

All for the Best

Prof. M.Y. YOHANNAN

Publisher:

Phileo Books

Kolenchery - 683 562

All for the Best

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan
Retd. Principal
St. Peter's College, Kolenchery

Mechankara, Kadayiruppu P.O., Kolenchery - 682 311
Kerala, India. Phone: (0484) - 2689489, 2689889
E-mail: profmyyohannan@crfgospel.org
Website: www.crfgospel.org

Publisher:

Phileo Books
Kolenchery - 683 562

Translated by:

Dr. Gilu George, M.Sc., Ph.D (U.K.)

Cover Design:

Binu Varghese
Dentcare, Muvattupuzha

Price: ` 50

Printed at:

Five Star Offset Printers, Kochi

All rights reserved with the publisher

Introduction

A life that appeared hopeless and barren. And then, spring appeared – new shoots putting forth green leaves! New buds bursting forth and blooming!

Once barren branches of life, now putting forth fresh green leaves! Shoots bursting forth with new buds and blossoms!

There was no hope of ever having children. Even the possibility for a marriage was an unattainable dream. Yet, children were born! When his first son was born, he said: "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family" – he named his first-born Manasseh. When the second one was born, he said: "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief" – he named the second son Ephraim.

The tale of Joseph, who followed the footsteps of his great-grandfather Abraham in leading a life brimming with faith, is a much-acclaimed story. Joseph's life can be summarised in four words – Pit, Prison, Palace and Paradise.

There was a secret behind the successful life of Joseph and his progression from the pit to prison followed by his transition from prison to palace and eventually from palace to paradise. A dream that God gave him, when he

was a young boy! Joseph was a brave and courageous warrior who fought against the circumstances in his life and advanced with great chivalry and steadfast faith for the fulfilment of his dreams. The portrayal and the account of his life is highly motivational. This is the whole inspiration behind writing this book 'All for the Best'.

King Solomon, the wisest of the wise said: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18) (KJV). Prophetic vision and divine guidance provide us with instruction, direction, inspiration, encouragement, creativity and a new vigour and vitality. It is not merely enough just to have a sense of direction. Beyond that, while facing daily challenges there should be progress day by day, to approach crises and critical junctures with calmness, composure and a smile. When you get a vision, several new opportunities and possibilities are revealed. However, they may be concealed under numerous obstacles. Opportunities concealed under obstacles and possibilities hidden beneath piles of problems!

We should not allow obstacles to discourage us and turn us back from the fulfilment of our dreams. Sir Winston Churchill the prime minister of Great Britain, was the mastermind and chief architect of the Allied victory during the Second World War. His inspirational speech when Britain was on the verge of defeat, quoting "Never, never, never give up", is very famous. Impediments and hindrances are inevitable in life. Nevertheless, when faced with them we should not turn away or recoil. The strength from the divine vision which Moses received from God was the driving force which redeemed the people of

Israel from the iron fists of Egypt; the cradle of ancient civilization. We read in the book of Exodus in the Holy Bible “But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.” (Exodus 1:12.)

The inner conflicts faced by St Paul, in his journey to fulfil the most esteemed vision of global evangelisation is revealed in the verses: “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Paul here refers to some of the trials to which he and his fellow workers were subjected, in making the gospel known.

Joseph's journey to the palace and to the throne was a very long and challenging one. The unnecessary enmity, vain accusations and betrayal, adversities and severity of prison life slowly devouring his life – none of these could dampen his dreams. At the end, his dreams were fulfilled. He became the first minister of Egypt. Neither when he was sinking deep in the mires of adversities and peril, nor when he was climbing the peaks of authority did Joseph forget God, who gave him his dream. He remembered that the one who begins and the one who finishes is God. Thus, the sterling character of Joseph stands out radiantly among the many stories in the Bible and he shines like an excellent role model who has the most admirable attributes in accordance with the very own mind and purpose of God.

I will be most gratified if this book becomes useful for a peep into the life of Joseph. I will be most content if this

narration of his life motivates the readers. I will be delighted if this book provides new visions for others to stay firm until the very end, without the flaming torches of holiness being extinguished!

I also express my sincere regards and deep gratitude to Dr. Gilu George, who undertook the translation of this book, "Ellam Nanmakku", from Malayalam to English. She was ably assisted in this work by her husband Joe Augustine. They have done this work for the glory of God in the midst of their busy official duties in the UK.

I sincerely express my deep gratitude to my spiritual brothers and sisters who helped me immensely in the preparation, proof-reading, translation and printing of this book. Since the life of Joseph cannot be encompassed in a single small volume, I hope to continue it in future books. I sincerely request my esteemed brothers to pray to the most dearest almighty Jesus Christ so that he grants me the health and longevity required to complete that task.

Your humble brother,
M.Y. Yohannan

NB: The following versions of the Holy Scriptures were used in the translation of this book

NIV - New International Version (where not explicitly specified)

KJV - King James Version

NLT - New Living Translation

ESV- English Standard Version

Chapter 1

They said to one another, 'Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us.' *Genesis 42:21*

The sons of Jacob except Joseph and Benjamin are talking to each other - we are truly guilty concerning our brother - in that we ignored the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, we would not hear. That is why this distress has come on us.

Unforgivable transgressions and irreparable damage had happened in their lives years ago. Now they are facing the repercussions of their evil deeds. At that time, Joseph had tearfully implored with them for his life. However, they ignored all his cries and entreaties, and had hardened themselves against him. They were not moved by the anguish of Joseph.

Years passed by. But, the inevitable consequences of their wicked actions caught up with them. They are now suffering from the after-effects of the most heinous deception committed by them and the guilt lie heavy on their consciences.

When they threw Joseph into the empty pit, they would not hear his cries and they did not see his tears and anguish. Joseph besought them and pleaded with them repeatedly to spare him, but they would not hear.

The gravity of the spiritual truth that there will be fearful consequences for the crimes committed in the past is reflected in the words from the verses above. Joseph was only seventeen when this happened. When the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the empty pit and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. When his brothers counted and received the twenty shekels of silver, poor Joseph was standing there weeping!

They could hear Joseph's sighs and sobbing. Nevertheless, they did not pay any attention to that. They did not show any pity, tenderness or mercy in their own brother's sorrow. They felt no remorse of conscience for their sinful deeds.

Will they ever see Joseph again after he is enslaved by the Ishmaelite traders? They did not wish to see him again or to know about what happens to him. Not even a trace of brotherly love or affection!

They never thought of his future. How long will he live? Will someone kill him? A slave could be treated in any way a master wishes. No one questions the master. The Ishmaelite merchants might sell him again to someone else. His life will end in slavery.

In our life, do we have agonizing memories deeply etched on our minds? Have we behaved cruelly to

anyone? Have we spoken maliciously and spitefully to anyone? Have we used reckless words which hurt others and pierce and wound them like thorns? Have we treated others without any compassion or mercy? Have we ignored the pain of others as trivial or insignificant?

There is a saying "To pain with the pain of the pained." To partake in the pain of those who are in pain is the essence of Christianity. That is the paramount expression of civilized humanity. For a human to become civilized, he should be able to have a mind to perceive the pain of others. To be able to associate with and be part of the agony and anguish of others! We should be able to feel the sorrow of others, just as it is our own sorrow.

There is a story about Diogenes, a Greek philosopher who lived centuries ago. One day he was hastily walking through the streets of Athens. Diogenes was a great thinker and intellect. But when he walked through the streets of Athens, people around him were quite baffled and bewildered.

Why were those people baffled? Some of them made gestures of being perplexed and many children who were not familiar with this philosopher made fun of him and mocked him in public. What was going on?

It was a bright, sunny day, but Diogenes carried a lighted lantern and peered around as if he were searching for something.

Why would anyone need a lantern at midday? Some of them looked at each other rather apprehensively, some others looked scornfully at him. They were not sure if the

genius had been overcome by a mental disorder. As people passed, they wondered what he could have lost, but most were wary of asking. At last, a young man who did not know much about the great man's reputation mustered up courage, went up to him with folded hands and asked;

"Sir, why would you carry a lantern in this bright light?"

Diogenes looked at the young man and said, "Can't you see, I'm searching."

"Searching for what?"

"Don't you understand – I'm searching for an honest man," Diogenes answered. "Alas, I don't see a single one in sight."

The man responded, "Pardon me sir! Please forgive what I say. Aren't there a lot of people walking about, to and fro through the streets? This is the busiest street in all of Athens, and totally packed with people. More are standing on either side of the road, staring at you surprised and bewildered. Are you not able to see all these people?"

Diogenes replied: "They are not human beings. If they were humans, they would have been more civilised. These are all two legged animals. Animals have four legs, but these animals have just two legs!"

When people gathered around him, he explained:

"If you are humans, you should be cultured and civilised. A human being should have the capability to

reason and ability to think.”

“All these people live like animals. What for? Animals live to satiate their hunger. They don't have any other intentions in life other than eating, sleeping and reproducing.”

He continued: “In Athens, where there are so many intellectually gifted people, are there any steadfast abiding virtues other than everyone's aspirations of eating, sleeping and mating? Is there anyone who upholds the humanitarian aspects of civilization?”

We should partake in the pain of others. Jesus Christ visited the home of Lazarus of Bethany who died. When Jesus saw both sisters of Lazarus weeping, he was deeply moved and troubled in spirit and He wept.

“Jesus wept.”

John 11:35

Two thousand years ago when Jesus travelled through the provinces of Galilee, through Bethsaida, Cana, Capernaum, Gerasene, Chorazin in Bethany, Gennesaret, Nain, Jerusalem and Jericho, He hastened to wherever there was pain and suffering. He made sure to reach where there was misery and anguish. He made his way to where there was gloom, mourning and sorrow. And he comforted and took away the pain and agony of people in all those places.

Just think for yourself: Through your life, have you refreshed the heart of anyone? Have you comforted or consoled anyone?

On the contrary, have you caused pain to anyone in

your own house or elsewhere in society? Have others been hurt by your behaviour – those among your co-workers, those at your office, and those at the school you study or your friends? On the other hand, did they receive peace and joy from you? The lesson that Christ taught is to partake in the pain of those who are in pain and to cry with those who are crying.

True believers have the mind of Christ. Ardent followers of Christ have the heart of Jesus!

What differentiates people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ from others? Christians read the Holy Bible, others don't. Christians go to church, but others may go to other places of religious worship like a temple or mosque!

Jesus was not the founder of a religion. He did not enforce any laws or establish any philosophies. Christian belief is not belief in a religion. It is faith, trust and reliance in Jesus Christ. Love for Christ is the foundation and bedrock of Christianity.

Followers of Christ were called "Christians" in the first century. The term was used to ridicule and deride them. It was the disciples of Christ in the Syrian city of Antioch that were first called Christians.

Think! Do you have any share or even a portion of Christ's very nature and character in your life? Do you have Christ's holiness as a possession? Are you a custodian of His mercy and His benevolence? Do you reflect His empathy and compassion?

I am contemplating: Oh Lord, if I am not able to attain

your character, my life will be lost. Oh Lord, if I don't achieve and experience your holiness, my life will be futile. Oh Jesus, if the paramount love you exhibited on the cross is not reflected in my heart, it will be a complete loss.

Do you have Christ in your lives? To merely claim that Christ is in my heart is pointless. If Christ reigns in my heart, it will be reflected in my behaviour, my character and my attitude. If Christ is in my heart, I will have the qualities of Christ. If Christ is in my heart, I will have Christ's unfailing love and His attitude of forgiveness. If Christ is in my heart, I will have the same tenderness, affection and compassion. If Christ is in our hearts, we won't feel like ever hurting anyone.

Joseph's ten brothers said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us." (Genesis 42:21)

What are the thoughts reflecting in their words of remorse? We are certainly guilty concerning our brother. We saw the distress of his soul when he begged to us but we wouldn't listen. We disregarded the anguish of his poor soul and his sobbing. We kept on watching his suffering while he pleaded with us. None of these were an issue for us then.

While selling Joseph into slavery, all they thought of was the profit they would make. They were only bothered about counting the money they got for selling him off as a

slave. Now, twenty years have gone by since he was sold as a slave to the Ishmaelite traders. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. Joseph was only seventeen years old when he reached Potiphar's house.

Joseph was seventeen when he was brought to Egypt, and then he spent thirteen years in prison. This was followed by another seven years in the palace. Thus, Joseph was finally seeing his brothers after twenty years.

When famine and great suffering swept across Egypt and Canaan, they went to Joseph to buy grain. Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Joseph's mind went back to the time when his brothers threw him into an empty pit twenty years ago and then sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelite traders. Joseph realised that they were indeed his own brothers and he recollected all of these incidents.

Yet, Joseph's heart is tender and compassionate. His heart is full of love. He does not hold any grudge or malice towards anyone. Not even a hint of animosity or hatred towards those who caused him such suffering for no reason at all.

Dear friend, do you yearn for prosperity in your life? Then you should have a mind which is willing to forgive. If not, you will not be able to lift your head up or make progress in any walks of your life, including spiritual life

and worldly aspects. You won't have peace in your life. You will be constantly tense and stressed out and your heart will be full of dissatisfaction and despair.

Do you want peace and calmness in your lives? If so, you must be willing to forgive just as Jesus forgave. What did our saviour say while lying on the cross?

“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’” Luke 23:34

May our lives be enriched by the blessings that come by following this example of the epitome of love shown by Jesus Christ. Let that heavenly love lead us forward.

Here, Joseph's brothers remembered their past behaviour and started to repent about their sin. If we repent at the right time, then there is always a chance for pardon and liberation. One thing to always bear in mind is that we will not be able to repent, once we depart from this earth.

Today, while we are still alive, we can repent. We can accept full responsibility for our sinful actions, confess our sins tearfully before God with a truly sorrowful and contrite heart.

Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” With deep guilty consciences they acknowledged their sin at the right time and repented about it. Their former sin came back to their memories and they realized that there were sins that

could not be erased from their lives. They understood that those unforgiven sins from the past were haunting them.

Dear child of God, after committing sin, you went to sleep normally as you routinely do; after committing iniquities, you ate food as if nothing happened. You lived a life as you wished without even thinking of God. You felt no pain, remorse or guilt over the sins you committed.

However, the sins from your past are now haunting you. They are following you. Dear child of God, before the sins reach out and get hold of you, sit before God and recollect all your past sins. Bring them one-by-one and submit them before the cross and plead for mercy. Beseech God for His mercy!

Our ancestors sang a hymn of penitence as follows:

“En paapathil njaan chaakan
Idayaakaruthayyo naadhaa
en baashpangal
Chorinjeedunnippol
Ajamo, maado, chengaliyo
Kurupraavin-kunjugaleyo
kaazhchayathaittarppikkunnilla.
Semaon than bhavane vanna-
Paapi sthree poliruthulli
kanneer kandenmel
daya thonname.”

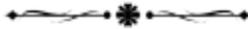
Oh Lord, please do not let me perish in my sinful state. If I happen to die in sin, I will be going into eternal darkness. Eternal torture will await me.

As a penalty for the sins I have committed, I don't

have anything to bring as a sacrifice to gain atonement. Oh Lord, I don't have a bull to sacrifice. Neither do I have a lamb to bring as sacrifice. Oh, living God, I do not have even a turtledove or a young pigeon to bring before you as an offering for penitence.

All I have in my hands is two teardrops of penitence. Just like the sinful woman who confessed her sins and wept at Jesus's feet at the house of Simon the Pharisee from the City of Nain, all I can do is to shed two teardrops with a broken and contrite heart.

Before my sins haunt me and catch me, I am finding them one by one, bringing them before the cross and submitting them at the foot of the cross. Please forgive my sins and acquit me.



Chapter 2

They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us." Genesis 42:21

Joseph's brothers now recollect their sin from twenty years ago. They truly regret what happened then and admit that those incidents should not have happened. Their troubles stirred up their guilty conscience and they are talking about what they had done. They acknowledge and admit to one another the evilness of their deed. They realise that what they are suffering now are the consequences of what they did to their brother twenty years ago.

"Reuben replied, 'Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.'"
Genesis 42:22

The blood of our own brother whom we sold off when he was seventeen years old is now holding us accountable. The revenge for blood is following us and we have to answer for his blood! All our wicked and evil deeds of putting Joseph in an empty pit to kill him and selling him

heartlessly to Ishmaelite traders are now pursuing us. And now here comes a reckoning for his blood!

The brothers recognised their sin clearly and started to repent. To have a conviction about sin is something amazing that can be brought about only by the Holy Spirit alone. The Holy Spirit will convince us of sin, and of justice, and of judgment.

Only the Holy Spirit can convince us of the depth of our sin. The Devil will always try to hide away the sins. He will put thoughts in people's minds, misleading thoughts such as – “Don't worry, there is nothing to fear. God is love. He is full of mercy and compassion. Loving God will not punish people and will not let his children fall into danger.” So many people are entrapped in Satan's hands.

Alarming and precarious thoughts have engulfed many people – They think: “To err is human, but to forgive is divine.” They keep thinking – God will surely forgive, there is nothing to worry about. Human beings are inherently weak, we do have some weaknesses and God is aware of those. He knows that we are mere human beings and about our feeble frame.

For he knows how weak we are and he will pardon us. As a result of these thoughts, they try to cover up their sins without any guilty conscience.

Besides, even if there is sin, there is a tendency to put the blame on others. Finding justification for one's own sins!

Dear people, you should not take sin lightly. Sins should be viewed very seriously. Before sins pursue and

get hold of you, find all your sins and bid farewell to them. Confess your sins and renounce them. Give up all your relationships with sin.

Tendencies for grave sins are buried deep behind small sins that we consider as insignificant. Presumably, among those who read these words none would have committed murder or adultery.

Yet in his sermon on the mount (Matthew Chapter 5), Jesus Christ says, that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court for murder.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

Matthew 5:21-22

Don't look down upon anyone or belittle any one. Don't deride anyone or underestimate any one. Don't call anyone a fool. Respect and honour others and value others above yourselves. Treat everyone with esteem and do not judge anyone.

Jesus continued in his first sermon that "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Dear friend, you might not have committed murder. However, haven't you got angry – have you not raged and shouted and raised your voice at others? Have you not been aggressive, yelled and screamed at others in a blinding rage? Or have you been physically violent or verbally abusive and threatened others? Step back and take a moment to calmly reflect on your life.

My son, you might not have committed adultery, but are your eyes unblemished? Are your eyes chaste? Do they gaze with lustful intention? How is your heart? Does it have evil desires and passions? Have you not harboured lustful thoughts in your heart?

Jesus said:

“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28

There is a saying that “The second look is sinful.” It is fine if you accidentally see something, but if you look to see it again that is a sin. Suppose you happened to see an obscene poster on a wall. Just because you unintentionally saw it, it is not a sin. However, if you deliberately look to see it, it is a sin.

Think! A lustful glance! Have you looked deliberately with an impure intention? Have you looked consciously with desire? Have you passionately looked with lustful thoughts in your mind?

“But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it

*gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown,
gives birth to death.”* James 1:14-15

Satan tempted Adam through three sins - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Satan used all three temptations in the Garden of Eden to turn Eve's focus on to the forbidden fruit.

We read in Genesis 3:6 that, Eve saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (the pride of life). She then took the fruit and ate it. She gave some to her husband and he too ate it.

Satan also tempted Jesus Christ. Satan used the same three sins to tempt Jesus. Jesus was in the wilderness fasting and praying. After fasting forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. Waiting for that precise moment, the tempter came to Him and said, you are the Son of God. If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread. Thus, your hunger will be satiated. Moreover, you will become famous as you turned stones to bread. You can become famous very quickly and the purpose you came for will be fulfilled.

This might look like a very good rationale.

But Jesus answered,

*“It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth
of God.’”* Matthew 4:4

Thus, he was tempted by the lust of the flesh.

Then the Devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour – lust of the eyes! The Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth and their glory and their greatness. He told Jesus that “All of this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me.” All these are mine, if you kneel and worship me, I will give all these to you!

Jesus said to him,

*“Away from me, Satan! For it is written:
‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him
only.’* *Matthew 4:10*

Thirdly the Devil took Jesus to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. If you are the Son of God, he said, “throw yourself down.” For it is written in Psalm 91: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” He quoted Bible verses and approached Jesus pompously.

*Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not
put the Lord your God to the test.’”* *Matthew 4:7*

The Devil quoted the Bible to justify his words. Even today there are some who mislead people by quoting verses from the Bible. Satan sets traps to deceive people through different ways by citing words and verses from the Holy Bible.

In our lives we should be fully conscious and prudent enough to recognise the ways Satan is likely to approach us – through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Resist sins, resist the devil and in your struggle against sin, resist to the point of giving your lives.

*“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Come near to God and he will come near to
you.”* *James 4:7-8*

Speaking among themselves, Joseph's brothers said, "Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble." They felt guilty. Reuben added; "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!" They are truly repentant and are acknowledging their guilt.

They suffered from guilty conscience. The Holy Spirit is working in their lives to give them genuine conviction of their sin. While you are reading these words, can you look back at your past life and think of your sinful ways? Do you have a deep conviction about your sins? Only then you can come to a thorough repentance.

Do you realise now – I should not have spoken like that. I should never have behaved in such a way. Oh no! It was a total mistake. Oh God, what will I do now?

When you look back, many of you can find several things that you regret now and have deep remorse about. Didn't some of you quarrel with your husbands? Have you not viewed your husband with resentment and bitterness, often confronting him with opposition? Have you not spoken about him in an insulting and deriding manner?

Haven't many of you been angry with your wives? Haven't some of you beaten your wives after getting drunk? Have you not accused her about totally untrue things and have you not suspected her? Aren't there some among you who were doubtful and mistrusted your wife?

Children, weren't many of you stubborn and rebellious to your parents? How many of you were disobedient to your parents and have dishonoured them? Dear friends, innumerable inequities and atrocities are now ruling over people!

Let me tell you. As I taught in a college for so many years – for a long period of thirty-three years, I was able to see and understand many attitudes and behaviours of the youth. The lives of many young men are completely shattered and ruined and their life is in a complete mess. Many youngsters have become slaves of alcohol. They have no purpose or goal and lead a completely irresponsible life. They do not hesitate to steal or to revolt and rebel against their parents. They behave in a totally disrespectful manner and hurt their parents by disobeying them.

So many young people are victims of drug abuse. They are enslaved by marijuana, “Pan Parag”, heroin and all kinds of narcotics. They consume these and are roaming around in a hallucinated state. Many others are slaves of sex and women. Many teenagers get into the trap of what is called by the pet name “love” or “infatuation” and run around wild, captivated by sexual motives. They end up doing foolish things as they get

deprived of any sound judgment and ability to think rationally.

Many are ruining their lives following the above-mentioned paths. But, dear son, Jesus loves you. Today, just as you are reading these words, Jesus wants to give you conviction about your sins. He wants you to have a guilty consciousness about your sins. Then, He wants to grant you peace that surpasses all human understanding, and the kind of joy that is humanly impossible to attain which comes only from the remission of sins.

Jesus Christ who sacrificed His own life on the cross for the sinner, Christ whose arms and legs were pierced and crushed for the sinner, is coming to you now. Jesus is near where you are sitting right now.

Jesus is standing in front of you, extending his Holy hands towards you like a beggar and is pleading. "Son, can you see my hands? They were pierced by nails and crushed for your sins. I was bearing your sins on the cross and took all the punishment for them."

"My face was spat upon, my cheeks slapped, hairs from my beard pulled out, my back covered with cuts as if a ploughman ploughed long furrows, a crown of thorns put on my head, blood and sweat dripping from my forehead to my face and my body which became so disfigured - dear son, can you believe all of this were for you? I experienced great physical suffering; the scourging, the nailing and the mocking – I suffered all of this for you."

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?"

Lamentations 1:12

Are you able to encompass the depth of pain in that divine love? Do you feel like saying goodbye to your sinful ways right now?

If so, please tell Him: Oh Lord, so far I have lived like an ignorant and insane person. I lived a completely imprudent and reckless life. Oh God, I ended up in such stupid deeds. I was in bad company.

I totally wrecked my life for the ephemeral pleasures of life which gave me only momentary happiness. I wasted my money for the short-lived enjoyments and amusements that arose from sins. I squandered all my money and ruined my reputation and self-esteem. I even put the prestige and dignity of my family at stake. The ancestral heritage of my family was shattered by my misbehaviour. I ruined the noble lineage of my family and their aristocracy.

Oh God, I defiled this body which you gave me. I was fully aware that my body is God's temple. Even then, this body which you chose as your temple to dwell in was made impure by me.

I did not consider my body as God's temple and God's dwelling place. So many mistakes happened in my life – I defiled my body, I lied with my tongue, I spoke untruthful words, I cheated many people and I caused pain for so many with my words and deeds.

Oh God, I don't have any justifications to make before you. I don't have anything to take pride in or boast about. I don't have any claims or demands. Here I am - coming as a broken sinner, kneeling at your Holy feet.

Solely because of me, my wife was suffering. My children had to cry because of me. My parents were in great agony because of my way of life. Oh Lord, because of me, my husband had to sob and spend all night without being able to sleep.

I am the culprit. Lord, I am the offender and sinner. Innumerable disasters, curses and condemnation came upon my family because of my sins. They sinned because of my sins, they went through suffering because of me and they endured sicknesses caused by my sins. I am the sole reason for this. I have committed sins that have far-reaching consequences, not just for me and those in my family in this generation – losses, adversities, misery and hardships that will be passed on even to future generations!

Dear children of God, will you weep sorrowfully about your sins now? You should be appalled, shocked, and grieved in the depths of your hearts over your sins. Please pray – Master, please pardon me. Oh Lord, please forgive me and absolve me from my sins.

Joseph saw the sorrow and remorse of his brothers when they recollected their sins against him.

They spoke to each other about the reckoning for Joseph's blood and that they now have to answer for his blood! Of course, they didn't know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter.

Joseph is now a high official and ruler in Egypt and his demeanour and mannerisms were very refined and he

was wearing royal garments befitting his position. So, his brothers did not recognise him at all when they saw him after twenty years. Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Our hearts will become tender and we will sob, when we read about what Joseph did next.

“He turned away from them and began to weep.”
Genesis 42:24

When you begin grieving over the weight and heinousness of your sin and start mourning over it, Jesus will start weeping. My beloved son; Jesus still loves you with tenderness and compassion. He does not hold any grudge or resentment towards you and does not hate you. This is the manifestation of paramount sacrifice on the cross. Most amazing love which redeems the sinner, the sacrifice on the cross which loves even the sinner! Jesus is willing to forgive even the most heinous crimes that you have committed.

Joseph turned himself away from them in order to hide his emotion and wept. He did not cry in front of them, as his brothers had to repent further. They had not got a deep conviction of their sins yet. Only an even sterner and rigid dealing would lead the brothers to deep conviction and bring about a true repentance.

Jesus is someone who weeps when he sees your true contrition and penitence. When you start grieving over your sins from the very depths of your hearts, this grief gives way to repentance. Jesus will be affectionately shedding tears when you start repenting, when you start

correcting your life, when you start to sorrowfully confess your sins!

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before His eyes.

*“You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*You discern my going out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.*

*Before a word is on my tongue
You, Lord, know it completely.*

*You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.*

*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?*

*If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,*

Your right hand will hold me fast.

*If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,”
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,*

for darkness is as light to you.”

Psalms 139:2-12

No one in this world knew what you did. Your wife didn't know, your husband didn't know, your parents didn't know. Nevertheless, Christ knew every and saw everything.

Dear friend, please pray: Almighty Lord, I am coming before you with a broken and contrite heart. I am pleading for your mercy.

Oh Lord, I believe that your unfailing love revealed on the cross, the most magnificent love of the Holy Blood shed on Golgotha has reached out beside me while I am reading these words. Please accept me. Please come and reign in my heart.



Chapter 3

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected". "No, my lord," they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food. We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies." "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected." Genesis 42:8-12

Joseph is ruling as the governor of Egypt and was in charge of the whole country. Pharaoh had given Joseph his signet ring and dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had Joseph ride in a chariot as his second-in-command. Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt.

During the seven years of abundance in Egypt, the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain in the granaries and when severe famine spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the

storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians. As the famine became severe everywhere people from all over the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph. That was how Joseph's brothers also came to Egypt to buy grain from him.

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he sent his sons to buy grains from Egypt. Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt following their father's opinion and instructions. Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others. None of the brothers realised that their own brother Joseph was ruling as a high official in Egypt!

When Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but they did not recognise him. Not only did he recognise them, all the evil that they did to him came into his mind. He recollected them stripping him of his special robe, putting him into an empty pit and then selling him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. But he behaves very affectionately to them without any resentment, hostility or hatred.

Joseph is a shadow and a symbol of Jesus Christ. He exemplifies Christ. Even though mankind commits sin, God does not hold any grievances against them. He does not keep anyone away. He does not forsake us or desert us.

The living God desires only one thing – man should fully realise the pitiful state he is in. One should recognise the truly pathetic state and have an honest acknowledgement of their sins with deep contrition. He

should be able to see his own iniquities, his sinfulness, his evils and wrong doings with the same seriousness and magnitude that God reckons them.

If we see the horror of all our sins, we will truly repent. We will genuinely think – “Oh God, what have I done, I should never have done these things.” We will be engulfed by deep regret and sorrow – “Why did I end up doing these sins, why did I end up ruining myself?” Our calloused, numb hearts will be grieved and we will cry from the depths of our broken hearts.

But the men would have forgotten their pasts! However, sins do not get erased over time. For sins to be blotted out, there should be a deep penitence about our sins and this grief must give way to repentance. Finally, after admitting and confessing the depth of sin with a broken heart; one needs to turn helpless to seek God's mercy, praying for forgiveness and pleading for His cleansing. Then the blood of Jesus Christ His Son will cleanse us from all sin. The word of God says:

“The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”
1 John 1:7

Joseph's brothers had not come as spies, but to buy grain.

We read Joseph's conversation with them as follows:

“You're spies!” he said to them, ‘And you've come to find out where our country is unprotected.’ ‘No, sir!’ they answered him. ‘We've come to buy food.’” Genesis 42:9, 10

They told him that they had come from afar to buy grain. While we were in our place, we heard that there is abundant grain here in your storehouses in Egypt. We came to know that people from all over were buying grain from here and that if we came here, we could also buy grain. So we also came here to buy some for us so that we will not starve to death during the famine.

But Joseph does not listen to them and he persists in his charge that they are spies.

Then they answered him denying that they were spies, and addressing him with the greatest reverence and submission, calling him their lord – we are honest men, not spies. We are not wrong doers. You have misunderstood us. We all are sons of one man from Canaan. We have not committed any crimes and have not come here to commit any. We are not here to find out where the country is unprotected. Our only intention is to buy grain from here.

Nevertheless, Joseph firmly says to them that they are indeed spies.

Dear people, our Lord looks at our past lives. We should look back and reflect on our past. At this point in our lives, we may not have looted or stolen anything or we may not have led an immoral life.

But dear child of God, look back on the days from your past life. Recollect some of the sins you committed years ago – in fact so long ago that they might have been forgotten. They might have slipped from your conscious mind into the depths of forgetfulness.

Nevertheless, remember one thing. There is a God who sees everything in your life. You cannot hide from Him. It is impossible to cover up or conceal anything from God. God knows everything about you and He is always watching you. The Word of God says that every day of your life is recorded in God's book.

Dear people, it is not to accuse you or to destroy you. Sin remains in our life like an unhealed wound. All our past is recorded in his presence.

While you are reading these words, this is the best time to take the opportunity to look back, search and examine your lives. An honest, humble and thorough examination of conscience is needed.

Is there anything from your past that you need to think back, search down the memory lane?

Possibly, at a very young age, you might have stolen something from a house while visiting. This probably happened at an age when you were not old enough to be fully aware of the severity of your wrong deed. Nobody knew, nobody thought about it or paid any attention to it. But dear child of God, this has been recorded and has not been erased; this is not forgotten from the presence of God. This is just an example. Possibly how many more sins like this!

This could be theft, adultery, mocking and ridiculing others, making fun of gospel workers, it could be accusing, insulting and isolating them or preventing those who are interested in doing God's work from doing so. Perhaps this could be preventing those who were going to

listen to Gospel messages from doing so, thereby hampering their path to blessing and diverting them to evil paths.

Have you ever used your influence to prohibit or hinder anyone from going to listen the Word of God? Have you discouraged anyone who eagerly came forward to become participants in the work of God? When someone decided to give up sins and had a desire to start a prayerful life, have you scorned and secluded them? Have you led them to withdraw from prayers and even to quitting?

Have you hindered a child of God either through your words or deeds? Have you caused any obstacles or hindrances for God's work? In your personal life do you still harbour ill feelings, resentments and malice towards anyone?

It could possibly be several years ago that you caused grief and distress to your father. You might have lifted your hands to beat him. You might have pushed your mother causing her to fall. You might have behaved arrogantly and rebelliously towards your mother. Have you ignored or disobeyed your father? Look back and examine all of these.

Joseph's brothers did not come to Egypt as spies. They did not come there to see how well-defended the land was. When we pay attention to Joseph's words, we see that he is using words that are enough to evoke a guilty conscience and repentance in them. By telling them that they have come to see how defenceless the land is, there is an indication that they attacked a defenceless

person.

Those who sold their own brother; those who stripped their defenceless brother of his special robe when he came alone to them; those who pushed him into an empty pit – Joseph claimed that they were spies who came to see where the land was unprotected, so that they remember their sins and what they did to their brother.

How amazing are the great depths of the blessed Word of God that the Spirit of God gives us! The Spirit of God penetrates deep into the inner realms of our mind. The Holy Spirit works relentlessly and unceasingly to remind us of the hidden sins that may have moved from our conscious mind to the layers of the sub-conscious or unconscious mind. The Holy Spirit does this to remind us and elicit conviction of those sins.

Sins may have settled at the bottom of our sub-conscious mind. Sometimes memories of our past sins could have gone from our immediately conscious minds to our sub-conscious mind. We may no longer recollect any of those sins. They may not be expressed outwardly. The reason is because they are settled at the bottom.

Imagine you have some muddy water in a container. After some time all the dirt and mud will settle at the bottom of the container. When you look from the top of the container, the water seems clear – you cannot see any muddiness, as all the mud has now accumulated at the bottom.

Just like this, the sins of many people have settled in their sub-conscious minds. Shouting and screaming at

others in anger, being a trouble-maker and harming others, forging documents and making false accounts, fraudulent dealings and deceiving friends and partners, behaving dishonestly and cheating in partnerships – how many sins like these?

God's desire is that man should have awareness of his sin – knowledge and sense about his sin. Only then can he plead for God's mercy!

In some cases when one becomes aware of the gravity of sin, there is a chance they might become depressed and discouraged. Have you heard of Pontius Pilate? Before making the judgement allowing the crucifixion of Jesus, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood.” While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him a message: “Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

The note Pilate received from his wife also was in his mind. He recognised very well that the Jews handed over Jesus because of pure jealousy. Pilate knew that Jesus was blameless and could not find any basis for a charge against him.

Pilate believed that Jesus was innocent, and wanted to save him somehow. But the Jewish religious leaders, chief priests, elders and a disorderly crowd of spectators were filled with jealousy and kept on shouting to crucify Jesus. The whole crowd had turned against Jesus. There was not even a single person left to say a word in favour of Jesus.

The owner of the house in Cana, who invited Jesus for a wedding at his house could have stepped up to say; “When I faced an embarrassing situation during the wedding, Jesus turned water into wine when we ran out of wine. He has done only good things, please don't torture him.” He could have spoken a word in support of Jesus.

The woman who had been crippled could have told “I was bent over and crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. I was not able to straighten up at all. Please don't cause any harm to this Jesus. He put His hands on me, and immediately I straightened up and was made erect. I have tried so many medications and treatments for this condition, but without any relief. The reason why I am standing straight now is just because of Jesus who laid His hands on me and cured me.” She could have told this. But no – she did not!

The woman who had been suffering from bleeding for twelve years could have come running to the scene and could have spoken aloud: “Please don't do anything to Jesus. Jesus did not even see me, he did not even say a word to me. I went up behind Him in the crowd and touched the fringe of His garment. I was healed immediately.”

“I had bleeding for twelve years. I suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all I had, yet instead of getting better I grew worse. I could not be cured by anyone. I suffered a lot with this issue and tried many treatments with different physicians. I was not even slightly better. Jesus is the one who cured me.”

“Please don't crucify Jesus. It is the need of our

community that Jesus lives. It is imperative for our land that he is alive. It is beneficial for the people of our place for Him to be alive!" She could have come forward and said this. But she also did not!

The man from Bethesda who used to lie at the Sheep Gate pool, who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years could have come forward. He could have said "I am standing straight now because of Jesus who came near the pool. When Jesus saw me lying there and learned that I had been in this condition for a long time, he asked me, 'Do you want to get well?' He looked at me with kindness and affection said to me, 'Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.' At once I was cured and I was able to pick up my mat and to walk." Please don't persecute Him. He could have spoken up!

The leper could have come forward, the blind man could have run to them and told them a word in favour of Jesus. There were so many out there who could have stood up defending Jesus. No one; not even a single person spoke up! Nobody came forward. Everyone kept shouting "Crucify Him, Crucify Him."

Pilate knew very well that there was no need to crucify Jesus. He knew that Jesus had not committed any sin and that He was blameless of all sins they accused Him of. He knew that it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. So he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" He had Jesus flogged and handed Him over to be crucified.

Can the stain of sin be washed away by water? After

Jesus' death, we see Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea asking Pilate permission to take away the body of Jesus for burial. Pilate was shocked and asked whether Jesus had died already? He then granted permission to release the body to them. Pilate then went back and washed his hands again.

He was very disturbed. He went and washed his hands again. Even when he tried to lie down, he felt very agitated and uncomfortable. He was so agitated that he was unable to sit down, to lie down or have any peace of mind. He kept on washing his hands repeatedly like an insane person. He became mentally ill. According to historical tales, Pilate was sent into exile, became deranged and committed suicide.

Pilate gave Jesus to be crucified to retain his position as Governor, to maintain his high position in the society and to cling on to his title and honour. But in the end – his governorship did not endure. He lost not only his position, but also his sanity.

When you get an awareness of your sins and feel guilty for your sins, despair and hopelessness can also occur. However, you shouldn't feel hopeless or dejected.

Judas Iscariot realised the gravity of his mistake in betraying Jesus Christ. When Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he went straight to the church, took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and the elders. With the realisation that he had betrayed to death one who is innocent, he confessed that he had sinned, he accurately told what he had done; he did not hide it. He even went

and confessed to the priests. But he was not forgiven or saved. He did not use any of the opportunities he had. His confession was in a state of hopelessness.

On the other hand, Simon Peter deeply mourned for his sin. We read that "He went out and began to weep bitterly." (Luke 22:62). He repented with a broken heart. He recalled that this should never have happened and he should not have denied his master.

What did Peter do? When the cock crowed, Peter remembered the words Jesus had said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." Shame and repentance seized him, and he went out from the court and wept bitterly over his grievous sin. He cried bitterly in great pain over his sin.

Jesus saw Peter! He saw Peter's true repentance. Christ gave peace to Simon Peter. He restored Peter. We then see Peter who is fearless, confident, and fully committed to Christ, standing up with the eleven disciples and being a witness for Jesus Christ. He said to those who were assembled there:

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for

death to keep its hold on him." Acts 2:22-24

"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it." Acts 2:32

His sermon can be summarised in three sentences – You crucified Him. But God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses for this – we personally saw this, we experienced this.

When you read these words, will you be contrite and feel a genuine remorse over your sins? Will you look back at your life and repent? Please don't sit there convincing yourself that you are honest! Please don't stay stubborn thinking – I am alright, I have not done any wrong and I don't have faults now. Don't try to find justifications.

Humble yourself before God. Repent for your sins. Tell Him; Oh Lord, I am a sinner who has done wrong, I have so many flaws in my life. Acknowledge before God – I have sinned. Pray hopefully by coming before the presence of Jesus.

Give up all despair and renounce all your sins. Confess all your sins and make a decision that you will lead a new life without sin. Surrender your lives into the loving hands of your master.

Make a promise to God: Oh Lord, forgive my past life. Please grant me remission of sins. I am starting a new life from now on.



Chapter 4

So, the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home. At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. "My silver has been returned," he said to his brothers. "Here it is in my sack." Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, "What is this that God has done to us?"

Genesis 42:26 - 28

They were trembling with fear as they stared at one another and asked themselves, "What has God done to us?".

This fascinating section in the Bible will lead us to deep penitence. This will awaken our consciences and evoke heartfelt remorse. The influence of the Holy Spirit will produce repentance in our hearts. The Spirit of God will help us to repent, rectify our wrongs and failings and to confess our sins.

Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, "What is this that God has done to us?".

Here we see Joseph's efforts to bring forth a deep

repentance in his brothers. Today Jesus Christ meticulously continues to strive, so that we may be fully conscious and regretful of our sins.

When this happens, we will be without sin. When you gain a proper awareness of sin and repent deeply, your sins will move away from you. You will be devoid of everything that contaminates you and free from all the filth of sin and you will experience complete cleansing and sanctification.

The ten brothers had come to Joseph. They came down to buy grain in Egypt. Famine had spread over all the land. They came to Joseph during the time of severe famine to buy grain from the abundance of Joseph's storehouses. They went back after buying grain from his granaries. Joseph spoke to them and dealt with them in such a way that their guilt from the past resurfaced.

They began to remember their past sins and their guilt slowly started showing in their conversations.

The brothers didn't know that Joseph understood them, because he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. When we read further, we can see that Joseph turned away from them and wept.

When the prodigal son returned to his father's house, the father did not ask the son about his past. He did not question his son about the way he lived. The father never accused him or asked him: Why did you disobey me and go away? Why did you squander everything by eating and drinking with prostitutes? Why did you waste your life by living in the pomp and splendour of society?

The son started to speak: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants."

But his father was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him, not allowing his son to say a word more. The loving father could not bear hearing his son's words; asking to hire his son as a servant! The father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

God does not question you about your past. God does not keep an account of your sins.

"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:18-19

God who pardons the sins and offences of His people and hurls all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. God who submerges them into the depths, so that they do not rise again! Compassionate and gracious God. This love of God is reflected in Joseph. A shadow of God's love!

Joseph went away and wept. Despite this he continues to deal very strictly with them. Why? They have to achieve the depths of a complete repentance. They must move from shallow sorrowfulness to a deep realisation concerning their wrongdoings. Dear brothers and sisters, if the sins in your life are to be cleansed, you should weep with deep repentance.

It is not enough that you merely remember some of your sins. There needs to be genuine sorrow for your sins. There needs to be a great pain, an inner groaning and a brokenness over what has been done. Joseph's brothers realised their sins with guilt. They were fully aware of their wrongdoing and accepted that their current situation was the repercussion of that. Yet that was not enough. They were yet to come into the deep regret that leads to repentance.

Joseph took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. Simeon was taken from them and he had him tied up right before their eyes. One among the ten was taken as a hostage. They should realise the painful state of being without a brother!

A long time ago, they had gone back to their father without Joseph. They had betrayed and sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Hadn't they slaughtered a goat and dipped his robe in the blood, to create false evidence, taking it back to their father asking: "Doesn't this robe belong to your son?" When they go back without Simeon, they should remember all these things that happened in their past. Simeon was held as a hostage to awaken their memories of something they did! Now they should look

back and recall that they sold their brother and abandoned him.

Sometimes problems arise in our lives, to lead us to repentance. Dear son, some of the severe crises and critical junctures that occurred in your life, certain burdens and bondages, some accidents happening, debts and diseases that befell you; dear daughter some disasters that happened, the trials and suffering that you had to go through – all of these happened so that you look back at your past.

Has our God abandoned us? No. Dear ones, God still loves us.

Aren't there many who are afflicted in one way or another? So many people suffer miserably from pain and adversities. They are shattered by scarcity and famine: spiritual scarcity, scarcity for love, scarcity for money and scarcity for affection. There are so many people suffering in so many different ways. However, among all the famines, the worst is the lack of love.

Love is lacking in the lives of many people. Deprivation of love! There are so many wives yearning for their husbands' love. There are children longing for the love of their parents, Little ones yearning for their mothers' love. There are also parents who grieve and yearn for their children's love.

Dear people, do you give love? You receive love. You have a desire to receive love from others. You wish that everybody loves you. However, do you love others? Do you bestow love? Do you share and give away love?

Dear child of God, think! Give love. Dispense and disburse love. Give love freely. Give love lavishly and generously. Doesn't the living God love us profusely? Our living God loved us unconditionally with this eternal love!

Having Simeon bound and held as a hostage and accusing his brothers of being spies were both done to induce within them a guilty consciousness and lead to repentance. Moreover, Joseph did one more thing:

“So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home. At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. 'My silver has been returned,' he said to his brothers. 'Here it is in my sack.' Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, 'What is this that God has done to us?'"

Genesis 42:26 – 28

Joseph had ordered his servants to fill the men's sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother's payment at the top of his sack.

Later on, one of them opened up his sack after they had stopped at the place where they intended to lodge for the night. There, in the mouth of his sack, was all of his money! Everyone looked in their sacks and each one's sack had the silver they had given as payment for grain. This was done to remind them about their greed for money.

They had sold Joseph in exchange for twenty pieces

of silver. They were greedy and had a craving for money. Their reliance and dependency were on money. Joseph did this to remind them about this.

You are people who have a craving for money – so let your money remain with you. Joseph did this deliberately to make them think about this, so that they could recollect how they made money from selling Joseph as a slave and sorrowfully repent over that sin.

Dear child of God, God gives you prosperity in some things and will let you flourish so that you can repent about your ways. You may get some goodness and welfare in your life – at the same time, there may be some matters that you may have to think and repent about. When you receive good fortune, when you have affluence and abundance, when you receive help and blessings – check, do you have anything in your life to repent about? Even when others support and assist you, even when others care for you and comfort you – there may still be matters in your life that need looking back upon and repenting about.

When someone helps you very generously and charitably, it is to remind you of your nature. When someone talks gently and lovingly to you it is to remind you of your gruff and hard nature. This helpful and kind nature would bring out the guilt. How about you? If you were in such a situation, would you have been so generous and considerate?

When the brothers got the money they paid for the grain back, their hearts sank and they trembled. They said

to each other, “What has God done to us?” They were afraid and they realised that the hand of God was behind this incident.

God's hands are behind many of the incidents that happen in your life! There is God's plan and purpose behind them. You are being led to the deepest depths – so that you gain a deep consciousness and acknowledgement of your sins, have a genuine remorse and anguish leading to a deep contrition and repentance. This is part of God's plan to make you the heir of eternal life and to give you the heavenly inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

You are awakened to a sense of sin and remorse over what you did. You get warned, you get reprimanded. Your father scolds you. A minister warns you, instructs you and corrects you. You dislike this and are uncomfortable with being told off. In your mind, you have complaints. You keep thinking – they always find fault with me. Even when there are several virtues and goodness of character in me, they just see only my flaws and wrongs. Son, you have complaints and you have displeasure. But do you realise that you are fortunate?

Here the brothers recognised and acknowledged that God's hands are behind this. Dear people, when they found the money in the mouths of their sacks, they were dismayed; they turned trembling to one another and said, “What in the world has God done to us?”

Alas, we are in such a pathetic situation. Such a fate has befallen us! What is the solution? Can we ever go

back to get more grain? When all this grain we now have finishes, we have to go back to him to get more – how can we go back? He will surely ask us why we stole the money last time. He seems to be a very hard hearted and merciless man anyway. He accused us of being spies even when we clearly were not. He is definitely going to take us into custody this time. There must be a reason for being so harsh and merciless. There is God's hand behind this. What is this that God has done to us?

Friends, have you been in situations where people have spoken to you with a scowl on their face? When you asked to borrow a little money, have you been refused with an angry frown? Have you been in situations where you were left crestfallen and downcast?

Dear friends, let me ask you – you went somewhere seeking an admission for a course. When you were told “No” accompanied with a contemptuous look, did you return feeling downcast and dejected? You knocked on an organisation's door seeking an employment. When the manager there ridiculed and insulted you, and sent you out, did you feel miserable and discouraged?

If anyone relies on you, seeking your help and support or seeking kindness and mercy, never let them down and send them back disappointed or disheartened. Can't you speak to them in a pleasant and sweet manner? If it is something that you are unable to help with or if it is impossible for you, can you not tell them that clearly? Can't you politely let them know that this is not something that you can manage or help with? Could you not nicely explain that it is beyond your capability and capacity?

However, there are people with different talents and abilities. There are people who have the means to help out in different ways. Let them do what they can.

Don't use your position and power or your talents to insult or scorn a poor man. You should never use your health, your education, your popularity or public support, your power and authority to attack or pounce on others. Always have humility and gentleness towards others.

Beloved child of God, heavenly God will hold you in His holy and venerable hands and reward you, God will bless you, He will exalt you and He will guide you in all your ways. Those of you who hold positions of power and authority at work, should behave with humbleness towards your subordinates. You should not be proud or haughty in your interactions with anyone. There should not be any air of supremacy or arrogance in your behaviour. Be modest and humble.

Heavenly God will honour you. Eternal God will bless you. Here the brothers are saying "What is this that God has done to us?" We are in such a situation! They are now reflecting upon their love for money. They are eventually being led into remorse and contrition over their past sins.

Today, right now as you are reading these words, look back at your life. Search and examine your ways. Can you recollect and remember any sins that you committed out of greed for money? Have you cheated anyone because of your love of money and greed? Have you deceived any one? Have you misused and exploited

any public resources? Have you used anything that doesn't belong to you, according to your own will or for your own benefit?

Have there been any fraudulent and devious ways in your life? Have you cheated or deceived any one? Have you spent your money in unwanted ways? Have you misused your money for the most heinous deeds? Have you wasted your hard-earned money over alcohol? Have you ruined the money that God gave you by using it for an immoral life?

Has there been any corruption or fraud in your dealings with money? Even when you have enough money with you, are you still holding onto money which you owe to your lenders? Are you reluctant to return the money you borrowed from others? Take a moment to calmly examine your life. Dear son, the desire of heavenly God about you is to be unblemished and blameless in every aspect of your life.

“Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.” Psalm 30:5 (NLT)

Child of God, at the end of each day, before you go to bed, look back at your life. Confess any sins that happened in your life during that day with a contrite heart. Sins that occurred in your attitude, in your mind set, in your approach and outlook towards others, in your opinions and perspectives, in your thoughts and emotions, in your behaviour, in your looks, in your movements, in your conversations – search and identify each and every sin that happened in your life on that day.

Shed tears at the pierced and wounded Holy Feet of Christ with a penitent and sorrowful heart. Hold fast to those wounded feet and seek His mercy. Make a humble prayer and petition to the most merciful God – Oh my father! Please cleanse me, please forgive me.

Right now, while you are reading these words you can experience the tender and compassionate love of Jesus. Amazing love that forgives and forgets everything from the past, love which keeps no record of wrongs, love that won't blame you but instead grants you pardon, love that erases all your sins!

The sins of your past, the most grievous flaws and faults of your past, all the grim mistakes and defects that happened, the failures, disasters and hopelessness of your past, all the damages and blemishes – take a look at Jesus Christ, the source of eternal of love who will forgive and pardon all of these! In Him, there is mercy and remission of sins!

Look at those hands – those bruised hands are extended towards you. Daughter if you are willing, if you give consent, if you say a word, those blessing hands will be placed on your head. Son, those hands will be placed on your head, daughter, those hands will comfort you, those hands will lift you up. Daughter those hands will cleanse and purge all the stains of your sins and purify you.

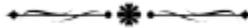
“The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7

The Holy Blood of Jesus which washes us from our

iniquities and cleanses us from our sins; the Holy Blood of Jesus who loves us; the Holy Blood of Jesus which purifies and sanctifies us; the Holy Blood of Jesus which gives us the inheritance of Heaven; the Holy Blood of Jesus which turns the unholy to holy; the Holy Blood of Jesus which converts a filthy sinner into the state of being pure!

Child of God - that Holy Blood of Jesus now speaks favourably to you. Open up your hearts to Him now. Therefore, tell the most merciful Jesus – Oh Jesus, from today I am yours. From today I am a new creation!



Chapter 5

“At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. 'My silver has been returned,' he said to his brothers. 'Here it is in my sack.' Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, 'What is this that God has done to us?’”

Genesis 42:27-28

Heartbroken people may be reading these words. People who are hopeless and have a crushed spirit might be reading these words. Grief-stricken people might be reading these words. Downhearted, disappointed and despondent people, troubled and distressed about their future, not sure of how to go forward and worried about their next steps, and agonising about how to live, could be reading these words.

There are people who are trembling with fear. There are others shuddering over the scary and intimidating situations they have to face. There are people who are apprehensive and disturbed about their uncertain future. There are others who are troubled and stuck as they can't see any way forward.

I have heard a story about a young man. He was an

energetic and enthusiastic young man. He had a great adventurous spirit and was very capable and courageous.

One day he thought of making a journey around the world. He embarked on his journey to go around the world on a ship. This ship was sailing at sea when a grave calamity struck. In the middle of the deep and endless ocean, the ship hit a huge iceberg and a crack developed on the ship's hull. The damage caused by the collision allowed water to flood into the compartments. Everyone on board was shocked and terrified.

As water rushed in through the breach the ship's crew alerted the passengers that the ship was going to sink: Disaster had struck! There was little hope that any of the passengers would survive. We will all drown at sea very soon. It's unlikely that any of us will survive!

Everyone started screaming and wailing. The ship sank in a very short time. Somehow, this young man survived. He was not sure how, but when he opened his eyes he was lying on the sand somewhere on a beach. The last thing he could remember was trying to desperately grasp onto a plank of wood while sinking in the water. He had a vague memory of holding onto the plank and swimming. That plank helped him to stay afloat without sinking into the deep sea. He might have drifted in the wind and washed onto the shore. He couldn't see the ship or anyone else who had survived. This young man was the only survivor of the shipwreck. He got up and looked around. Then he realised that he was on a small, deserted island. He was not entirely sure how long he was unconscious for, but he felt very thirsty and hungry. The

island looked uninhabited and completely deserted.

He started exploring the island walking around on very weak legs. He soon found small bushes and then dense forests on the island, but no animals. He drank water from small streams in the forest and ate fruits and berries that he could get hold of from the climbers and shrubs. Thus, his thirst and hunger were quenched for the time being. He walked as far as he could along the island, but he could not find any living thing there. It looked like a completely isolated and a deserted island!

He was very dejected and felt that his life was going to end there. He even thought that it would have been better if he had died in the ship wreck, rather than living alone on this deserted island with no human beings. Of course, I can eat some fruits and drink water to keep myself alive. But how long can I survive here alone, separated from all my relatives and family?

After a while, it became dark and night fell. He slept on the sand by the beach. The next day he followed the same routine. He walked around the island and he satiated his hunger and thirst by eating fruits and drinking water. As days went by, he became increasingly anxious. He could see ships, appearing as tiny dots, sailing far away on the horizon. He tried shouting at the top of his voice and jumping to attract the attention of the ships, but in vain!

After a few days he managed to build a small hut on his own. He built a frame out of branches cut from trees using sharp stones. The roof was thatched from large

leaves he got from the forest. It wasn't much, but somehow, he managed to make the hut to give him some protection from the sun, rain and natural elements.

But then one day, late in the afternoon, after scavenging for food, when he returned to his hut, he was totally shocked and dismayed. He cried out aloud when he found his little hut in flames, everything ablaze and the smoke drifting up to the sky. His hut had caught fire in a forest-fire! The thatched roof made with leaves caught fire first, followed by the branches of the walls. The whole hut was on fire; the flames bursting out high up into the air and plumes of smoke rising up into the sky.

He experienced a crushing sadness, started beating his chest and said "Oh God, such a fate has come to me! God, how could you do this to me? I struggled a lot and worked so hard to make this small hut, thinking I can somehow survive on this island. How many times did I plead with you and pray that a ship came to find me and rescue me? That did not happen and now even worse, I have lost the only place I had to live." Stunned, full of grief and inconsolable, he started crying out even louder.

This young man stood there in total despair, looking at the rising flames and weeping uncontrollably. Suddenly he heard a sound like a siren. When he turned around to look at the source of the sound, he saw a boat coming towards him. What a miracle and what a surprise! The people on the boat signalled him to come on board and they brought the boat as close as they could, nearer to the shore so that he could get in.

He hastened towards the boat through the water. When he finally got on the boat, the boat sped through the sea towards a large ship which was anchored in deeper water. Once his rescuers took him to the ship, the exuberant young man was full of relief. As soon as the captain of the ship saw him, he told this young man: “Son, we came to realise that someone out there on that island needed help, only because you lit the fire so high. We saw your smoke signal! It was good that you thought of lighting a fire there!”

In reality, he did not light the fire! But the blaze that happened became favourable for him. The burning down of his dwelling place turned out to be the reason for his rescue. The small hut which he made by toiling for days, which burned down into ashes, ultimately turned out for his good. All for the best!

Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, “What is this that God has done to us?” *Genesis 42:28*

Dear friends, aren't many of you going through hardships? So many of you are struggling, going through great suffering with discord and dislike between family members, holding grudges and resentment towards one another and complaining against each other. Many of you keep thinking – if only I could die. There is no point in me continuing to live, there is no one to love me or care for me, for whom should I live? These are the resentful thoughts of self-pity, going through the minds of some of you who are reading these words.

For whom should I continue to live? I don't have any one to love me. There is no one in this world who shows mercy or affection towards me. I am an unwanted and undesirable person in this house. No one in society cares for me. It is better that I depart from this world somehow. I lead such a miserable life! These are the thoughts in the minds of several people.

Their hearts were shaken and they trembled with fear. They are asking themselves: "What is this that God has done to us?" Why did this happen?

They were returning home after buying grain from Egypt. Their youngest brother Benjamin was not with them. A severe famine had affected the land. Since the severe famine had continued for years with no respite, many people had already died of starvation. It is at this time that Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain.

Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold grain to all the people of the land. Joseph was in charge of the granaries. When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. However, his brothers had no clue that it was their brother Joseph. They did not realise that their own brother Joseph was reigning in Egypt. They had completely forgotten all about Joseph a long time ago.

Twenty years ago, they had dumped him in an empty pit. They had then lifted him out of the pit and sold him to Ishmaelite slave traders. They had diligently

counted the twenty pieces of silver which they received as payment for selling Joseph as a slave. Who knows where he is now or whether he is still alive? That was not even a matter of thought for them. They had completely forgotten about Joseph. Even though they forgot about Joseph, God did not forget him!

Dear brother, you might have forgotten your own brothers. You might have forgotten your dear ones. Esteemed sister, you perhaps have forgotten about your husband. You might be feeling so dejected and despondent that you have forgotten about yourself.

But, heavenly God will not forsake you. He will never leave you or forget you. Son, truly there is a living God. Daughter, God surely lives.

God is a sea of mercy. He is the epitome of loving kindness. He is the fullness of great affection and endearment. He is the one who is merciful towards you. There is no end to His mercy and compassion. His overflowing love has no boundaries.

Boundless love, precious and unfailing love, unique, unparalleled love which cannot be found anywhere else! We read about this love in Jeremiah chapter thirty-one. "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3). This tender and gracious assurance manifesting itself as loving kindness was given by God through the Prophet Jeremiah six hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dear son, aren't you alive only because this patient and unfailing love was extended towards you? Daughter,

aren't you living peacefully purely because God's enduring grace and patience was prolonged for you? Friend, are you not able to worship God peacefully because this mercy came in search of you. Child of God, you are able to listen to His holy voice only because His divine mercy is calling you by your name.

You thought that you would never get up alive from the operation table at the hospital. Your near and dear ones also thought and said so. Even the doctors had given the same verdict. Who is the reason that you are alive today? Is it not Jesus Christ? You are sitting and reading these words peacefully because of one and only one person – Jesus Christ; who while he was hung up on the cross with three nails, through the searing pain and agony prayed “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Dear friends, God is good and gracious. God is love. You should never hold any grievance or resentment against God. Please don't say or think “What has God done to me?”

Yet Joseph's brothers said that. They had resentment against God, they had complaints about God.

There is a reason for them saying this. Joseph had returned the money the brothers paid for the grain. When the brothers returned home after buying grain, they found out that the money they paid as a price for the grains was returned to each one's sacks!

Each man's money was restored to his sack. On their way home, when they found the money, their fear of

God was aroused. They recognized God's hand in this and thought that God was punishing them and said: 'What is this that God has done to us?'

Why was the money they paid for the food given back? To remind them about their greed for money; to remind them that they sold their own brother for money. They should feel guilty about what they did. They counted and received twenty pieces of silver. This was the price for which Joseph's brothers sold him for without having any mercy on their brother crying out to them and pleading for mercy. They should feel guilty and remorseful for their actions. Only then could remission of sins can be granted to them.

God's plan is to exalt you. You should repent about your sins to make it possible for God to give you prosperity. You should repent about the faults and follies that happened in your life from years ago or a long time ago.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." *Psalms 66:18*

If I regard any wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear my prayers.

There are some hindrances preventing the smooth flow of streams of God's divine grace into your life. There are some huge stones acting as barriers in the stream through which blessings flow towards you. Dear brother, you yourself should get rid of these stones. Only then God will be able to work in your life.

That is why the prophet Isaiah said:

“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” *Isaiah 59:1-2*

Wrongdoings and misdeeds are standing in-between. God really wishes to bless, but He is unable to. Joseph's ten brothers had pushed him into the empty pit. They had sold him to Ishmaelite traders and received money as payment. God's plan is to forgive their sins and raise them up to head the tribes of Israel. However, their sins go before them acting as a hindrance. They should repent about their sins. If the sins are to be forgiven, they should tearfully cry out with a contrite heart. For without contrition and repentance, there can be no forgiveness.

Our forefathers sang:

“Than baliyal papikale Rakshchoru deivasutha
Nin baliyalen kashtathamayichen Novozhikkaname
Gogulthayil-thanmarvu thurannoruthamane
Daham neekkittozhukiya neeral chorayathalum.”

Oh! most venerable Lord Jesus Christ whose bosom was pierced open at Golgotha, please quench my thirst through the precious blood and water that gushed out from your open heart. Please wipe out the suffering in my life. Please eradicate my aches, please eliminate my pains.

For the pain to subside, for the suffering to be eliminated, there should not be any sin in our life. For that, it is essential to believe in the Son of God who saved

sinner through his sacrifice. We must believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who redeemed sinners through the ultimate sacrifice accomplished by dying on the cross. We must believe that His holy blood purifies us from all sin.

Joseph's brothers received their money back to remind them about their sin – greed for money!

They trembled. They said to each other – “What is this that God has done to us?” There are so many people who ask this question with great sadness. Why did this happen to me, why am I going through all this adversity? I have been listening to the gospel for a long time. I have taken several decisions in my life based upon it. Still, why am I unable to be victorious? Why is there no progress or gain in my life? Why am I not able to succeed in anything or prosper? Why is it that my life is constantly dwindling and declining?

Why is my illness not getting cured? Why is it that there is no solution for my problems in life? Why is it that there is not even a small leeway when it comes to my debts? Why am I not able to clear my debts? Why is it that my financial difficulties have no end?

I do pray. I am trying to lead a pious life to the best of my abilities. Why is it that I don't get any grace? This question arises from the hearts of many.

So many lives are frustrated and broken because of the thoughts like – “What is this that God has done to us?” – Why did God think of giving me such a husband? Why did God give me such worthless and good-for-nothing children?

Why am I not healthy like others? Why was I not able to get a good education like others? Why is my father still an alcoholic? Even though my family was very affluent and prosperous at the time of my birth, now we have lost everything. My father ruined everything through his alcoholism. Why did this happen to me? Why is God not listening to my prayers? What has God done to me?

There are so many people out there who harbour questions, ill-will and bitterness inside them. Friends, do you have any such ill-feelings and resentments within you? Do you have complaints against God?

Let me tell you, for the young man who lost his only dwelling place to fire that blaze turned out to be for his blessing. That became the reason for his rescue from that deserted island. Just like that God can turn each and every situation for the best. God can turn all the losses and adversities, all the disasters and damages in our life to ultimate good.

Daughter, you becoming a widow at a young age; brother, your business incurring huge losses and collapsing; young man, your business partner cheating you; sister, your children disobeying you and wasting their life in a totally irresponsible manner, paying absolutely no attention to their studies – Christ can turn all of these into good!

Only one thing is needed – repent about the sins in your life. Repent about the wrong and wicked ways in your life. Recollect all the sins that happened in your life from ages ago, months or even years ago and repent about them.

God who discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart, God who weighs our hearts sees everything. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. "Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

Dear friends, can you give yourself into His hands? Can you make a promise to Him? Oh Lord – everything is for the best. I am bidding farewell to my resentments and complaints. I am accepting Jesus Christ as my saviour and redeemer.



Chapter 6

So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home. But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack. "Look!" he exclaimed to his brothers. "My money has been returned; it's here in my sack!" Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, "What has God done to us?"

Genesis 42: 26-28 (NLT)

The brothers did not recognise Joseph. But Joseph recognised his brothers. They were seeing each other after twenty long years. Twenty years ago, when he was led away by Ishmaelite traders to whom he was sold, he was looking back at them; pleading for their mercy, imploring and begging them and crying out loud. Even when they saw his extreme grief and agony, even when he was crying out unbearably, their hardened hearts did not have a trace of sympathy. They sold off their own brother!

Twenty years later these brothers have come before the same Joseph. They came to buy grain and they paid money for it. But when they went back with the food they

bought, they found that the silver they paid to buy the grain was returned in their sacks. As they emptied out their sacks, there in each man's sack was the bag of money he had paid for the grain! And when they saw their bundles of money, they were terrified, they shook with fear. Trembling, they said to each other, 'What has God done to us?'

The apostle Paul says:

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

How can sickness be for good? Your close relatives die unexpectedly. How can this loss be considered as for good? How can the loss of most beloved children turn out for good? Losing a job – how can it be possibly be for good? The promotion that you deserved, but did not get – can this be for good? A terrible accident happening – how can it be for good? We are unable to understand how these things can be for good.

But, in each and every situation like this we should look back and examine our lives, search and find our sins and repent about them. If we are able to do that, then God will turn each of these to work together for the good. Not only that, God will use these eventually to lead us to the most exalted heavenly blessings and great grace.

Mahakavi Kumaran Asan was a famous Malayalam poet, philosopher and social reformer of Kerala. On one occasion he was waiting for a boat at a pier to go

somewhere. There was some time before the boat was supposed to leave. While waiting, he decided to have a cup of tea from a nearby café.

When he sat down at the hotel, there was someone sitting next to him. This man had a shoulder bag with a Holy Bible in it. Kumaran Asan asked his name. He replied: My name is Mammen Upadesi. Mammen Upadesi returned the question. He responded – I am Kumaran Asan. Mammen Upadesi was delighted to meet Kumaran Asan as he had heard about the famous poet, but had never met him before. They continued their short conversation.

Suddenly they heard the siren from the boat, signalling that the boat was ready for departure from the dock. Both of them hurriedly ran towards the boat. Both of them had already purchased tickets, so it was just a matter of getting on the boat on time. They both got on the boat. After the first siren, there was some more time for the boat to depart.

That is when Mammen Upadesi said: “Oh dear! I forgot my umbrella. I left my umbrella behind at the café in my hurry to get on the boat. I can quickly run back to the café and get it as there are a couple more minutes before the boat leaves.”

Upadesi went back to the cafe to get his umbrella. Luckily the umbrella was still there, exactly where he had left it. But alas! By the time he returned to the boat, it had left the dock and had started sailing. He lifted the umbrella as high as he could and shouted at the top of his voice – “Please stop, I have to travel on this boat. I have already

purchased tickets for the journey.” There was no one to listen. The boat had already sailed far ahead.

Poor Mammen Upadesi burst into tears. The boat came only once a day and he would have to wait till tomorrow. Not only that, but he did not have any money left to buy another ticket. He had already purchased a ticket for this trip with whatever money he had! He sat there tearfully – very exhausted, tired and fully drained. He put his hand to his chin, thinking grimly about the prospects of where to spend the night and the possibility of sleeping on the shop porch. He was even more concerned about getting some money to purchase a ticket for the next day's trip.

After a short while news spread around about a tragic boat accident that happened at a place called Pallana. The boat Asan was travelling on, named “Redeemer”, met with a tragic accident. “Redeemer” capsized at Pallana and all on board, including Kumaran Asan, drowned.

It turned out that Mammen Upadesi forgetting to take his umbrella from the café and eventually missing the boat was for good – God's provision for the servant of God to live longer. If he had not left the boat hastening to get his umbrella from the hotel, poor Upadesi would also have been killed in the boat accident. Merciful God extended his life as He saw that this evangelist's service was needed on earth for some more time. His forgetfulness turned out to be a blessing in disguise on this occasion!

The catastrophic terrorist attacks on the World

Trade Centre, leading to the Twin Towers burning and collapsing was a shock to the whole world. This was the biggest terrorist attack ever on America and happened on September 11, 2001.

On that day morning, a Keralite couple were going through their daily routine but some discord cropped up between them. Every morning the husband goes to work punctually after having his breakfast at home. But on that day, for some reason the breakfast was not ready on time.

Although he was ready and on time, this husband had to wait for some time before his wife finally brought the breakfast. He was quite annoyed and complained to his wife – “It took you too long to get the breakfast ready on time.” She apologised and told him that she would make sure that it is ready on time from now on.

After having the breakfast, this husband had a thought. He thought that it was better not to go, rather than reaching the office late. He didn't want to go to his office that day as it was late. He didn't apply for leave or call the office to let them know. Instead he thought of applying for leave on the next day when he is back in the office.

Later on, they came to know that the World Trade Centre where he worked was completely destroyed. The delay in getting breakfast ready on that day turned out for good. The decision to not go to work on that day, saved his life.

Nothing is a coincidence! Dear child of God, the disturbances and difficulties that you face in your family life are not by mistake. Daughter, the agonies and pains

that you are experiencing now are not accidental. Friend, the problems and predicaments that you are going through are not mere coincidence. Son, don't worry about the failures in exams that you just had. Daughter, don't despair over the extensively planned wedding which did not happen in the end.

You thought that you have surely secured a job. You nearly got it. But then it didn't materialise and at the very last minute that opportunity was lost. Don't be disappointed or despondent. Because – all things are for the best. None of you should think “What has God done to us?”

Brothers and sisters, all these calamities that happened in your life were brought about by Satan. God permitted these to happen. It is possible for heavenly God to purify you and sanctify you and to turn everything to pure gold though these same problems.

These are not whimsical words or words of vain hope. These are not merely words to comfort you. The loss of your dearest child, your dear wife passing away unexpectedly, the death of your husband and the loss of your mother during childhood – all of these are indeed unbearable things.

However, God can accomplish certain things in your life through all of these. Just as the heavenly God lifted up Joseph, he is preparing the way to make you the supreme ruler.

The issues and dilemmas that you are facing in your business, the struggles and strife in your family life, all the

disagreements and discord among you, the problems you face at your office, the tumult and tribulations that you experience in your farm or work place – do not be anxious or worried about all of these. God can turn all of these for the best.

When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them. They said, "The man who is lord over the land spoke harshly to us and treated us as though we were spying on the land."
Genesis 42:30

The sons returned to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan and told him that the ruler of the land spoke to them harshly.

They did not have the slightest realisation that they were standing in front of Joseph. They are talking about him as “the man who is the Lord over the land”. And that he spoke harshly to them!

Joseph is the shadow of Jesus Christ. He is the symbolic representation of Jesus Christ. Don't think that Jesus is speaking harshly to you. The dealings of Jesus are indeed affectionate, although you think that they are very stern.

Daughter, most affectionate and loving Jesus is working today to sanctify you, to remove all the blemishes from your past sins and to polish you to make you shine brightly. The Holy Spirit is dealing with you through the distress and adversities in your life. The Holy Spirit is making all efforts and is persevering to refine you and to

sanctify you.

Through the animosity and opposition from others, through the disgrace and insults you had to face from others, through the false, malicious and defamatory attacks against you – through all of these, God is giving us an opportunity to get cleansed and purified.

Are you facing defamatory accusations from others? Are people trying to discredit and malign your reputation? Do you have to hear insulting or unfair things being spoken about you, trying to damage your good name? Are there people throwing mud at you? Are you facing resistance and opposition from within your own family? Do you feel secluded and isolated by your own dear children? Are you detained within your house by your husband – are you living as if under house arrest?

Your husband might be a person without any bad habits. He doesn't smoke or drink alcohol. But he is suspicious about his wife. He has a paranoid disorder of doubting his wife – those who are struggling with paranoid suspicion about their spouses!

There are so many different ways in which the devil has entrapped people. If we are able to discern that all of these are for our good and for our sanctification, praise and glorify God for this situation!

Let us contemplate the incident of Lazarus and the rich man; which our Lord spoke about in Luke 16:19-31. What happened to the rich man? Why did he end up in the place of eternal torment? When Lazarus died why was he carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom?

Lazarus was a beggar, covered with sores, lying at the gate of the rich man. He had no means to gratify his hunger. Lazarus lay there longing to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. That was the only food he had. However, stray dogs also came to compete for this food. He had to contest with these dogs over pieces of leftover food to satiate his hunger.

Even in this miserable situation, he has no complaints against God. He did not question: Why did I end up being a poor beggar? There was no bitterness or ill-will against God – he never asked: Oh God in heaven, why did I have to live in dire poverty, surviving on leftover food scraps?

When we come towards the end of the account of the rich man and Lazarus, we see that Lazarus had repentance, whereas the rich man did not have repentance.

This rich man was indeed a good person. He did not ward off or drive away the poor man who was lying at his gate. A poor beggar lying at his gate! That too someone covered with sores. Dogs came and licked his open sores. If dogs came to lick his sores, they must have been foul-smelling and rancid. Although this rich man saw this poor beggar lying in front of his own gate with putrid sores emitting stench, he did not chase him away.

In the world's eyes, this rich man was a good man. But then what was his fault? He did not have repentance. What is this repentance? Do you have this repentance? Have your character undergone a transformation? Has

Christ come into your hearts? Have you accepted Christ as your Lord and saviour?

Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross? To give himself completely for us! He died on the cross to come and reign in our hearts. Believe – He laid His head on the cross, so that He could make a way into your heart, so that He could lay His head in your heart.

Jesus Christ spread out His hands nailed onto the cross, so that He could erase all the sins in your life, so that He could remove all the darkness from your life and light you up from the inside. Believe – Christ gave Himself up on the cross for you. Accept this Jesus Christ - that is repentance.

In a sermon delivered in Athens, the apostle Paul preaches to Athenian intellectuals. He says: “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30)

God will not consider the times of ignorance. God will forgive all the wrongs that happened in your life. Son, have you disobeyed and disrespected your father, rebelled against him and quarrelled with him? Jesus Christ will forgive you. Daughter, did you live a life according to your own will and wish; without obeying your husband? Jesus Christ will forgive you. Did you waste your beauty, your health and the vigour of your life for leading a sinful life? Jesus Christ will forgive you.

Will you believe that God will overlook those times of ignorance? But now He commands only one thing – everyone, everywhere to repent for their sins and turn

to Him.

Today, while you are reading these words, believe that Jesus Christ can pour a heavenly love into your heart, such a love that you have not experienced to-date! Jesus Christ is willing to fill your heart with such a tremendous and unexplainable love. Love of God poured out within our hearts! Friend, Jesus is capable of making your life flourish again and He can give you a prosperous life. He can give you better and glorious tomorrows.

The rich man had no repentance. But Lazarus had repentance. Lazarus had no complaints against anyone!

Joseph had no complaints. He had no accusations about God not saving him. Joseph was taken as a slave by Ishmaelite traders. Joseph had no ill-will or discontent over that. He ended up in Potiphar's house as a servant and he had no complaints about it.

Why did this happen to me? Why do you allow frequent miseries and adversities in my life? Am I not your devotee? No questions. Joseph was in prison for thirteen long years. Yet, he had no questions about why he had to go through all of these painful experiences.

Dear friends, heavenly God was creating the right circumstances to uplift Joseph, to restore him step-by-step, turning everything for the best. Joseph was exalted to a high position over all of Egypt.

When I was young, I questioned God – why did you leave me orphaned? At a very young age, I asked God – why did I have to grow up destitute, without a father?

My father died when I was one year old. My brother died when I was two years old. Why did this happen to me? I have questioned God. I was depressed and downcast. I have asked God why I should continue to live. But heavenly God mercifully preserved me and took care of me. He ardently strived to change me inside and out. He gave me a repentance when I was seventeen.

Jesus can give you repentance. Jesus can make all things work for good. Friend, Jesus the Nazarene is able to sanctify you and refine you into pure gold. Daughter, Jesus is able to transform you into someone fit for heaven.

Take a look at Him and see Him. Plead with Him. Surrender yourself into His hands. Make a promise to Him, submitting yourself into His wounded hands.

Jesus, everything is for the best. From today I am yours. I will start loving you and lead a new life from today onwards.



Chapter 7

The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph's house. Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house. They thought, "We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys." Genesis 43:17, 18

The brothers were terrified when they saw that they were being taken to Joseph's house. They said to each other that because of the money someone put in their sacks when they were there the last time to buy grains, Joseph was going to seize them, make them slaves, and take their donkeys.

Joseph was the ruler of Egypt. He was exalted to the second highest position in all of Egypt and was second in command only to Pharaoh. Joseph was in charge of the palace and of the granaries during the years of plenty. When the famine had spread over the whole land, Joseph opened up all the granaries and sold grain to the Egyptians.

His brothers started to feel guilty about what they did

to Joseph years ago and they said “We're being punished because of what we did to Joseph. We saw the trouble he was in, but we refused to help him when he begged us. The after effects of that are haunting us now. We are now suffering from the bad fruits our sins have borne. That's why these terrible things are happening to us.” Joseph felt relief when he heard this. This was what he was hoping for – for them to start repenting about their deeds!

When they came back to Jacob with the grains, their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them.

They explained: “The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we have never been spies. We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.' Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.' As we emptied our sacks, behold, every one's bundle of money was in his sack.”

They exclaimed - “Why did this happen? A terrible disaster has happened to us. We cannot go back there anymore. As we cannot go back, we don't know what to do when the grains finish. We will have to die of starvation.”

And when their father saw their bundles of money and heard what they said, he was terrified and deeply troubled. He was completely weakened and even wearier when he heard what they said about being asked to bring Benjamin to Egypt with them. His sons told him what the ruler had told them – “You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.”

Jacob lamented “You are robbing me of my children! My son Joseph was killed. Some wild animal tore him apart. I will not send my son Benjamin. Simeon is gone and is now in prison. And now you want to take Benjamin, too. I am losing my children one after another. I cannot bear this!”

And Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me.” He said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”

Jacob spent his days in sorrow and agony. But now some time had passed. The famine was still severe in the land and all the grain they bought had been eaten.

Jacob said to his sons – the famine is continuing, all the grain that had been brought from Egypt is nearly finished, what is a solution?

“Now the famine was still severe in the land.”

So, when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, 'Go back and buy us a little more food.' But Judah said to him, 'The man warned us solemnly, "You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you." If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, "You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you."'

Genesis 43:1-5

When the famine was severe again, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little more food." But the sons tell him that the ruler had sternly warned them that they would not be admitted into his presence again unless they had their youngest brother with them. They said to their father that they will go and get the grains if he was willing to send Benjamin with them.

By saying this, Joseph is touching upon a vital sensitive spot. He is giving them a clear hint to evoke in them a deep guilt over their sins so that they clearly recollect their sins from their memory.

They had gone home without their brother. They had gone home happily with absolutely no remorse over selling their own brother. Now, when they listen to the words that "You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you", it should bring back memories of what they did to their brother years ago.

If we are to receive God's blessings, we should have a full awareness of our sins, a guilty conscience over what we did and we should have repentance.

Please think: do you have anything in your life that needs correction? Is there anything that you should amend and repent about? Did anyone suffer pain and agony because of you – the crises and critical junctures that happened in your own household because of you, the damages, losses and the havoc that you created in your own house, situations where some people had to suffer and sob as a result of things you did, adversities and harm that happened to some people because of you – think about all of these and repent!

Only then, will you be able to step into better tomorrows and a glittering future. God is giving you chances to repent as he desires to grant you a glorious and blessed future. Our living God will not curse and forsake anyone. No one perishes because they are sinners, but because they do not repent about their sins!

All men are sinners. The Holy Bible says:

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:10-12

All mankind have become sinners. People end up going into eternal hell, not merely because they are

sinners. It is because they have not repented about their sins. No one has anything to boast about. No one has anything to be proud of. No one can make any claims about their merits. We are all sinners. There is sin in all our hearts and minds.

There may be no outward manifestation of sins. Externally there may not be any sinful deeds. No sinful words escape your mouth. You may not give room to any sinful thoughts in your mind.

But, understand one thing – there is sinful tendency in our blood. There are sinful inclinations in our flesh. There is sinfulness in our body. Even when sins are not manifested in our words, deeds or thoughts, there are sins in our character and in our personality. There are sins hidden in our hearts. Sinful tendencies, inclination and attraction to sin are all mingled and blended in our blood.

But, God cannot impart his grace on us unless we get rid of our sinful nature and quit our sinful ways, unless we genuinely repent about our sins and bid farewell to them. When we read Isaiah Chapter 59, we see:

“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” *Isaiah 59:1, 2*

Sin stands as an obstacle between God and man. Satan, the owner of sin stands up making claims and exerting ownership over the sinner. God cannot bestow

his blessings on us unless we are free from sins. Our forefathers prayed for months and years filled with joy, gladness and prosperity. However, if we are to receive such experiences, then we should repent about our sins.

Friend, do you need to look back at your life? Is there anything to examine and scrutinise from the past? Is there anything that you need to reflect on, from years and years ago? Sins have been hidden and suppressed in your heart for a long time. You did not recollect them, remember them or repent about them. Nonetheless, your heavenly Father remembers all of them. Everything is recorded in God's book of remembrance.

Do not forget. On the judgment day everyone will have to stand before God and give an account of their lives. On that day when Jesus Christ will come in a solemn procession to sit on the Great White Throne of Judgment, we should not be standing with heads bowed in embarrassment. On that judgement day none of us should be in danger of eternal punishment.

None of us should be hearing the harsh and unbearable words: "I never knew you. Get away from me, you evildoers!" We must not be in such a state where we hear the most severe words: "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

We should be able to ascend into the heavenly glory and joy of paradise, hearing the most melodious and pleasant words – "Come, you who are blessed by my

Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” We should then participate in the worship of heavenly realms, joining with myriads of angels singing with full voice, joyfully praising and worshipping eternal God, the heavenly King of Kings.

Dear ones, you should repent about your sins. You have to confess and give up your sins. A firm and crucial decision to lead a sinless life should distinctly arise from the depths of your heart.

The brothers told Jacob: “If you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, you will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.” (Genesis 43:3)

This is what Joseph had told them. Jacob, finally consented to send Benjamin so that they would not die of starvation. Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die.” Judah stood in-between as a guarantor for Benjamin's safety; telling Jacob that he can be held personally responsible for Benjamin. Judah assured Jacob that he will bring Benjamin back, that he would plead with the Egyptian master and also talk to him about his father's agony. Thus, the brothers went back together with Benjamin.

Joseph had ordered his steward to take them to his house.

“Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house.” *Genesis 43:18*

The brothers realised that the master did not take any others who came to buy grain to his house. They were terrified when they saw that they were being taken to his house and thought that they were going to be put in prison. Because they are weighed down by a guilty conscience they are unable to see God as love. They are unable to see God's compassion and mercy. Presuming that they were brought to be imprisoned, they said:

“We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys.”

Genesis 43:18

They were frightened when they were taken to his house. They are absolutely terrified, exhausted, weary and tired.

“So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house.”

Genesis 43:19

They speak as if seeking advance bail – “We beg your pardon, our Lord,' they said, 'we came down here the first time to buy food. But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver - the exact weight - in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us. We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks.’”

“He replied, 'Peace to you, do not be afraid.

Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.' Then he brought Simeon out to them."

Genesis 43:23 (ESV)

They do not recognise Joseph. However, Joseph recognises them. He told them – “Peace to you, do not be afraid.” As soon as you start repenting over sins – even before you finish repenting, even before you have recollected all your sins, God says: “Peace to you.” In Joseph, we can see the magnificent portrayal of the most gracious and unparalleled love of God!

This is a depiction of the heavenly love! When you start repenting about sins, when you start telling him – Lord, these are my sins, these are my wrongdoings: I have self-centeredness and selfishness, I have pride and ego, I have a desire for worldly honours and titles, these are the ways that I behave out of self-pride: I have desire to have positions of power and I have been affected by pride of life and worldly desires; when you start to shed tears, by confessing that you have such and such sins in your life, our most compassionate and forgiving God will come close to you and put His loving hands on your head.

Dear friend, when you are in your room, on your knees, sobbing and taking a firm decision to bid farewell to your sins, the heavenly love of God will come near you and put His comforting hands on your head. He will pat you gently and comfort you. He will tell you – “Do not be afraid, peace be with you.”

“Then Joseph brought Simeon out to them” – we

cannot even imagine how Simeon must have spent his days there. He must have been fretting and fuming inwardly!

He recollected – pushing Joseph into the pit trying to kill him and then selling him off to Ishmaelite traders. Now it is the time to face consequences for these. Here I am – locked up alone in a prison. When Joseph was taken away alone, I had no pity or even a trace of sympathy for him. Oh God, is there any remedy for this? How can I make amends for this? Will I be ever liberated from here? We have to think that Simeon would have spent his days in prison weeping and lamenting!

Simeon was also released and brought out to them.
Then:

“The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys. They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there. When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground.” *Genesis 43:24 - 26*

They bowed down to the ruler of Egypt with their faces to the ground.

They are the ones who sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver a long time ago. Now they are bowing down in front of him. They are doing this without

recognising that it is indeed Joseph. Everything is turning around and falling into place. When there is even a slight hint of repentance, everything will start falling into its place.

May I lovingly and humbly ask those who are reading these words something? Do you have a desire to have good times in your life? Do you wish to have a bright future? Friends, are you now in a state of despair and hopelessness? Dear ones, are you living with a troubled and disturbed heart in distress and gloom?

You still have a promising future and glorious hope. Prosperous days will dawn in your life yet again. Once again, there will be good times and a bright future for you.

My son, all you need is just one thing. Look back at your past life and genuinely repent, counting each and every sin of yours. Daughter, search, examine carefully and find all your sins and pour out your tears at His feet.

Tell God: Lord I am the one who caused you sorrow and agony. I am the one who crucified you. My hands committed appalling sins. And you, oh Lord, gave your hands to be wounded and pierced so that I am not punished for the sins I committed.

My tongue was used to slander and make fun of others. I mocked and ridiculed some people, despised some people, made wrong assumptions about some people, I harboured prejudices about some people – instead of my face being covered in spit, to avoid me getting punishment for my sins, you received spit on your

crucifying Jesus, most merciful Jesus will come near to you.

Joseph came; he came near to them.

“He asked them how they were, and then he said, ‘How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?’” *Genesis 43:27*

Joseph spoke harshly to them the first time and accused them of being spies scouting the land and treated them roughly. The same Joseph is now showing great kindness to them and treats them nobly. He is now asking about their welfare!

How is your father? I hope all is well with him? Is he still alive? Dear friend, there is a God who is asking about your wellbeing and prosperity. Daughter, Jesus Christ is someone who is interested in your welfare and is asking if everything is fine with you.

“As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, ‘Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?’ And he said, ‘God be gracious to you, my son.’ Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.” *Genesis 43:29, 30*

Joseph went into his chamber and cried. Tears filled with compassion for those who repent! Tears overcome by affection for those who feel regretful for their sins! Joseph's heart was full of tender feelings for his brother.

face and it was your face that was slapped. My eyes feasted on obscene images. My eyes wandered in search of vulgar and indecent pictures.

Lord, I defiled my personality by watching pornography. I saw immoral images. I wasted my time in a world of illusions and fantasy in romantic ivory towers. Master, I have committed so many iniquities, my sins are countless.

Lord, many obscene thoughts crossed through my head. I sinned. I am the one who should be punished for these. But, Jesus, you who are sinless and blameless, bore the crown of thorns on your head, taking the penalty for sin on my behalf.

Lord, I am the one who walked through improper ways. It was my legs, which should have borne the strikes. But in order to make atonement for my sins, you gave your feet to be crushed by nails.

Lord, I am aware and admit that my heart was full of unwanted desires, immoral and lewd thoughts, lustful and indecent passions. The most shameful longings of my heart are too disgusting to be disclosed openly. It is my heart which should have been pierced in place of Jesus's heart!

Lord, you gave yourself up to be wounded and pierced on your bosom to redeem me. Oh Lord, my sins were the thorns in your head, the nails in your hands and feet, the spear in your side!

When you start repenting about your sins and about

So, he went to his room and wept there.

Will you repent today? Jesus Christ will weep affectionately seeing your repentance. Jesus Christ who is watching you lovingly is extending His hands to comfort you. Will you see that Jesus now? Will you look at His pierced hands? Will you surrender your life into those hands? Will you make a promise to Him?

Oh Lord, I crucified you until today. I upset you and made you sad. Things that should not have ever happened, have taken place in my life. My Lord, please redeem me. Please let a drop of blood which you shed on the cross fall on my forehead. Please forgive me and cleanse my sins by your Holy Blood.

Dedicate your life; submit yourself into the hands of the mighty saviour!



ഗ്രന്ഥകർത്താവിന്റെ ഇതരകൃതികൾ

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 66. മരണാനന്തരാവസ്ഥ | 99. കാലേബ്: ധീരനായ വിശ്വാസ വീരൻ |
| 67. മരിക്കാത്ത മനുഷ്യനുണ്ടോ? | 100. IS THERE ANYBODY WHO WILL NEVER DIE ? |
| 68. ചുളപോലെ കത്തുന്ന ദിവസം | 101. ഭാഗ്യശാലികൾ |
| 69. ഗിരിനിരകൾ | 102. സ്വർഗ്ഗതീരമണയുന്നവർ |
| 70. THE CITIES OF REFUGE | 103. സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ രോദനം |
| 71. ഗിരിശൃംഗങ്ങൾ | 104. വിശുദ്ധനായോരു ദൈവപുരുഷൻ |
| 72. THE BLINDNESS OF LONELINESS | 105. പരിശുദ്ധാത്മപ്രവാഹം |
| 73. യുദ്ധയുടെ ലേഖനം | 106. CALEB - A BRAVE HERO OF FAITH |
| 74. കാറ്റിന്റെ വഴിയേ | 107. രക്ഷ പ്രാപിപ്പാൻ ഞാൻ എന്ത് ചെയ്യേണം? |
| 75. കയ്പിന്റെ മധുരം | 108. ശുഭമുദ്ര |
| 76. തളിരണിയും കാലം | 109. LITTLE FOXES |
| 77. ജീവജലത്തിനരികെ | 110. വരൾച്ചയും വളർച്ചയും |
| 78. BEYOND DEATH | 111. മരണമേ, നിന്റെ ജയം എവിടെ? |
| 79. ദാഹജലം | 112. സമർപ്പണം |
| 80. ആശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ ഉറവ | 113. ON WIND'S WAY |
| 81. പുനേനരുവി | 114. സന്തോഷത്തിന് വല്ല വഴിയുമുണ്ടോ? |
| 82. കെണിയും കൂട്ടുകൂടും | 115. भाग्यशाली |
| 83. അഴിയാക്കുരുക്കുകൾ | 116. ജയാളികൾ |
| 84. ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ട | 117. സൂര്യനുദിക്കും |
| 85. ഭീരുത്വം മാറണമോ? | 118. VICTORIOUS LIVING |
| 86. പ്രതിസന്ധികളിൽ തളരാതെ | 119. DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? |
| 87. നെല്ലും പതിരും | 120. അഭിവൃദ്ധി പ്രാപിക്കണമോ? |
| 88. ശാപമോക്ഷം | 121. എഴുന്നേൽക്കുക |
| 89. അനുഗ്രഹത്തിലേയ്ക്ക് | 122. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? |
| 90. HOW LONG IN TWO BOATS? | 123. സ്നേഹാർദ്രകരങ്ങൾ |
| 91. കണ്ണീരിലെ മഴവില്ല് | 124. മ്ലാനത മാറുമോ? |
| 92. കിതപ്പും കുതിപ്പും | 125. ഫിലേമോൻ |
| 93. നഷ്ടസൗഭാഗ്യങ്ങൾ തിരികെ കിട്ടുമോ? | 126. DEDICATION |
| 94. ശക്തിയെ പുതുകണമോ ? | 127. മൊട്ടക്കുന്നിന്മേൽ കൊടി ഉയർത്തുവിൻ |
| 95. ചെറുകുറുക്കന്മാർ | 128. ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ |
| 96. കൃപയുടെ ഉറവ | 129. വിശ്വാസികളുടെ പിതാവ് |
| 97. കൃപയുടെ നീർച്ചാലുകൾ | 130. വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ ചുവടുവെപ്പുകൾ |
| 98. മടങ്ങി വരുവിൻ | |

Main Meetings of Christian Revival Fellowship
at
Kadayiruppu, Kolenchery :
Prayer Hall, near to the Residence of
Prof. M. Y. Yohannan,
Mechankara,
Valethupady Bus Stop, Kolenchery - Perumbavur Road,
Kadayiruppu P. O., Kolenchery, Ernakulam (Dist.),
Tel : 0484 - 268 9489 / 9142 30 30 96

2nd Saturday	:	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Testimonies	:	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2nd Sunday	:	12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
(Followed by 2nd Saturday		
3rd Sunday	:	12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Monday	:	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Friday (Bible Class)	:	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
1st Tuesday (Ladise Meeting)	:	9:00 am - 12:45 pm
1st and 3rd Wednesdays	:	6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
(Young Men's Meeting)		