

June 2025

Bereans Webzine - Blessing Channel #35

The Kingdom of Mutual Submission





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The Kingdom of Mutual Submission

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

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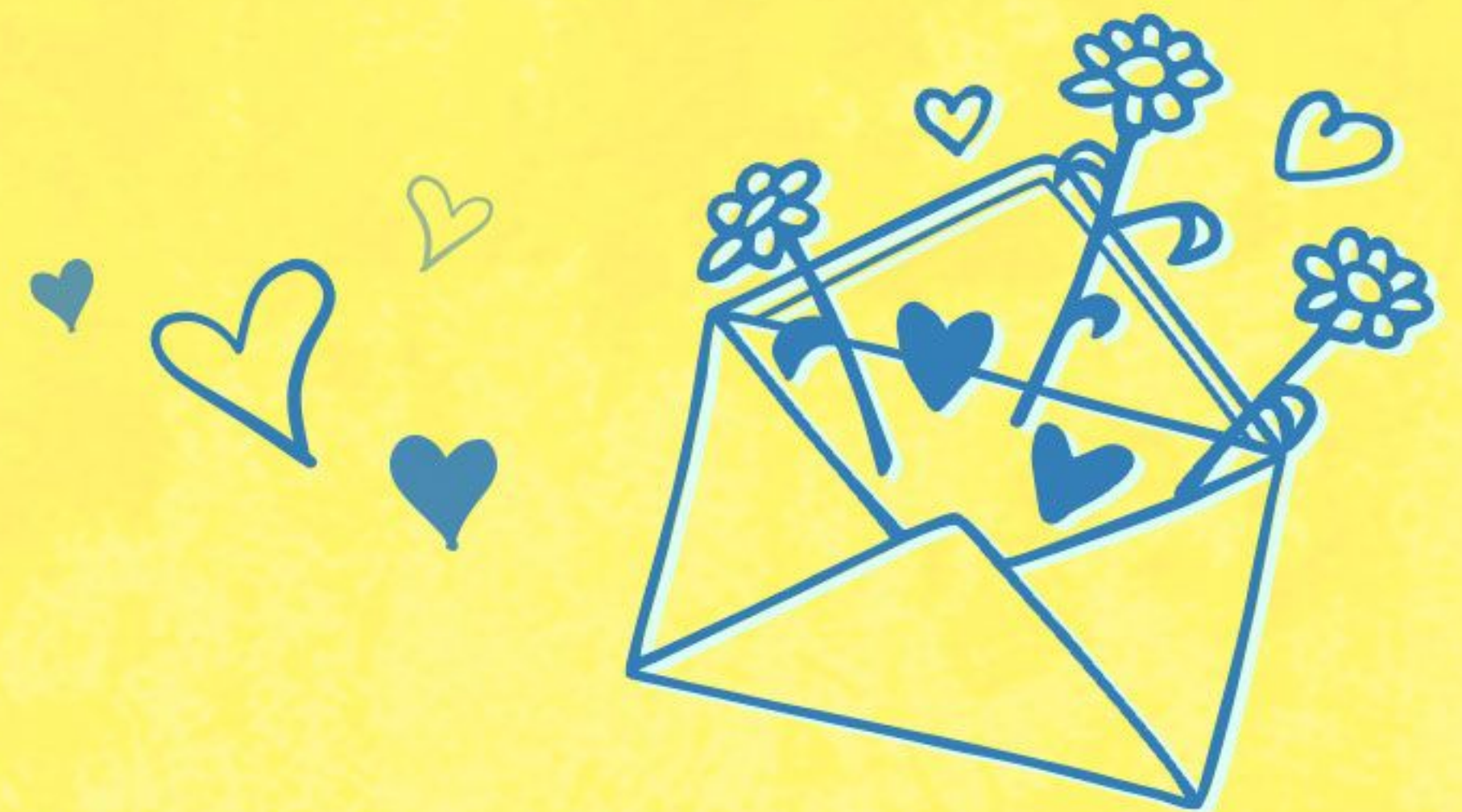
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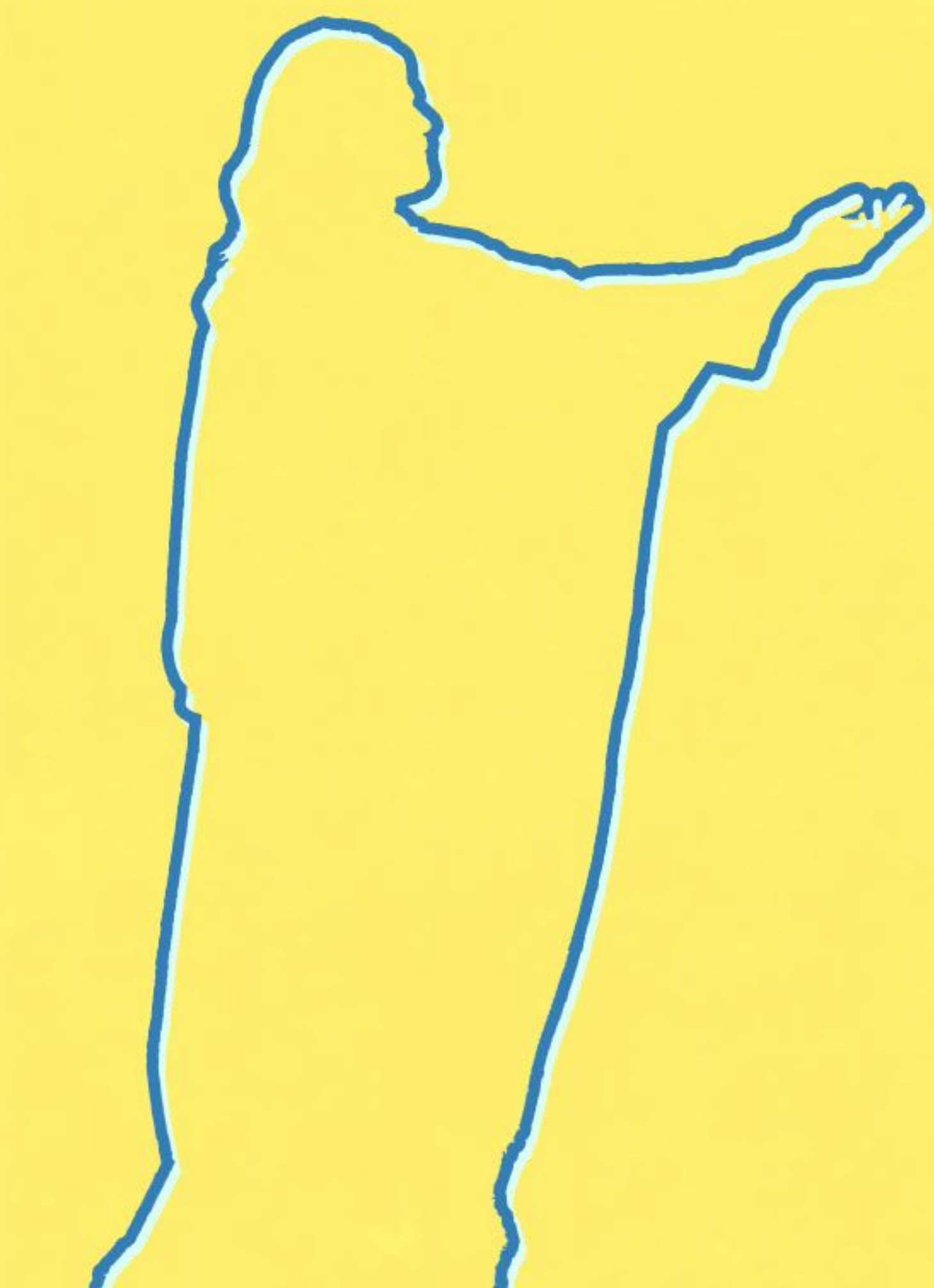


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Sermon Series 5





The Kingdom of Mutual Submission

1 Submit to One Another

(Ephesians 5:21)



“This is my beloved, And this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!” (Song 5:16). The one the woman loves is the king. Why does she love him? Is it because of his dominion? No, it is not. It is because of his passionate love. The king’s love for her is so great that the entire nation knows about it. It is as if the king’s banner declares, “I am the one who loves her.” While all people submit to him, before her happiness and joy, he submits himself. The king does not rule over her unilaterally. She describes their relationship, saying, “My beloved is mine, and I am his” (Song 2:16).

This is the kind of marriage that God desires, and beyond that, the model for all interpersonal relationships. Such a relationship cannot be built on mutual respect alone. The key to this relationship is mutual submission. Respect means considering others while still holding onto one’s own rights, but submission means the willingness to relinquish even one’s own rights. While the word “submission” may carry a negative connotation, in reality, it is the fundamental principle that upholds the order of all existence and sustains life. No organization, including a nation, can be maintained if its members do not submit to authority. This is even more true for the church. Moreover, submission within the church is even more important because it directly impacts one’s eternal destiny.

The submission that God emphasizes is not one-sided but mutual. Mutual submission is not easily understood by human reasoning, but the sacrifice of Jesus Christ clearly shows what it means. As the King of the eternal kingdom, He is fully deserving of the submission of His people. However, He rather submitted Himself to the happiness and joy of all His people. Through this, we received salvation, and now we live within the principle of mutual submission. Then, can this principle truly be fulfilled? Yes, it can. This principle will surely

succeed because it was established by the King of the eternal kingdom through His own sacrifice as both a foundation and a way.

All Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit are those who submit. If a husband demands submission from his wife and complains that it does not meet his expectations, he is failing in his own duty to submit to his wife's happiness. Likewise, a wife should not feel discomfort about submitting to her husband. Submission in Christ is based on equality. Just as Christ, though equal with God, submitted to Him, a wife's submission to her husband is not about superiority or inferiority but about a difference in function. It stems from the authority of submission that responds to Christ's love.

Submitting to one another is only possible for those who fear Christ. Even if those who are not filled with the Holy Spirit try to imitate it, they will inevitably reach their limit due to their fleshly desires. The Lord is watching over us. Let us deeply reflect on the love and power of the Lord, who submitted Himself to our happiness and joy, and kneel before His authority. Let us not lose a fearful heart until the day our salvation is fulfilled. Let us remember that the Lord's judgment is coming and submit to the authority He has granted. And let us resolve to submit ourselves to the happiness and joy of all. Through our submission, the kingdom of God will shine even more brightly.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on February 16, 2025



2 Obey Your Parents in the Lord

(Ephesians 6:1)



The relationship between parents and children is not just a matter of family life. It is certainly not just a personal issue. It is each person who receives salvation individually, but God's grand plan—which those who have received salvation must participate in—goes far beyond what any one person can bear on their own. His plan is vast in scale, and it takes a long time for it to be fulfilled. In Christ, God enabled the souls of the church to be united, and He is continually building His kingdom. We are not in a position to stand by and say, “Someone else will take care of it.” All who believe in Jesus are meant to be part of this work from the moment they believe.

Due to human corruption, the family was the very first to be severely affected. Just as serious as conflict between husband and wife is the conflict between parents and children, and the issue of their children's faith. For children to grow up as believers, they must first be protected from being tainted by the corruption of the world. The sinful nature that a person is born with brings about sin whenever the opportunity arises. Therefore, it is not right for parents to neglect their children with the vague thought, “They'll believe when they grow up.” When we consider how God chose the family of Abraham—and how, starting from that family, His will was passed down through many generations—we can understand this more clearly.

For Christians, having children carries a completely different meaning than it does for unbelievers. From God's perspective, it is not merely the birth of a life but the securing of a channel of blessing. Referring to parents as a “channel” does not mean that they simply deliver blessings. Just as Abraham was able to bless Isaac because he himself had first received God's blessing, parents must also first be blessed in order to pass it on to their children. In this way, through families that experience God's blessing and pass it down to the next

generation, God is carrying out His plan to overcome what Satan has destroyed and to restore His united kingdom.

After the fall, cursed humanity has suffered from countless problems—but the collapse of the family is the most devastating of all. Male chauvinism, the backlash of women against it, children's disobedience, and parental abuse are all fruits of the curse that destroy the family. This destruction is being carried out systematically through the world's systems. Secular values, human-centered philosophies, and socialist ideologies rooted in atheism all work to weaken family bonds, dismantle the relationship between parents and children, and lure children away from God's influence by offering freedom as bait. Just like a frog in a pot gradually cooks as it adapts to the increasingly hot water, today's families are collapsing little by little—without even realizing it.

God said to Abraham, “Through you and your descendants, all families of the earth shall be blessed.” And when the nation of Israel was established, He said, “You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Each family must take up the role of a priest.” In order to carry on this mission from generation to generation, the Israelites taught the Word to their children—whether at home or on the street, when lying down or getting up. They bound it as a sign on their hands, placed it as frontlets between their eyes, and wrote it on the doorposts of their houses. This effort must continue even today. The younger the children are, the more quickly they absorb the culture of the world. Let us not surrender them to the world. By teaching and training them with the Word from an early age, let God's plan continue through us.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on April 6, 2025



3 *Sincere Christians and Society*

(Ephesians 6:5-9)



Many Christians live as though their life inside the church and outside the church are two separate things. On the Lord's Day, they display a form of godliness, but during the week, they entrust themselves to worldly values and regard their ways as the highest wisdom, fully trusting the voice of the world. But God does not want us to live such a divided life. We are not only members of the church, but people called to follow His will in the world. Faith inside the church cannot be separated from life outside it. Christians are not those who flee from the world, but those who, right in the midst of it, are called to bear the mission of being the light and salt.

The saying, "Worldly matters are outside the realm of faith," may sound reasonable, but it is no different from justifying a way of life tainted by sin. God is not with us only in the church. He watches us at our workplaces, in our homes, and throughout society. Through every part of our lives, He desires that His righteousness be revealed. If someone claims to be upright before God in the church, yet follows unrighteousness in the world, they are walking contrary to His salvation. What we confess in the place of worship is not everything. It is the attitude we show after we walk out of the church that reveals the reality of our faith.

Those who grow accustomed to living by the world's ways outside the church naturally bring those same ways into the church. As a result, selfishness, opportunism, and the logic of greed begin to take root not only in the world but also within the church. There are those who use the church as a means to satisfy their own desires—those who say they love the Lord, yet wound the church, His body! Such actions go against the grace of salvation and deny the very essence of the gospel. Anyone who truly knows what the love they have received from God is will act uprightly even when no one is watching and serve the church with a heart full of gratitude toward the Lord.

When people feel that life is difficult, they often blame the structure or system of society, thinking that things will improve if the system is simply changed. But God has exposed the root of the problem: it lies in the human heart, not in the structure of society. Even if a system is well established, if people ignore their conscience and act selfishly, that system cannot fully carry out its intended role. God did not give us the gospel to reform social systems. Above all, He desires that we be awakened to our sin and repent. He does not want us to live a life tainted by the ways of the world, but to live in obedience to His righteousness.

This is not something that can be done by human will alone. Living truthfully in the world, preserving purity within the church, and walking uprightly—whether people are watching or not—are things we cannot do without the help of the Holy Spirit. If denying our greed for God’s righteousness could be achieved by our own determination, the Lord would not have commanded us to pray for it. Even today, the Lord shines His light into the world through someone’s pure life. “Does my life show God’s righteousness?” “Do others come to find God’s goodness through me?” Let us stand honestly before these questions and seek the help of the Holy Spirit again today.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord’s Day Service on May 18, 2025



4 Christians Who Obey Their Masters

(Ephesians 6:5-8)



“Why should I obey a man? I only obey God.” Unfortunately, many Christians today speak this way. However, the Lord speaks to us through the apostle Paul: **“Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ.”** We Christians serve Christ as our Master, but while we are on this earth, we must also show respect to our masters according to the flesh. This teaching is not limited to people from thousands or hundreds of years ago. Even today, there are those who hire others—and those who are hired to work under them. Therefore, the relationship between masters and servants that the Lord desires is still valid today.

For Christians, obedience to their masters according to the flesh is part of their obedience to Christ. Whether the master’s character is honorable or not, we must treat them with fear and trembling. This command is given for the sake of our eternal Master. To fear and tremble does not mean to be afraid of the master. It means approaching our duties with a sincere and serious heart, asking ourselves, “How can I carry out my master’s work successfully? How can I please my master?” Such an attitude becomes a testimony to unbelievers, a source of courage to fellow believers, and an act of serving His name—before God.

“I am not a servant of man, but a servant of Christ!” If you want to make such a claim, then to back it up, you must obey your master according to the flesh. This is because doing so is a clear and firm command from Christ. If someone tries to please their master only when he is watching, but fails to do so when he is not, that person is merely a servant of man. But if someone is truly a servant of Christ, they will obey their master with sincerity of heart—whether their master is watching or not. For obedience to one’s master according to the flesh is obedience to Christ.

Therefore, when we obey our masters according to the flesh, we must not do so reluctantly, but with goodwill and joy. To envy or be jealous of one's master is an impure attitude, unworthy of a servant of Christ. If someone carries out the work entrusted by their master outwardly, but secretly criticizes or mocks them behind their back, they have already strayed far from sincerity and purity toward Christ. Anyone who claims to be a servant of Christ must not compromise their integrity by relying on mere eyeservice. We should serve our masters with goodwill, so that our souls may be found by God as people of integrity and sincerity.

The master may not recognize our efforts. At times, someone else might take credit for what we have worked on for a long time. We may feel disheartened when no one acknowledges our hard work and sincerity. However, if we are truly servants of Christ, we must overcome such inner struggles and take a step forward. God remembers everything we do for His name, and He will surely reward us on the day of the Last Judgment. Whether one holds a high or low position, none of it is eternal—and such positions themselves will not benefit us in the Last Judgment. Let us now abandon a short-sighted way of thinking and make the precious time given to us truly meaningful and beautiful.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on May 25, 2025



5 *Christian Masters Who Serve Their Bondservants*

(Ephesians 6:9)



“Pitiful servant. Wicked master.” Such thoughts prevail in the world. But God does not see it that way. Whether one is a master or a servant, everyone bears a heavy responsibility in their own place. A master is not someone who exercises authority recklessly, but someone who carries a burden that someone must bear. While the master should seek the happiness of the servant, the servant, in turn, should make an effort to understand the master’s heart. The world constantly urges us to compare, complain, and fight. But Christians must trust in the God who is just and prepare for the coming day of judgment.

Just as servants must obey their masters in Christ, those who are masters must treat their servants in the same way. This is because both masters and servants are under the same Master. The attitude and manner in which masters treat their servants is directly connected to how they treat their own Master in heaven. If a master fails to restrain their own temperament and treats their servants recklessly, it becomes difficult for the servants to obey from the heart. They also lose the will to work with pure passion. A master must not forget that their authority is a function, not a status—and that it is not permanent, but temporary.

In the world, it is often considered natural for those in high social positions to look down on others and show off their authority before them. But God shows no partiality to people. The position a person held on this earth has no direct bearing on the judgment they will face. On the contrary, it may even work against them on the day of judgment. Regardless of the external circumstances each person was given, everyone will be judged according to what they have done on this earth. To each one who does evil, there will be tribulation and anguish; but to each one who does good, there will be glory, honor, and peace.

A Christian's way of life begins with a heart directed toward Christ. Those who seek to be faithful to Him in their hearts will live with a sense of His presence and treat others according to His will—whether in marriage or in the workplace. As they strive to live this way, they will gradually grow to resemble the Lord, and through their lives, they will reveal the character of Christ. In Christ, the principle of mutual submission applies to the relationship between master and servant, just as it does to the relationship between husband and wife. This cannot be achieved by force. It is impossible in the world, but in Christ, it can be accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The world is the field of God's ministry. The church bears responsibility for the world. God has not yet destroyed the world because there are still those whom He will save and use within it. Christians do not live in this world carelessly. Spiritual life is not only something that takes place within the church. Everything we experience in the world is part of our spiritual life. We must live sincerely—not only as members of the church community, but as members of the human community. Let us not fill this brief journey of life with complaints and conflict, but with a beautiful devotion that serves the Lord with all our hearts.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on June 1, 2025



2

Serve Jesus, the King of Kings!

in Let Us Know Jesus
Chapter 15 "Jesus is the King"



In the past, the duty of prophet, priest and king was never combined. When Jesus was revealed to the world as Christ, these three duties combined as one for the first time. As Prophet, Jesus was entrusted with and came with God's secrets. The Bible refers to Jesus as "the mystery of God" (Col 2:2). Because Jesus is the mystery of God, we learn about God's plan of salvation and judgment to come. As High Priest, Jesus led us to God and reconciled us to God. Since this is true, Jesus rules over all nations as King and governs us. Jesus was anointed as Prophet, Priest and King. He is the Christ.

Jesus Christ is our King. He destroys the devil (the ruler of this world) and saves us because He is King. Acts 10:38 says, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Jesus became King this way because God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power.

When we call Jesus "Lord", we recognize Him as our King. When we call Jesus "Christ", we recognize Him as our King. Since He is our King, He rules and governs us. When we confess "Jesus is Christ", we are confessing, "I belong to Jesus and absolutely submit to Him". We recognize Jesus' royal authority. If we call Jesus "Christ" but do not submit to Him, we are contradicting ourselves.

Jesus is our King who has saved us. In the past, we belonged to the devil. He is the ruler of this world. Because the devil is the power of death, all that is left for those who dwell in him are curses and destruction. Jesus is now our King, so He saves and rules us. We must clearly decide whether we will belong to Jesus (who is King of kings) or belong to the devil (who is the ruler of this world).

When we confess, "Jesus is Christ", we are confessing, "Jesus is my Master! Jesus is my King!" The person who accepts Jesus as King no longer needs to be controlled by the ruler of this world. Many refer to Jesus as Christ and still place one foot in the kingdom controlled by the ruler of this world. They come to church on the Lord's Day and say,

controlled by the ruler of this world. They come to church on the Lord's Day and say, "Jesus is Christ!" When the service finishes, they go back to the world and listen to its ruler. You must be clear about who you serve as king.

When Jesus went to Jerusalem ahead of His death, His disciples competed to lay down their lives for Him. Those who followed Jesus but did not know why He had to die abandoned Him and fled without exception. In the same way, many people today say "Jesus is Christ" but cannot experience a clear change in their status. They are still oppressed by the devil and afraid of demons. When we clearly know that Jesus is Christ, Lord, and King, we will not stumble by any of the devil's tricks.

As the Lord said, "Eat My flesh! Drink My blood!", we ate and drank the flesh and blood of Christ. He came into the royal family of Israel. He is King of kings. He gave us His flesh and blood, poured out His spirit, put His name in us, and gave us the right to become God's children. With this, we become heirs to receive an inheritance with Christ and reign forever with Him. Christ is King of kings. Revelation 20:6 says, "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years", and Revelation 22:5 says, "And they shall reign forever and ever."

We believe Jesus is King. The expressions "Jesus, Son of David" and "Christ Jesus" all mean "Jesus is King". The expression "Jesus Christ" is a type of faith confession. Jesus is Christ, that is, anointed as Prophet, High Priest and King. We should perfectly submit to Him and be used by Him.

Jesus is truly King. He rode a donkey, past the east gate, and entered Jerusalem. He broke bread with His disciples and was afterwards crucified. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied that the King would enter the east gate of Jerusalem. Five hundred years later, it was fulfilled through

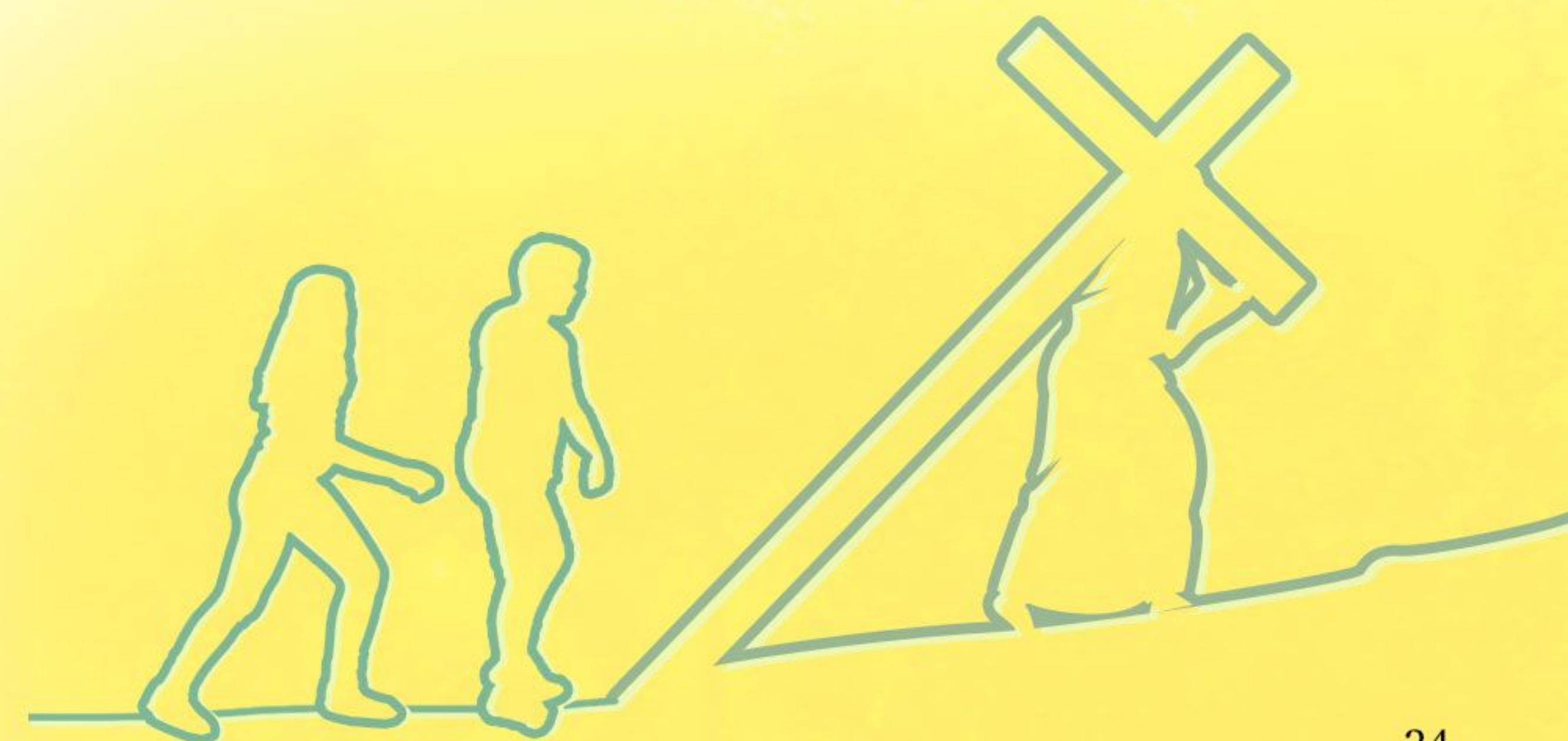
Jesus Christ. 'Jesus is our King' is not just a subjective faith confession or abstract idea—it was proven through history.

Those who serve Jesus as King have God's promises. Psalms 84:1-3 says,

How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may lay her young—
Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My King and my God.

As the sparrow finds a home and the swallow finds a nest for her young on the Lord's altar, those who serve Jesus as King will prosper in their deeds. But how can those who do not serve God as King and grumble at Him, doubt Him and ignore Him, expect their prayers to be conveyed and answered? Jesus is Christ and our King. For our faith confession to be sincere, we must serve Him as King.

in Let Us Know Jesus
Chapter 15 "Jesus is the King"



3



Testimony of Blessing

From Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria

In Memory of Mrs. Kang Soon

Mother and Son

At first,
I heard of her
through the mouths of others.

Then,
through Semuon,
I came to know her.

From afar,
I have seen her.
She does not know me.
She has likely never
even heard my name.

If I were fortunate,
perhaps she might have known
that I existed.

But
what does that matter?

She is my mother.

Though
she was a thousand miles away,
and
we never met in person,
I never heard her voice,
nor she mine—
still,
my gratitude, respect,
and love for her
have never faded.

Now,
she has gone to the Lord's embrace.
Though I am left with sorrow,
I believe—
my heart was surely received
with joy by the Lord.
Who is she?

*On Mother's Day, May 11, 2025,
remembering Mrs. Kang Soon
as her spiritual son, Pastor Song from China*

The Lord Has Already Touched You

Hallelujah! Glory be to God. I am Pastor Omwenga, ministering in Kenya. Today, I would like to share a grace-filled testimony that took place here in Kenya.

On Tuesday, April 8, 2025, I was teaching the message titled “What do you want Me to do for you?” based on the Word I received from Sungrak Church. I was translating this message into our native language as I preached.

At that moment, there was an elderly woman named Veronica, 63 years old, who had been suffering from lower back pain for 13 years. While I was delivering the message, she suddenly cried out, “Pastor! Pastor! Today, I want Jesus to touch me right now!”

I said to her, “The Lord has already touched you.”

Then I approached her and laid my hand on her. I did not say a word, but she began to weep and said, “God has remembered me. I have been healed from the back pain I suffered with for 13 years!”

All of this is by the grace of God. Through the precious Word I received from Sungrak Church, I have witnessed God's amazing miracle firsthand. I continue to pray even now that a way may be opened for Sungrak Church to send more teaching materials.

There are 47 tribes in Kenya. We need many interpreters who can translate into the languages of each tribe. I earnestly desire that all these tribes may come together as one in the name of Jesus and hear the gospel.

I ask that you join me in prayer for this as well. May God's abundant blessings be with you all. Amen.

*Pastor Omwenga from Kenya
April 12, 2025*

The Transformation of Idol Priest

I pray that you will live in divine health, and that the heaven of mercy will open for you in the name of Jesus Christ.

I am happy to share that God continues His work through His word, especially through the book "Know Jesus and Drive Out Demons."

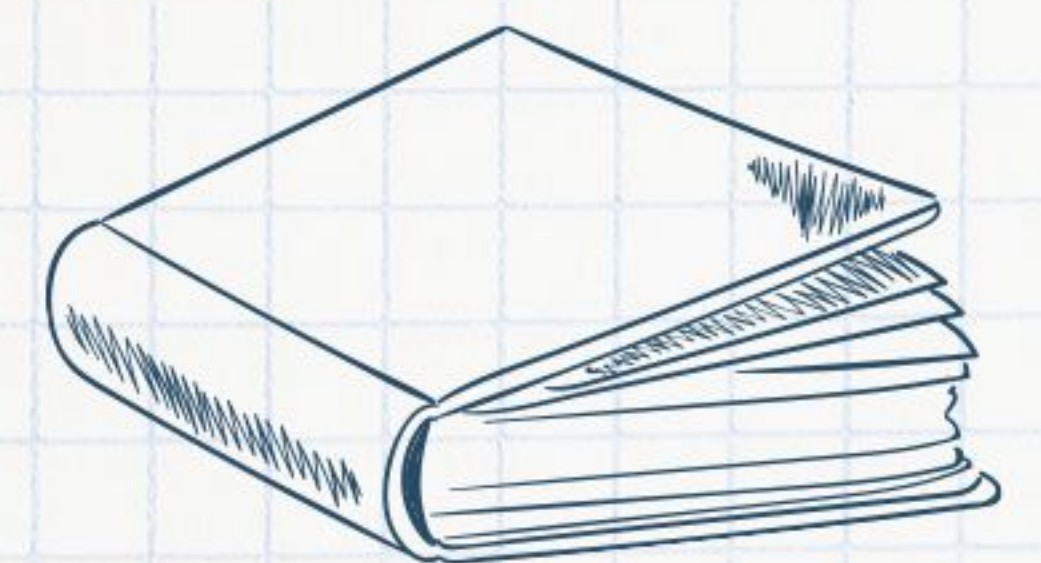
Jesus must be glorified! Through this book, a man confessed and accepted Jesus as his Savior. He was an idol priest, but he told me that on the day I gave him the book, his life changed. He couldn't sleep that night before coming to see me.

I thank God because this man also shared with me about their culture. He promised to join me in February this year to visit his village, a river community, for evangelism.

We thank God. Four of us will be on the boat. Please pray for the success of this program, so that I may share new testimonies with you.

I will pray for Sungrak Church, thanking you for your support, prayers, materials, and encouragement. May God reward you in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Pastor Samson from Nigeria
January 16, 2025*



From Drug Addict to Evangelist

I'm delighted to send this email to express my happiness as God has used Sungrak Church to give my life a total turnaround.

I met a young man named Jonathan, whom I used to know back in 2019 when we used to gather in a ghetto to smoke marijuana and cocaine together. Now, he is a pastor and an Evangelist in the body of Christ.

One day, Jonathan suddenly disappeared from our smoking joint, only to reappear in 2021 with some books from Sungrak Church titled "Demonology 1". I was given 5 copies of those books. Though I wasn't interested because of the sudden change I observed in the young man, but what caught my attention and led me to read the book was the fact that, on the day he gave me the books, we spent several hours together, and I noticed he no longer smoke with us as he used to do. This made me curious, and I decided to read the book, suspecting that his transformation was influenced by it.

As I began studying the book, I realized that I had not engaged in smoking, drinking alcohol, and prostitution by my own will, but rather under the influence of demons. He later shared another copy titled Demonology 2&3, Let Us Know the Holy Spirit, Let Us Know Jesus, and many other copies.

Now, after reading many books from Sungrak Church, I have completely surrendered my life to the Gospel of Christ. On December 8, 2024, I was ordained as an evangelist in the body of Christ, and I am currently studying at a theology school.

The Evangelist Jonathan has encouraged me to reach out to people by going house to house, sharing the Gospel on the streets, and even returning to the smoking sections where we used to gather, to share the Gospel of Christ with my former friends. Many of them have already accepted Jesus Christ, and I believe many more will join us soon.

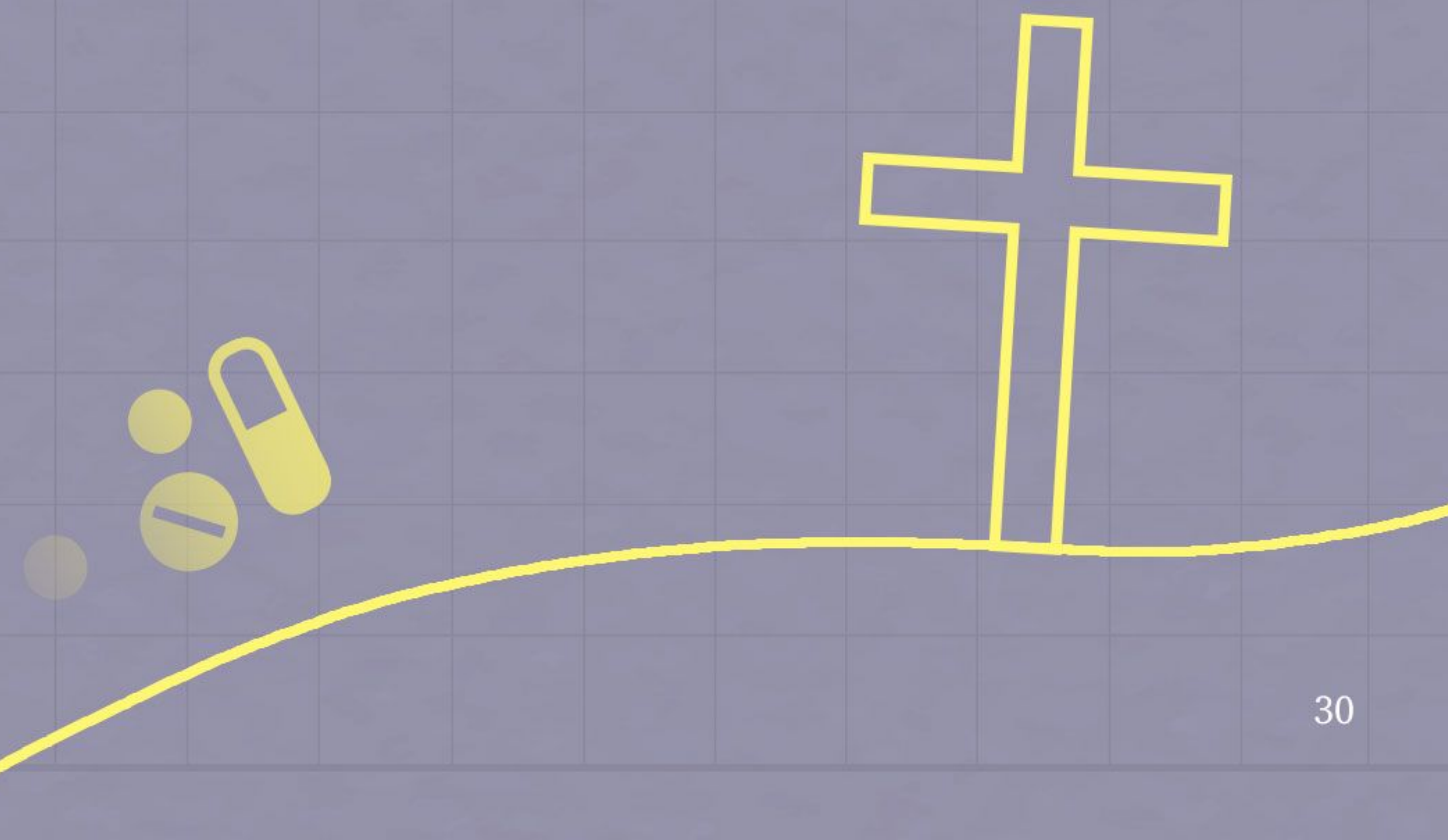
I want to sincerely express my appreciation for this ministry's effort in sending free books worldwide to strengthen our Christian faith. The things I used to do, I do them no more.

May the name of the Lord be praised now and forevermore.

Amen.

Evangelist Edet from Nigeria

Feburary 10, 2025



May the Light of God Reach Even More People

Greetings. I am Brother Musa from Tanzania.

In August 2023, I received Berea books for the first time. I had long yearned to know the Word of God more deeply, and through these books, I was able to learn about the Holy Spirit in a new way and experience great grace as I grew spiritually.

Currently, I serve in my church by teaching the Bible. It began as a simple volunteer role, but now I am able to fully devote myself to ministry with some support for my living expenses. Above all, the insights I've gained from the Berea books have been a great help in teaching others.

One limitation, however, is that many of the members and pastors in my church speak only Swahili. Because of this, I cannot directly give them the books, but I share what I've learned by explaining the content in Swahili. Wherever the Word is needed, I want to make sure it is shared in a way people can understand.

Also, if the Lord allows, I hope to travel to more regions to share the Word of God. I cannot express how wonderful it would be to spread God's truth throughout Tanzania. I earnestly hope and pray that

one day a local branch of Sungrak Church will be established here in Tanzania.

I recently received another set of Berea books, and it brought me great joy. If more books can be sent, I would be deeply grateful to read them and gladly share my reflections. My heart is always open to learning God's Word.

Even though the phone connection was interrupted several times during our conversation, my desire to listen and learn the Word was never cut off. I am truly thankful for this precious sharing, and I will continue to strive to deliver the way of life to more people through God's Word.

Please pray for me—that God's Word may take deep root in this land of Tanzania, and that many more people may come to know His light through me. Thank you.

Brother Musa from Tanzania

April 28, 2025



The Desire to Know God

I received great grace through the book sent by Sungrak Church, and I am truly joyful to be able to express my heartfelt thanks through this letter. It has stirred within me a deep longing to know God more intimately.

I am currently in my fourth year of university, with about six months left until graduation. It takes around 30 minutes to get from my home to campus. The one who introduced the book to me is Brother Mapida, my roommate, and we are both part of an intercessory prayer group.

Here in Nigeria, persecution against Christians is severe, and it is not easy to keep our faith. In many cases, even job opportunities are limited for Christians. Yet, in the midst of such hardships, we continue to pray and look solely to God's help.

At church, I serve as a leader for the youth group. The young people have been greatly encouraged by the book and are growing in faith as we read and share its message together.

The book provided by Sungrak Church has been a great blessing, not only to me but to our entire community. I also shared the book with my senior pastor, and he was deeply pleased. When I recently visited his office and saw him reading the book, I was moved to tears. Many people love this book and there is a high demand for it, so I would like to kindly request additional copies.

Additionally, I would love to have time with fellow brothers and sisters to listen to and reflect on the sermons sent by Sungrak Church. I earnestly desire to know God more and understand His will. However, due to the limited availability of data, it is difficult

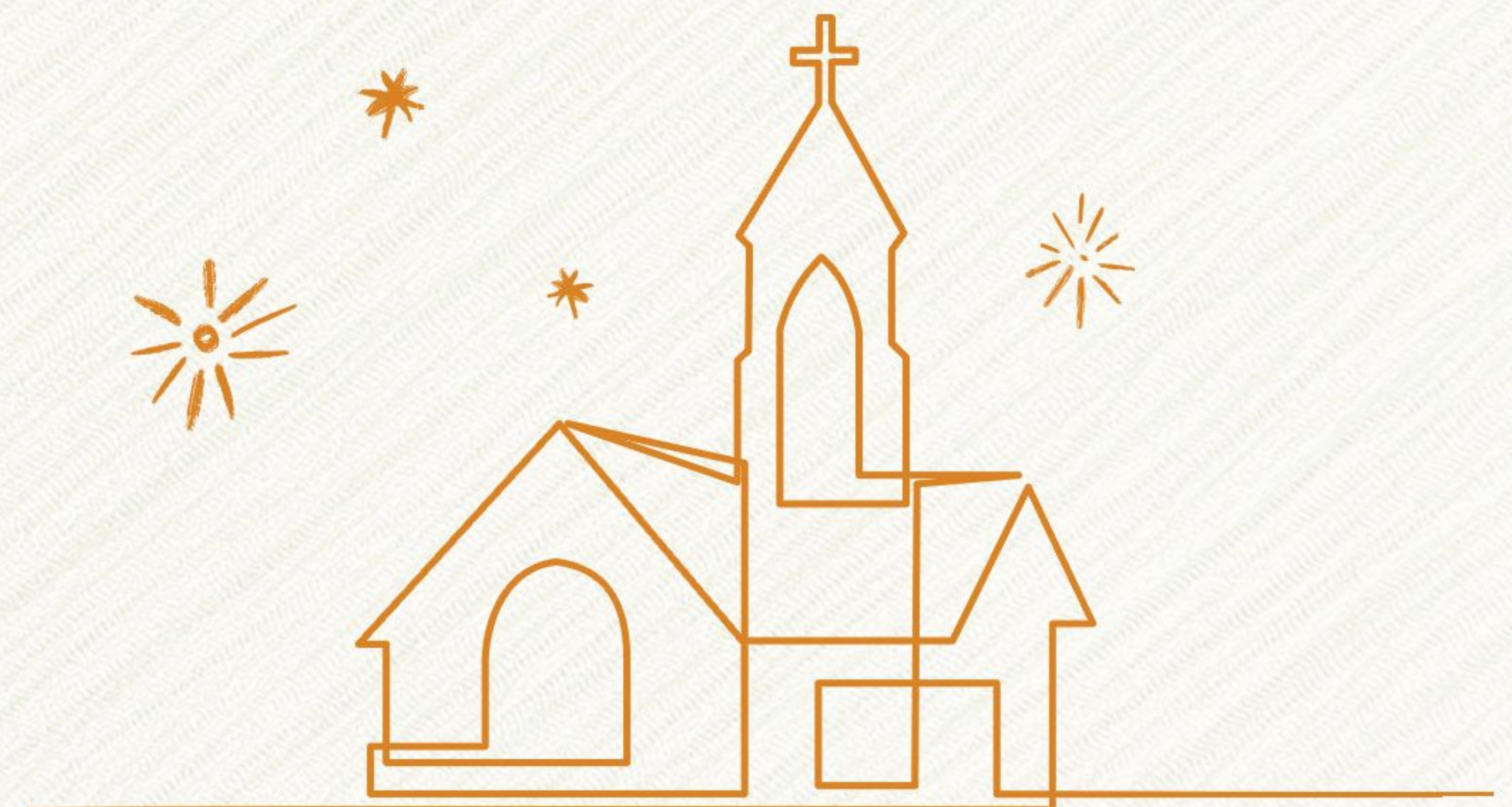
for us to access online resources. Still, we are learning through the books you have sent, and I wish to continue doing so.

As we witness lives being transformed and faith being strengthened through the Word you provide, I sincerely hope that these precious teachings may reach even more people. When the new books arrive, we will meditate on them deeply and share our reflections. Through the Word, I am becoming stronger, and I will do my utmost to share this blessing with many people here in Nigeria.

Thank you deeply, Sungrak Church. I pray that the grace of the Lord will be abundantly upon you all.

Brother Davis from Nigeria

February 8, 2025

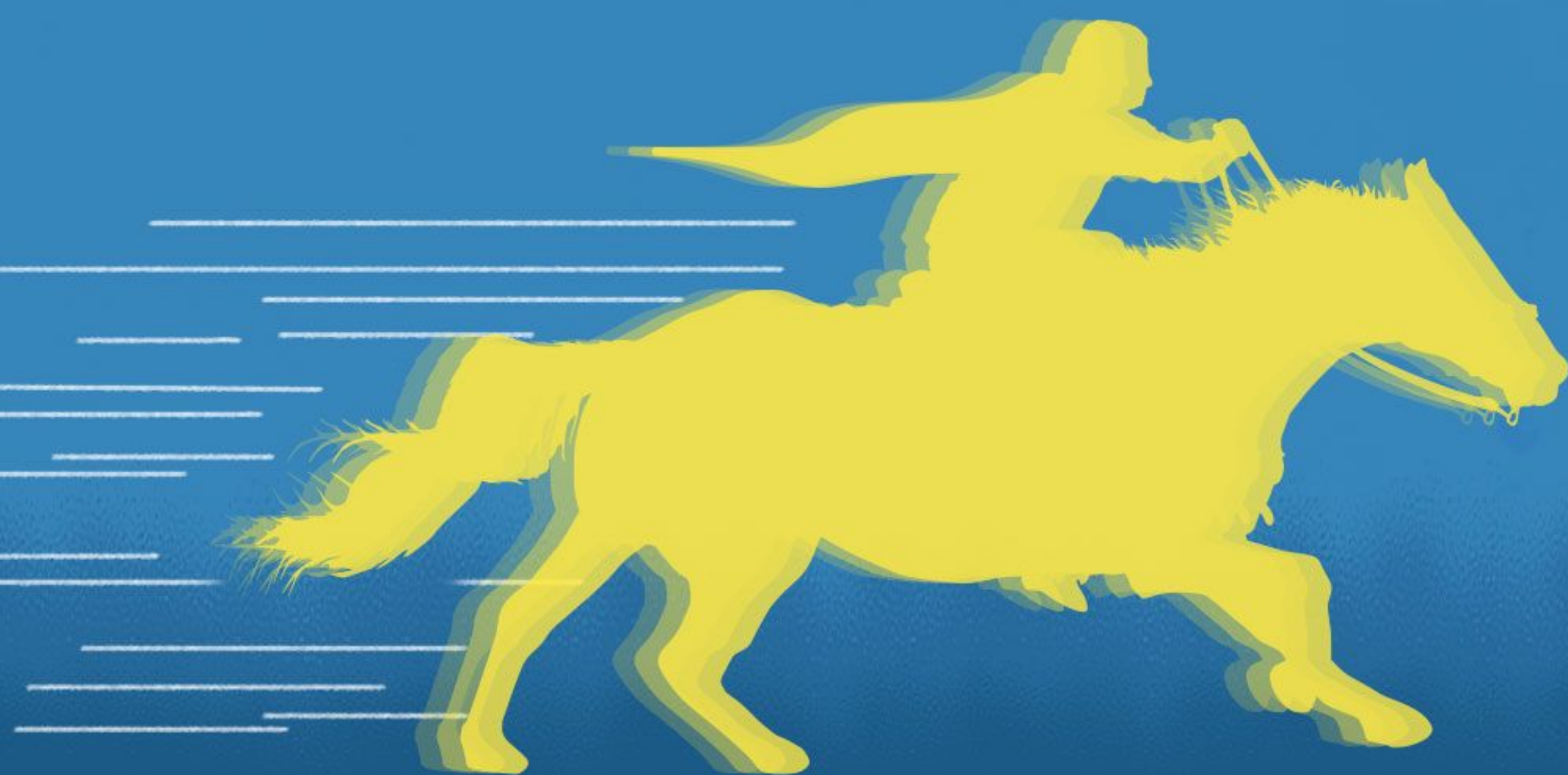


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Hastened and Pressed on by the King's Command

(Esther 8:1-14)

in The Messenger Running in Hurry
Sermon Series 5



"On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman. Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews. And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. How can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?" Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews. You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke." So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language. And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds. By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city

to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions, on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.” Esther 8:1-14 (NKJV)

As we learned in Berea Academy, the Bible speaks of and testifies of Jesus. Jesus is the One who fulfilled God's will. Therefore, it can be said that the Bible is about God's will. And that will of God took effect between three spiritual beings. What happened between God and angels, especially the devil, and man? What is happening between them? This can be found in the Bible. Hence, it can be said that the Bible is about three spiritual beings.

And what occurs between them takes place in three heavens - God's will, which was planned and accomplished in heaven; which is accomplished in the universe, and that which is accomplished on earth. Therefore, it can be said that the Bible is also about what is accomplished in three heavens.

But they did not happen all of a sudden, but were prophesied in the Bible. Those prophecies were scattered as separate puzzle pieces, and it was hard to see the complete picture as separate pieces. However, later Jesus came and fulfilled those prophecies, and then sent the Holy Spirit so that we may understand what the Scriptures are about. Thus, the pieces come together as one picture.

When that happened, the Bible became engaging. Prior to that, the Bible was uninteresting. Because the pieces were separate and scattered, we could not understand, and therefore, the Bible was uninteresting. Yet it is so intriguing now that we know the truth and the Picture of God's Will through the Holy Spirit. It is one narrative throughout the Bible. And we have the joy of putting those pieces together and understanding the whole picture.

The shock we get when we understand the Bible is what makes us become witnesses. We need to be shocked in our hearts to some degree in order to become witnesses. That is, we need to have that "eureka!" moment, because then we will testify passionately about it. Without it, we will feel no excitement. But witnesses are excited and joyful to share what they know.

Moreover, witnesses have great joy in sharing with those who are yet to understand. It is thrilling when we see other people coming to understand, and that leads us to testify more to them. For this reason, if we do not meet more people who are yet to know about The Picture of God's will, we will not experience that joy. But the more we experience that joy and excitement, the greater our awareness will be that there are so many souls who want to know the truth and that more people do need to know about it. Then, we will fervently share this.

For myself, in Korea, I thought everyone already knew about it, especially because the people around me were Christians in Sungrak Church. However, when I went over to China, people were astounded when I shared only one-tenth of what I knew, and many signs of God were done. I was amazed and continued to share with them. God's

signs were manifested, and that is how I became a witness. So I realized that there are so many people who do not know this. Because I saw that most people did not know about this, I felt the need to share this quickly.

I feel that even more because I know how miserable I was when I did not know this truth. I experienced how dreadful and horrible it was when I did not know this truth. I think everyone needs to have that experience. It was literally like hell. So by the time I came before Jesus, I admitted it myself, "I am a sinner." I admitted that. Of course, before that, I was already told that I am a sinner, but I did not own up to that. But when evangelists were no longer around me and I was lost all by myself, seeking and searching for the truth in this world and failed, I was in despair. I thought, "This is the sinner right here. What else am I? I am a cursed man. I am cursed. Not only I but every man is cursed." I admitted that. "There is no happiness. There is no happiness on earth. I can laugh, but I am not happy." I admitted that too. I said to myself, "Even if I make a fortune in the future and good things happen to me that make me smile, I am a woeful man without happiness. Never forget that." In the midst of that, another evangelist came to me and said, "You are a sinner." And this time I agreed, "Yes." But then the evangelist said, "I met the truth." And this sounded totally new to me. 'How did this person come to know the truth? I wish I had an experience to be sure like him.' So I followed him and then got to meet God and experience myself.

That state of misery when I did not know the truth, which probably everyone has experienced, is when I was a sinner. That is the sinner. I repented of that. If I admitted that I was a sinner and yet thought that life as a sinner was bearable and not too bad, then I have not repented properly. But that life I lived as a sinner was so

unbearable, horrible, and depressing that I wanted to end my life and did not even want to think about it. So I wept and wailed, like an animal. Because my life was hopeless. I thought, 'How can someone's life be like this? I'm so helpless. My heart, my soul yearns for what is everlasting. There is some strange being inside me that longs for eternal love and eternal happiness, but love keeps changing.' When a person is in love with someone but that someone leaves them, it is so hard to bear that feeling and situation that they even want to die, or kill someone, or just ruin everything. So I wondered, 'Why do I have such a yearning for the everlasting? But why isn't there anything that lasts forever in this world? It's so paradoxical.' That is why I wept and wailed. 'Who is it that's done this to me? Who made me come into existence? If God is out there, come and show Yourself to me!' When you are in that sort of state, what would you not be capable of doing? I was so confused and lost. In that state, I was capable of doing anything.

Presently, people like that are all over the streets. People whose minds are disoriented and lost are out there. We do not know who they are. But for them, stabbing another person is no big deal; driving a car into a person and killing them is not even news to them; waiting outside a daycare centre with a knife and threatening people with it because they seem happier than themselves is no big deal. In China, these incidents occur so often. Recently, a car rushed into Tian'anmen Square, killing several people. Stabbing in front of daycare centres is common too. That is the way the world is going. It will get worse in our children's generation.

People are losing patience. Apparently, there is an increase in dating violence. So ladies, when you are about to break up with your boyfriend, be ready to die. I saw the statistics of the number of people

who died after breaking up with their partners, and it was quite high. And it is on the rise. Experts researched why and found that at least in the previous generations, like when we were growing up, people were taught about self-control at home and disciplined. However, in the modern generation, children are raised as egocentric people, especially since a lot of families only have one child. Such children are used to their loving mother doing everything they ask for. They receive the undivided love and attention of their mothers. Therefore, when a person they love turns away from them, they do not know how to handle it. They are in denial.

So I can see where they are coming from. Furthermore, to break up with someone they slept with and believed would love them forever would be a bombshell. That is why people react so radically, to even kill their loved ones and themselves. They can not handle the situation and explode with rage. And these good-natured young people turn into violent murderers all of a sudden. Some even turn against their parents in this way. It is just that we do not see much of it in the news, but it is happening more than we are aware of. According to the statistics, dozens of such cases occur every day, even between married couples.

What are all those people yearning for? Eternal love. They are seeking something that will satisfy their eternal longing. But they can not find it. Some might say that it is harder to evangelize, considering the way our society is heading. However, it may not be the case. It may turn out to be advantageous for us to evangelize. If there is an increase in the suffering of people who can not find the everlasting, that means it is that much easier for them to admit that they are sinners, which means they can accept the gospel.

It is unnecessary to say that the present times are making it

harder to evangelize. Even if that were true, there is no reason for us to make a hasty generalisation. The world has already been corrupt since ancient times. This means souls are really yearning and hungry. We have no time to lose.

The passage we read in the Book of Esther does not really mention God. However, it is an interesting story to read about. It is like watching a drama, is not it? This story was actually a parable. It is fascinating. It is pretty much a scaled-down version of the 2nd righteousness of "The Picture of God's Will." And the Book of Esther encompasses all the details relating to the eradication of the devil. Of course, it does incorporate all the elements of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd aspects of The Picture of God's Will; however, it covers the fundamentals of destroying the devil.

When one reads this without the Holy Spirit, he cannot understand what it is indicating. It simply appears to be a story relating to the Persian kingdom. However, it clearly depicts what will take place in the future. Some people think these stories are fiction because we say that they are parables. In other words, they think these events never occurred in real life but were made up to illustrate what is to come. But they are in error. These events did occur historically, but they are also illustrations of future events.

Generally, we would think a parable (illustration) would need to be planned out. How can an event already past be an illustration for what is yet to happen in the future? Well, that is why God is God. An event that took place in history can become an illustration of a future event. The men who wrote about it did not even know this, but God already knew. Thus, the more we read and know about the Bible, we cannot help but acknowledge the works of God.

This happened in the Persian Empire. Persia rose as one of the greatest empires in history, and it was God who raised up this empire and made Esther become queen so that He might use them as a parable to illustrate the coming of Jesus Christ. So all these events were used to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. The rise of one empire and the fall of another were all in God's plan.

Haman was the prime minister of the king of Persia, and he hated the Jewish people. The reason he hated them was on account of Mordecai. While everybody else bowed down to Haman, Mordecai refused to bow. Also, Haman was the descendant of an enemy nation of Israel. That nation disrupted the way of the Israelites when they tried to enter the land of Canaan long ago. Thus, the Israelites were taught to treat them as their enemies. Even if Haman was the prime minister of a kingdom, Mordecai dealt with him as an enemy and refused to bow down to him while everyone else did. Every day when Haman came outside, all the people bowed low to the ground except Mordecai; he stood tall with his head up. Haman did not show his anger in front of those many people, but he enquired about who Mordecai was, and when he found out he was a Jew, Haman hated him all the more.

Since Haman was becoming more powerful in his position, he decided to use his power to destroy Mordecai and the Jewish nation altogether. He knew how Israel regarded his nation as their enemy. So he devised a plot to annihilate the Jewish people. On account of Mordecai, all the Jewish people were on the brink of losing their lives.

This is an illustration of how, on account of Jesus Christ, the devil considers everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ as his enemy.

Haman had prepared gallows in his house, which later became a pattern of the cross. He was planning to hang Mordecai on the gallows, but due to a sequence of events, Haman ended up hanging on the gallows. It was a shocking end.

What happened was, the queen prayed to God and then went before the king. The queen was not permitted to see the king without being called for. If the king dismisses her, she would be put to death. The king must look upon her with favour. Then he would stretch out his sceptre towards her. He asked her what her wish was. She requested that a banquet be held where only the king, the queen, and Haman would be present. And it was at the banquet that she told the king. "Please save me and my people." The king asked, "What do you mean?" She answered, "Someone is trying to kill me and my people!" The king demanded who that person was. He was very angry.

The king arose and went outside in his wrath. He needed to calm himself down a bit. In that moment, Haman came before the queen, holding the hem of her skirt and pleading for his life. He had thrown himself on top of the knees of the queen. That is when the king came back inside. Perhaps he was thinking of letting Haman go this time. But he saw Haman with his head buried on top of the queen's knees and holding on to her skirt. The king was enraged. "Is he now trying to assault the queen?" That is what the king said.

The moment that these words fell out of the king's mouth, something interesting happened. The servants who were present immediately covered Haman's face. As soon as the words of wrath left the king's mouth, Haman's face was covered so that he could not be seen anymore. The king did not even need to command the servants to tie him up. The servants came up and covered his face. And he was

taken away. Then the servants said to the king, "Mordecai, who has saved the king's life, is in danger of losing his life! Haman has made a gallows to hang him on it." The king answered, "Is that so? Then hang Haman on his gallows." And Haman was hanged.

This is a clear illustration of what happened to Jesus Christ. The devil prepared the cross to hang Jesus Christ on it. However, in the end, who do you see hung on the cross? It is not Jesus Christ. What do we see? We see the devil cursed on the cross and the sins of man crucified on it. He got caught in his own trap. So it seemed like everything came to a happy ending. But did it? No.

The problem has only just begun. The problem was that a decree was written in the name of the king, according to Haman's command, to kill all the Jews on the thirteenth of the twelfth month. That decree was issued many years back, and the decree had been proclaimed in all 127 provinces. It was not via phone call or an email that it was proclaimed, but couriers on horses travelled for months to deliver the letters. All the people in the Persian kingdom were therefore waiting for that day to come. They envied and hated the Jewish people. Because they had a grudge against them, they were looking forward to the day they could destroy them.

Since the letters were sealed with the king's signet ring, the king himself could not revoke the decree. That is how it is with God's law. Thus, the word which is proclaimed in God's name cannot be revoked even by God Himself. For this reason, Jesus warned saying, "The words I have spoken to you will judge on that day." Even Jesus cannot take back His words. Hence, whoever disobeys His words cannot escape judgment. He said there will be no forgiveness in this age and in the age to come. The words spoken through the Holy

Spirit in Jesus' name cannot be revoked.

Going back to the Jews, if that day arrives, the Jews were going to be annihilated. So Esther pleaded with the king. "Please issue another decree to revoke the letters devised by Haman." The king thought that would not be possible. Previously, he had given his signet ring to Haman and entrusted him with full power. But he took that off Haman and gave it to Mordecai and told him to take care of the situation as was pleasing to the Jews.

The Jews needed wisdom and to act shrewdly. So what did they do? It is described very briefly here, but they needed wisdom. They simply can not write a letter saying, "Cancel the previous decree." They had only one option. There was no way of stopping the attack planned against the Jews. It is a decided fact. The only option was to fight back.

Previously, they had no authority to fight back. They were going to die helplessly. Because it was the king's decree. But the king sent out another letter with the decree that permitted the Jews to fight back. They were permitted to gather together, prepare weapons, increase their forces, and be ready, so that when the enemies strike them on the day, they could fight back and kill the enemies. They were given permission to destroy and kill any people who were against them and to plunder their possessions.

Thus, the letter containing this decree was sent out. But they did not have much time. It was the twenty-third day of the third month when the decree was issued, but the assault was planned for the thirteenth of the twelfth month. It is a period of 9 months they had on hand. However, for the couriers riding on horses to go through all the

provinces of Persia, the distances to travel were long, the conditions were harsh, and the roads were rugged, with deserts on the way.

Let us say that the couriers arrived on the twelfth of the twelfth month, with the news that the Jews can fight back. The next day is the day the enemies will strike them, and the Jews will not have any time to prepare weapons or be ready to battle. Thus, the news had to reach them fast in order that the people could increase their forces, prepare weapons, and have reserves of food. The key was to get the letters to them as quickly as possible, in order to save the lives of the Jews.

So Mordecai did not delay writing up a letter with the command for the Jews to come together and fight back on the day of the assault. In verse 14, it says, "Hastened and pressed on by the king's command." They were hastened and pressed on. "The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel."

Think about it. When the couriers are sent out with the decree, thousands of horses set off. Thousands of horses are galloping fast. They are not ordinary horses but chosen swift horses. And along the way, if a horse gets worn out, they would switch to another horse. They had stations in those days. They did not stop for the horses to rest and regain their energy before setting off again. The horses had to gallop as fast as they could, and if they could not go any further, they would be left at a station where the couriers would jump on another horse. By doing so, they were able to continue the journey without stopping. Because the aim was to get the letter to the people as quickly as possible. And they proclaimed the decree in every province - 127 in total - of Persia.

If the letter did not reach them quickly, the people would not be properly armed and ready for battle, even if they knew they could fight back. They would be destroyed. The key was speed. They had to ride swiftly. Look at the words used here. "Hastened and pressed on by the king's command." They were pressed on and hastened by the king's command. The king's command hastens them to go quickly. As if horsewhipping, the king's command pressed them to act fast. They had to take the king's command and advance quickly.

Who did we say were the people who received the king's command? They are messengers with a calling. This is called ministry or calling. These couriers who went out on horses were messengers with a calling. Thus, anyone with a calling has to be like these couriers. The king's command is urgent. And the messengers have to run in haste. They have to spread the news. What happens in every place where the news is spread? People will be full of joy. They know they are saved. So in chapters that follow, Mordecai rejoices, and people in Shushan the citadel rejoice. In verse 17, it says, "And in every province and city, wherever the king's command decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews because fear of the Jews fell upon them." The day had not yet arrived, but the people still rejoiced at the news. They were saved.

And if the king has their backs, which of the leaders in the provinces would support the enemies? They would stand by the Jews whom the king supports. They would want to become Jews themselves and bring any weapons they had to the Jews. So even before the battle began, it was game over. The Jews could boldly say, "Attack us if you can!" while the enemies trembled, knowing they were going to die. Nevertheless, they did not have a choice but to fight

the Jews. They knew they were going to be destroyed, but they had to attack. Why? Whether they sit still and die or fight and die, they will die either way. The tables had turned. The enemies had no choice but to fight because either way, they were going to die.

In the same way, the demons and the devil have no choice but to attack. That is their last resort - to assault Christians. They have no other option. But if Christians fall and die under their assault, they are fools. The enemies were attacking the Jews, but they already knew exactly what was going to happen. 'Even if we strike them, they will fight back and we will be destroyed.' With that in mind, they were fighting for their lives.

However, if the Jews are not on guard, then the enemies would know that the Jews did not hear the news and strike them with the sword to victory. They would think, "What's wrong with them? Maybe they didn't hear the news." They would destroy them. But the Jew who heard the news would not shrink away but fight back hard and destroy their enemies.

The enemies attack knowing they are going to die. When the demons attack, they already know that they are going to be destroyed, cursed, and driven out. But if we fear them, the demons will call us a fool and strike even harder. But if we strike them first in Jesus' name, they will get out as expected. We can observe these spiritual principles here.

If as messengers, we do not spread this news to people, they will be under attack like fools. The messengers have to proclaim this news in haste. But how many churches in the world acknowledge that we can drive out demons in Jesus' name, and how many of them

acknowledge that God sent Jesus and already condemned the devil? Hardly any. Only churches that have come into contact with Berea know this. Thus, we have to let more people know. We can not take it easy. The king's command is urgent. We need to rise up quickly and whip the horses to run faster. That is exactly what we are doing. We need to quickly supply this teaching to people, teach them Berea Academy, and guide them through the Lord's Day sermons as to how they can utilize the word, apply the word, and obey.

For this work, God has given us this digital age with the internet so that we may run faster. God deemed that running is too slow and gave us the internet so that we can instantly send this to people. Yet if the messengers are not even doing this work when it does not even cost us any money, what would happen to the messengers? They will be rebuked. The people of this generation will be subject to harsher rebuke than those of past generations. More will be demanded from those who are given more. If God opened up ways and provided us with the conditions to do this work, we have to work in haste.

Up until 2005, we could not send mp3 files to China because the size was too big. But from some time ago, we were able to send mp3 files, up to about 5GB. I am so thankful. At first, we could only send Word documents. But since we were able to send 5GB, we split the files, which were usually 20GB, because we did not have programs to reduce the file size. Later on, we cropped the files and reduced the file size, but they would still be about 10GB. We had to split them and send them as separate files. But when the time came, Empas (Korean internet service provider) increased the file size so that we could send up to 10GB. Now we can send 10GB files in one go, because usually sermons are about 9GB when cropped. It is great for the people to listen to. We have all these tools provided for us to send the word. Yet

if we are not doing our work properly, we will be in trouble.

Not everyone in the church has this mindset. Some believe this teaching needs to be protected and guarded. That is the basic attitude that people have. They are willing to give the word only to those who submit to them. However, because we have a different perspective, we made requests in the church so that we are now able to send sermons to other countries and within Korea as well. Things need to change. People's perspective has to change in order for us to carry out this ministry effectively.

Let us pray that we, as messengers, can fulfil our duties and be hastened by the king's command. Let us pray that we will be pressed on by the king's command.

Pastor Ki-Taek Lee
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