christ?

Third, **Ruth resting.** Ruth 3:8.

“Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. And he said, “Who are you?” So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a redeemer.” – Ruth 3:8 (KJV).

Resting at the feet of Jesus Christ, in the mid night. Resting at the holy feet of Jesus Christ during the night

hours. Washed, anointed and dressed in best garments, at the feet of Jesus – Ruth 3:3.

Pleading and asking for the mercy of the Lord. Waiting at the feet of Jesus Christ for the anointment of Holy Spirit. Pleading for the mantle that fell on Elisha. Waiting for the grace and strength of Holy spirit.

Fourth, **Ruth rewarded.** Ruth 4:13.

“So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife.” - Ruth 4:13.

She, who once served in the field as servant, is now in bridal chamber as wife!

“Behold, His reward is with Him and His work (*recompense*) before Him.” Isaiah 40:10, 62:11. (KJV).

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” – Rev.22:12 (KJV).

Dear friend, have you received this Redeemer? Then, not only you but your family also will be saved. Those who are with you will be saved. Your generations will be blessed.

“An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the congregation of the Lord” says the Law. Deut.23:3, Nehemiah 13:1.

In Ruth, Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse; Jesse begot David. Jesus Christ came in the generation of David.

Dear brother, sister, through you, the curse on generations can be removed. Do you have the desire for that? If so, entrust your life unto the hands of Jesus. Tell him, "Lord, from now onwards, I am yours."

Let us pray:

Our loving and merciful Lord, we praise you for living to remove our bitterness and to give sweetness in our life. Bless me as you have blessed Naomi and Ruth. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ; kindly hear. Amen.



Chapter-10

*"Indeed it was for my own peace
That I had great bitterness" – Isaiah 38:17*

Most of the people are passing through bitter experiences in their life. The family life of Socrates was bitter with family feuds and disharmony. Victor Yugo, the famous novelist was leading a very miserable life. John Milton, the author of English epic, 'Paradise Lost' was blind and was in great agony. John Bunyan, the famous author of 'Pilgrim's Progress' was a man distressed in grief and imprisoned for years.

Moses, the great man portrayed in the Bible spent about forty years as a mere shepherd in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

David, who wonderfully escaped Saul's spear, was always under the threat of death.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ was a wonderful person, who stood against all the trials, agonies, sufferings and tribulations that came against him.

“Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” - Hebrews 12:2.

King Hezekiah was a person who had gone through the bitter experience in his life. Hezekiah was afflicted with a very serious sickness when he was ruling his kingdom, leading a very prosperous life. The sickness worsened and even the doctors let him down. All his expectations shattered. Every one thought the king's life is doomed.

God then sent His prophet Isaiah to the palace. Prophet Isaiah conveyed God's message to the king:

“Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.” Isaiah 38:1, 2; 2 Kings 20:1

“Set your affairs in order and prepare to die.”

When Hezekiah heard the Word of God, his heart broke and he was very sad. It was like in a bottomless depth. Life seemed to end here itself for he was afflicted by an incurable sickness.

Hezekiah began to sob. Body has already become weak. Now the mind has also become weak. Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord.

“Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” – Isaiah 38:3 (KJV).

God, who is near to those who have a broken heart, heard Hezekiah's cry. God, who saves such as have a contrite spirit, healed his sickness. Not only that, the God extended Hezekiah's life to fifteen years.

Isaiah again conveyed God's message to Hezekiah, “I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears; and I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria and I will defend this city.” –Isaiah 38:5,6. (KJV).

Dear child of God, have you heard this? God will hear prayers. To whom is Lord near to?

First, “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart.” Psalm 34:18

Second, “The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.”
Psalm 145:18

Third, “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit.” Isaiah 66:2.

Are you crying in wretchedness like Hezekiah? Are you distressed with a broken heart? Are you tossed about in deep sea? Are you desperate thinking that your life is doomed in the middle age?

Dear child of God, a God, who hears prayers, lives. There is a Bible verse that I have learned by heart in my younger days –Psalm 50:15.

“Call upon Me in the day of your trouble. I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify My name.”

Dear friend, will you call upon the living God? Will you pray with out giving up?

“Unto You I lift up my eyes, O, You who dwell in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He has mercy on us.” - Psalm 123:1 & 2.

Hezekiah wrote a song of praise after he was delivered from the incurable sickness. A verse from that passage is our subject for meditation.

“Indeed it was for my own peace
That I had great bitterness.”

Hezekiah mentions in the meditation, some of the benefits, which he received because of the affliction of the bitter incurable sickness.

First, when he passed through this bitter experience of *Marah*, Hezekiah had a deep realisation of sin. Initially, when he knew that death is imminent, he prays like this, “I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.”

However, when he prayed with intense dependence on God, he got deep realisation of sin. He also received repentance. That is why, it is said:

“You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.”
Isaiah 38:17.

Hidden sins were revealed to Hezekiah and thereby he was able to repent over those sins with a broken heart.

First, **Repentance.**

Second, for his own peace, **his sins were forgiven.**

“For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.”

The most fortunate experience a man could receive is the **remission of his sins.**

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute (*charge*) iniquity,

And in whose spirit there is no guile.”

– Psalm 32:1& 2

Third, **Hezekiah received Eternal Life.**

Hezekiah says, "You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption."

Hezekiah had the same experience of the Psalmist:

"For you have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears,
And my feet from falling." Psalm 116:8.

Fourth, Hezekiah was fortunate to have **true worship**. He was fortunate to worship the Lord. To praise the Lord remembering the good things the God had done in his life.

"The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day." – Isaiah 38:19.

He again said:

"Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed
instruments
All the days of our life, in the house of the Lord."
– Isaiah 38:20.

What had happened was bitter. But God had turned it for peace. He was about to be removed from the face of the earth. But he was fortunate to live prosperously not only in this world but also in the eternal shore of peace, with all the joy and happiness, when he leaves this world.

Dear friend, would you believe that Jesus Christ is capable of turning all the bitter things that had happened in your life, to the ultimate peace? Do you believe that you would still get blessed times?

If so, then pray with a broken heart and contrite spirit like Hezekiah. Jesus Christ will grant you a peaceful life. Dedicate your entire life unto the pierced hands of Jesus. Dear son, the hands, which were wounded for your sake are being extended to receive you.

Tell to Jesus, "Lord, from now onwards, I am yours. Jesus, from now onwards, I will live as a new person."

Let us pray:

Our loving Lord, we praise you for giving us the blessed Words of life. Cover us in your grace. Keep us unto the end. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

★ ★ ★

Chapter-11

*“My eyes are red with weeping,
And on my eyelids is the shadow of death”
– Job 16:16.*

Job’s life was one, which was shattered in great agony, distress and tears. The centre point in the book of Job is ‘The problem of suffering’. It is the extreme end of agony and intensity of distress.

Job feared God. He was blameless and upright. He had a blessed life with his children, wealth and prosperity. The Bible says that the Lord kept him by giving him special protection.

Satan was jealous of Job’s goodness, fear of God, prosperity and abundance. He kept an eye on Job. Satan came before the Lord accusing Job.

Wicked Satan argued with the Lord putting his claim on Job seeing Job’s ego, self justification and self exaltation. God permitted Satan to inflict agony and loss on Job.

Accidents and tragedies, agony and loss, came one after another. He lost his children. Their houses were

destroyed. Cattle perished. Wealth vanished. Even when Job lost everything, he said:

“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.” - Job 1:21.

Job never offended against the Lord. He never doubted the love of God.

When next time Satan went before the Lord, he said:

“Job had lost only his wealth and children. Let him be afflicted with sickness. Then he would forsake the God”

“Stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” – Job 2:5.

The Lord permitted Satan to afflict Job, but to spare his life. Satan struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

Boils on entire body! Ulcers with pain and itching! Blood and pus are oozing out from them. The stench of the pus is intolerable! Job took a potsherd to scratch himself and sat in ashes.

“My eyes are red with weeping.” There is no wonder in Job saying so.

Over and above the agony of the body is the pain inflicted in the mind. His wife said:

“Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

His wife is trying to implement Satan’s plan. She is asking him to commit suicide. She is questioning his loyalty to the Lord.

Job said, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?”

Job was very particular to keep his words from sinning. But the words of his wife hurt him deep.

In addition to this was the reaction of his friends. It was a time when Job longed for the fellowship of his friends. He had a few of them. If they could come for a while! Good! Here, they are coming! Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite – these three came. But for seven days, no one spoke a word to him.

His wife did open her mouth when she was supposed not to; and his friends did not open their mouth when they were expected to. Both these brought Job mentally down.

Dear child of God, are you distressed due to internal and external agonies and pains? Are you desperate as

there is nobody to say a word of consolation? Are you living, hearing the unexpected and without hearing the expected, in self-condemnation and desperation? Are you pulling on your life in self pitying and asking yourself why all these things had happened to you?

If you are in such a miserable condition, dear brother, see, Jesus Christ is beside you. He is capable of comforting those who are crying. He will sympathise with your weaknesses. He is a kind father and comforting God.

“My eyes are red with weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death.”

The dark shadows of death have already fallen on the eyelids and the eyes have become red because of continuous crying.

See what Job says after saying the above:

“Yet, I am innocent and my prayer is pure.”

He is blameless and he is keeping himself from committing any sin. That is Job’s confidence! Even though, Job’s eyes are red because of the tragedies happening one by one, he has got confidence in his life. He has the boldness in life. He made it quite sure that his life and prayer are pure and unblemished.

Dear child of God, that is the greatest blessing. Confidence of the heart! A certainty that sin should not be

committed. A peacefulness coming out of pure life! As Daniel had once decided:

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.” –Daniel 1:8.

Saint Paul declared, “I myself always strive to have a conscience with out offence toward God and men.” – Acts 24:16.

Saint Paul again testifies, “As for me, my heart tells me I am not guilty of anything. But that does not prove I am free from guilt. It is the Lord, who looks into my life and says what is wrong.” 1 Corinthians 4:4.

In another translation, it is said, “My conscience is clear; but that is not final proof. It is the Lord himself who must examine me and decide.”

See, blameless conscience! Unblemished life! A Spotless life! That is why, Job continues:

“Yet even now the Witness to my innocence is there in Heaven; my Advocate is there on high.” –Job 16:19.

This scripture part points to Jesus Christ, the everlasting High Priest, who intercedes with the Father, for our sake.

Dear friend, have you accepted Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross for you and as the only Mediator, is now interceding for you before the Father, as your Lord and Saviour? Have you attained the confidence to stand firm, with the holiness of Jesus Christ as your only asset, amidst the trials and tears? Open up your heart now itself for Jesus Christ.

If you are longing for a blessed future, like “the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning” (Job 42:12), dedicate your life into the hands of Jesus Christ, to lead an unblemished life.

Let us pray:

Jesus, I am dedicating myself into your loving, pierced hands. Lord, wash me. Sanctify me. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

★ ★ ★

Chapter-12

*“I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.”*
– Job 19:25-27.

In the previous chapter, we meditated the agonies in Job’s life. Due to the terrific attack of Satan, Job lost his wealth, children, health and his wife said the unspeakable, his friends did not utter a single word, which was needed. Hard trials! Unbearable ordeal!

Job once said, “My eyes are red with weeping and on my eye lids is the shadow of death.” The dark shadows of death have already fallen on the eyelids and the eyes have become red because of continuous crying. Job again says:

“Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.”
–Job 5:7.

“Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.” - Job 5:17, 18.

Eliphaz, the friend of Job, tries to console him. To that Job replies:

“Miserable comforters are you all!”

Even when Job was sinking deep into the depth of misery, he held fast to the eternal God.

“Surely even now my witness is in heaven, and my evidence is on high.” - Job 16:19.

“When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.
- Job 23:10.

Like this Job gets consolation and let himself peaceful.

Our theme for meditation is a verse said by Job while he strengthens himself in faith and hope:

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth.” – Job 19:25.

Job is telling these words based on firm hope and unyielding faith. Jesus Christ will come again. Job is saying

a prophetic message that Jesus Christ would literally stand on the earth. Even though my skin would be destroyed and my flesh would be decayed, with out my body, I would see my Redeemer. I would see him with my own eyes. This is the glorified hope of Job!

St. Paul said, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18.

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." - 2 Corinthians 4:17

This is the blessed hope of a believer. Here there are hard trials. There are terrific miseries. There are agonies and pains. But one day, it will all end. Tears would stop. Troubles will be over. Agony will vanish. Jesus Christ will come again.

"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him." - 2 Tim.2:12.

Jesus Christ went to the cross wearing a crown of thorns. He will come back wearing a royal crown. He came in the first instance to save the sinners. He will come back to gather the holy people. Now is the time that transforms sinners to holy ones.

Dear friend, if you renounce your sinful life, Jesus Christ will make you holy. Jesus Christ's unblemished blood will wash away the stains of your old sinful life and make you holy. The Bible says:

"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin."
- 1John 1:7.

Jesus Christ gave his holy blood as the price to buy back mankind from Satan. This is called redemption.

St. Peter said:

"You were not redeemed with corruptible (*perishable*) things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and with out spot. -1 Peter 1:18.

In Psalms, we read:

"Not one of them, though rich as kings, can ransom his own brother from the penalty of sin! For God's forgiveness does not come that way. For a soul is far too precious to be ransomed by mere earthly wealth. There is not enough of it in all the earth to buy eternal life for just one soul, to keep it out of hell." – Psalm 49:7-9. (*Living Bible*)

Praise the Lord. That is why Jesus Christ's blood was poured out in Calvary as ransom. Any person, who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour would get this redemption. Such a person would never be cast out into the hell, but would inherit eternal life.

When a person gets such a great fortune, his heart would be filled with joy and thanks and would praise the God. Holy people having such an experience declared, "It is just and proper to praise the Lord in awe and reverence." The Psalmist said:

"My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,
And my soul, which You have redeemed."

– Psalm 71:23.

Dear brother, have you inherited this redemption? Have you received the assurance that you have been spared the eternal terrific torment in the fire of hell by the blood of Jesus Christ? Are you leading a holy life as a redeemed child of God? Have you been identified to the traits and qualities of Jesus Christ, your redeemer? Then in the midst of any misery, grief and torment, you would be able to say:

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth."

My skin would be destroyed and my flesh would be decayed, my body would be no more. But I would see Jesus Christ in his second coming.

This is the glorified hope! Jesus Christ will come again.

"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself." - John 14:2 & 3.

God created the entire universe in five days. On the sixth day, he created man. The eternal God, who completed the whole creation in six days is preparing the abode for his holy people for the last two thousand years. Even today, it has not been completed! That is why St. Paul had quoted:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for
those who love Him."

– 1Corinthians 2:9 & Isaiah 64:4.

Dear brother, sister, were you able to contain the depth of Job's hope? Are you being distressed in problems like sickness, debt, bad character of children, drunkenness of husband, indifference of wife, financial problem, etc? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your redeemer? Tell now to Jesus Christ, who is beside you:

"Lord, from now onward, I will live for you. Jesus, as you have died for me, from now onwards, I will live for you."

Let us pray:

Jesus, our living Lord and loving Saviour, we praise you for telling us the faith and hope of Job. Lord, prepare me for your second coming. Bless me to stand among the holy ones to receive you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-13

*“Bless me, even me also, O my father!
And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.”*

– Genesis 27:38.

Esau, the grand son of Abraham and son of Isaac, is crying before his father and pleading:

“Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father!”

The crying of Esau will break the heart of anybody. Esau is praying with a tender heart. With weeping, he is pleading for the blessings of his father. But his prayer became fruitless.

The author of Epistle to the Hebrews gives us a warning:

“Lest there be any fornicator or profane (*godless*) person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place

for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.” – Hebrews 12:16-17.

Birthright has status and right. It is the Law of Israel that the firstborn should inherit double the portion of others. – Genesis 43:33.

The right of kingdom was also inherited by the first born. – 2 Chro.21:3.

Firstborn is dedicated to the Jehovah. Numbers 3:13; Neh. 10:36; Exod.13:2; 34:19; Lev.27:26.

Esau considered the birthright, that has got this much status and right, insignificant and useless for a momentary comfort, sweetness and happiness. The red colour of the stew attracted Esau - the lust of the eyes. The taste of the stew enticed Esau – lust of the flesh.

The Bible says:

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” – Genesis 25:33,34.

Esau never thought that when he longed for the red stew, he was forgoing eternal status. When he eagerly asked for the stew, Esau never considered the fact that he was throwing away eternal blessing.

Dear friend, are you aware that you are rejecting the blessed eternity bestowed upon you by the God for the sake of a momentary happiness? Losing eternal blessing for a momentary happiness!

Untimely crying is useless. Late repentance is also fruitless.

Judas Iscariot repented.

“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood”, he confessed. He confessed his sins before the high priests. He made the atonement of his sins by returning what he had got as the wages of his sin. Instead of forgiveness of his sins, what he got was a desperate answer:

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Judas’ repentance, confession and atonement were all late.

First, Esau’s weeping was late.

Second, Judas’ repentance was late.

Third, the rich man’s prayer.

“The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.” – St. Luke 16:23.

While he was on earth, it never came to his mind to look up. He has no time for that. At that time, he clothed himself in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

Now, he is facing the reality of eternity. Unavoidable agony! Unending agony! His mouth is drying up. Eagerly longing for a drop of water!

“Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”

He was in great agony. He was in terrific torment. But hear Abraham’s reply:

“Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.”

There is no hope for me. While on earth I could not repent and believe that there is an eternity. There is no use in repenting after death. However, can you do one thing? I have five brothers on earth. If they continue to live like this, they would also come to this place. To prevent

that let Lazarus go to my brothers and he may testify to them.

That plea was also rejected. Abraham said to him, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.”

“No, father Abraham. Unless they see a miracle, they won’t repent. That’s what had happened to my brothers and me. I am lost. Let them repent while they are on earth and for that let a person go from the dead.”

“If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.”

Late pleas and prayers are useless.

Fourth, prayer from out side after the door was shut. The prayer of foolish virgins! The foolish virgins did not take oil in vessels. But the wise took oil in their vessels as well as in their lamps. They knew that while the lamp is burning, the oil will be consumed and they kept reserve oil for their lamps. The foolish never thought of this. Their foolishness was that they never thought there is a possibility of oil becoming less while burning.

They were knocking from outside. They are crying, “Lord, Lord, open to us!”

But the answer from inside was, “I do not know you.” St. Matthew 25:12.

In St. Luke 13:25, we see that:

“When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and he will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from.’

Fifth, Achan, Joshua 7:24-26.

Achan confessed that from Jericho he saw a Babylonian garment, silver and gold bar, coveted them and took them and they are hidden. He was late to confess. He was stoned to death.

Sixth, Saul, the first king of Israel.

“I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words.” – 1Samuel 15:24.

“I have sinned” – 1 Samuel 15:30.

Saul is confessing before the prophet with remorse. But there is no use for late prayers.

Seven, Pharaoh tells Moses:

“I have sinned against the Lord, your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the Lord your God, that He may take away from me this death only. –Exodus 10:16, 17.

That prayer was with out remorse and repentance. That was rejected.

Dear friend, late crying and late repentance; this should not happen to you. Pray when you have sense. Confess when you remember your sin. Repent before the door of grace is shut.

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” – 2 Corinthians 6:2.

Will you call Jesus Christ, who is standing beside you, into your heart? Will you dedicate your life for Jesus Christ?

Tell to Jesus, “Lord, from now on wards, I will lead a new life loving you.”

Let us pray:

Jesus, we praise you for the living Words. We praise you for opening the heavenly doors. Please give your grace to those who had taken a decision. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

