

Failure & Brokenness

by K.P. Yohannan

God uses our failures to make us holy and teach us humility and brokenness, and He is always looking for a man to be a broken vessel to be used for His glory.

Duration: 56:42

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:4, Joel 2:25, Matthew 6:33, Luke 22:31, John 8:1-11, Hebrews 8:12

Topics: "Brokenness"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares his experience of preparing for a year-end conference in Ajmer, India. He expresses his concern about being in high demand and the pressure to deliver the best message and illustrations. The speaker then discusses the challenges and struggles that can arise in life, such as feeling beyond repair, losing one's passion, experiencing betrayal, and dealing with the pain of divorce. However, he emphasizes that there is hope and a way to recover and even surpass what was lost, if one can believe. The speaker concludes by reflecting on his own rejection and how grace played a role in his journey.

Transcript

What a blessing to come back here again. I deeply appreciate Professor Joe and the leadership for asking me to come and be with you today and share what the Lord placed upon my heart for you brothers here. It's interesting, a couple of days ago I was in Phoenix speaking for the Calvary Chapel there, Mark Martins pastor there and the temperature was 105 degrees.

So I kind of figured out it'll be warm here. And I came here, I began to freeze. And it's quite a contrast.

The Lord willing, tomorrow morning also I'll be sharing and I'll bring a brief report for you from the tsunami efforts that's going on. But it will bring joy for you just to know that so far we have over 80 churches planted among the tsunami victims in the subcontinent. Praise the Lord.

And we have about a thousand missionaries and church members actually are still working among the tsunami victims. It's quite significant what God is doing and continue to pray for us. I'd like for us to read a Bible verse from the Gospel of Luke chapter 22 verse 31.

Luke chapter 22 verse 31. Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

And when you have turned back or converted, strengthen your brothers. It is interesting to note there, the Lord is not saying, Peter I prayed for you that you would not fail. But your faith may not fail.

As a matter of fact, he faced the temptation and he goofed up as you know. He denied the Lord. The teaching I have this afternoon to share with you came out of an experience that I had some years ago.

After the weekend ministry in this particular church, fairly large congregation. That afternoon, I went to the hotel trying to take some rest and the senior pastor asked if he could come and talk to me. I said fine, although I said I wish he would leave me alone.

And so he came and said the first chitchats and all the different things and his face all of a sudden turned red and he starts sobbing. He buried his face in his hand and began to shake. I sat there realizing something happened in his life that he wanted to talk to someone.

After a while he said, I lost it. I don't think even God can forgive me. And he made such drastic statements that only began to help me understand whatever he was dealing with was so serious that he just didn't know how to handle it.

Yet he continued to be in the ministry, husband and father of three children and on and on things like that. And that experience with this dear brother helped me to look in the scripture about what happens to us as God's people when we fail. What happens next? C.S. Lewis said this, there is an element of superficiality with all of us.

How are you doing? Oh fine. It's a good day. Really? He just had a terrible time of battling with temptation.

Something you shouldn't look at, you looked at. Some conversation you had, you shouldn't have that conversation and whatever else and inside you are dying and trying to overcome this guilt and burden through some music and whatever is going on and somebody says how are you? Fine. There is superficiality.

There is not one individual here including the one who speaks to you today that can say I have never sinned, I have never failed. And Jesus said this very well. Someone among you without sin, let him cast the first stone.

We all fail. Twenty years of preaching, Paul makes a statement about himself. I am the chief of sinners.

Failure is a part of life that we go through throughout our life. Yet somehow we miss God's purpose in it. Thus Satan comes along and uses that to defeat us further and keep us down from understanding the grace and the purpose of God in our life.

Jesus came to give beauty for ashes. He is the one who never looks at a Bruce Lee and say, it's all over for you. Or a lamb that the oil is gone, it's just only smoke left.

He is not going to snuff it out. And he remains the same today for us. In the work of God, whether you are a full time Christian worker, a pastor, a youth pastor, a counselor or a husband or whatever you are.

If you really think about it, the way God does his best is he picks the unwanted, the least and the last, the nobodies. How many among you are able and smart and superstars? He says, no one. Then he says, God walks along and rejects the able, self-centered, the mighty, and he picks, chooses the weak and the nobodies.

If a few powerful individuals make it into the work of God, in the plan of God to do something significant like Apostle Paul, usually it happens they are minority, but God makes sure they hit the bottom so they start from zero. Illustration, Moses, Jacob, Paul. What do you do when the vessel, the pot is marred and the original plan of the potter is no more to be realized? He is going to throw it away.

When fruitful life now becomes a ruined field and all there is canker worm and locust. Without any warning, the storm hits and the reed falls and is bruised. What do you do when our life comes to a place we think is beyond repair? The glow on the face and the eyes is no more there.

We speak the same language, same Bible verses, same prayers, but somehow that fire is no more there. We feel that we are dying slowly. What do you do in a time like that? When we are betrayed by close friends and no one to turn to, now full of shame and agony like the woman that was caught in adultery.

Where do you go from there? After having preached and taught and raised your children or family, influenced others, all of a sudden denying the Lord by some deed, some practice and known to public like it was in the case of Peter. Where do you go from there? Having been picked by God, anointed, called by name, having laid aside, rejected the stronger ones like young lad David. Finally, after all the understanding of God and His presence, getting to such a mess, what do you do? Where do you go from there? When your body becomes sick because of sin and the time span is not one day but the whole year long, Psalm 32, what do you do? Who you talk to? When co-workers or your leader or your pastor or friends that you looked up to says, you know, you are no use.

You don't measure up. I gave you so many chances. I can't do any more with you.

Please leave. It happened to John Mark. Where do you go? When divorce hurts deep and the torment and guilt continue to plague one's soul.

As we read in John's gospel chapter 4, the woman at the well. What hope is there? Well, the question is, is there hope? Is there a way to recover and gain what I lost? No, no, no, not just what I lost, but get the best that I thought was the best even beyond that. Let me tell you very quickly.

The answer is yes. Yes. 1000 times.

Yes. If only you and I can believe by the way, the Bible is full of God's heroes and whole bunch of them are failures. There was a article in the Indian newspaper recently.

I just came back from India a couple of days ago. It talked about this fancy magazines they put out, you know, women's pictures, men's pictures on the cover of the magazine. And it was quite interesting.

The article said, actually, these people really don't look like that. Photoshop. I mean, he, you know, we can take an ugly face like yours and put it on the computer.

Within seconds, you come out a movie star. Yes. But God never does that with his people.

He leaves the whole thing as it is, no touch up. You know why? He wants to encourage me, encourage you the way his heart feels toward us. Creation itself began.

He created the whole world perfect, yet the whole thing went into chaos. We read in Genesis chapter one in the early verses there. But then he would come and redo it again out of chaos and darkness and hopelessness and says, and God said, it is good.

He didn't say, you know, when I was in Germany many years ago, visiting my wife's family, one of the individuals sitting around the dining table when they asked, what do you think about the food? Not bad. Not bad. No, God did not say, not bad.

It's okay. No, it is good. This is how God deals with things that go bad and wrong.

Adam and Eve, what dream, perfect people God made, but they messed up. So Jesus comes. Shall we say Christ coming into the world was the second best that God had? If we would say that, that would be blasphemy.

The lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world. God was not surprised by that. Abraham, he died a bunch of times and, you know, got a son through his servant girl, you know, all the stories.

Would God leave him? No. He became the friend of God, the father of nations. Jacob, what a classic example, one of the great heroes of God.

Even before this fellow was born, God said, the older shall serve the younger. But would he believe that? No way. He was smart and crafty and careful about planning and scheming and working about everything for himself.

Twenty years, this man would run and run and run and waste his life. And finally, God finds him. He became no more Jacob, the deceiver, but the prince of God.

Moses, what a sacrifice he made to follow God, yet forty years in the wilderness. It is bad enough to take care of some rotten, stinking sheep, but worse to take care of your father-in-law's sheep. In the end, he says, God, you want me to? No way.

I mean, I can't even talk. Yet we read in the book of Acts, Moses was mighty in speech. Incredible orator he was.

Yet, after years of just walking around after dumb sheep, he became like one of them. Just lost, don't know what to do. Did God say, well, you know, Moses, there was a time I could have used you as strong and able and now what to do? Like we say in India, what to do? Moses, you are my leader.

What a sad story when you read about Samson. Yet, in death, he accomplished more. You can go to Peter, doubting Thomas.

By the way, Thomas came to my village in India in AD 52, planted a church. Can you believe that? He said, I won't believe anything, but how God used him to spread the gospel in a land like that. John Mark, the one finally end up writing the gospel of Mark.

And all this tells us something so real in God's way of dealing with each one of us. No matter where you are, how many times you fail, what you are living with, what pain or quiet agony that you are now living with, God understand you so perfectly. And if only you will come before him, he will take those things and make use of that to do something far more significant than you ever imagined or dreamed.

Peter, I prayed for you that your faith may not fail. Faith in what? Faith in the grace, in the mercy, in the ultimate purposes of God that he is able. But what are some of the things that God has planned in our journey, especially when we fail? One, I believe this is to make us holy.

You realize that none of us become holy without temptation. It is by choices you and I make, we become more like Jesus. The two trees in the garden, you can pick either one.

And Jesus learned obedience through suffering. It is us. I write the exam in the fourth grade and I fail in the subject.

The teacher, the Holy Spirit comes to me and says, you are dead, finished. No, he says, try again. And he helps me.

He teaches me. He encourages me. And then I write again and he has patience with me.

God wants everyone to succeed. Don't want to fail. And this is the reason why when we fail, we have no reason to give up and we must not.

But here's the thing. If we start covering up things, how are you? No problem. I'm not saying tell all the dirty stories to everybody.

No, I'm not saying that. But the definition of holiness to me is honesty. When you and I fail, instead of saying that's okay, no problem, everybody's doing it and change the name sin and call it some weakness, you know, my DNA, my great-great-grandfather's are monkeys and it happened because of that and you know, whatever else, you know, and it's a cultural thing, you know, this.

And listen, once we can stop and look to the Lord and his face and see his holiness and see Jesus and say, oh, Lord, this grieves you, this hurts you. And Lord, here I am and walk in the light. And God uses these failures to change us to become more like him.

Then this, he allows, teaches about his grace, his mercy. Peter said, me, Jesus, all these fellows, they are all rats. They're all going to deny you.

By the way, that's my translation from King James, but not me. I'm not going to do that. Sure enough, three times he denied the Lord.

Then he just couldn't handle it. He had to walk away from everything. I'm going for my old business.

And then after Christ resurrection, he makes a statement. Oh, by the way, tell all my disciples and Peter, he puts that name out. Then he goes after and talks to him, Peter, what dumb, stupid things you did.

How can you do this to me? Didn't I let you walk on water? And all the revelations I gave you. Didn't ask one thing about his sin, about his failures, but what he did were even nothing. Peter, do you love me? Grace became practical and tangible in his life.

Now you read the writings of Peter. You will understand how it transformed him so completely understanding the heart of the Lord. Some of us, where we think we are strong and able, know all the answers.

God just stands back and allow us to fail so that he can show us how much we need him. Also, our failures are used by the Lord to teach us humility or brokenness. Why 40 more years the children of Israel must wait and suffer? The man was not broken.

God is always looking for a man to be a broken vessel, to be a godly husband, a father in the home. One of my favorite author is A. W. Chaucer and then, of course, watch my knee. And Chaucer said this.

He said, I doubt God can ever use a man for his glory until he has broken him thoroughly. Peter was strong. Jacob was strong.

But years it takes maybe, but God patiently waits and let us hit the bottom again and again and again. When my children were growing up, in the early days when my Danny and Sarah was five, six years old, growing up in the United States in Dallas, I used to tell my wife many, many evenings, I'm scared to death what will happen to our children in America. They would come home and tell us about two daddies, three mummies, and all these things that began to worry us to no end.

And I said to Gisela, let's go home. Let's go to India. Let's take our kids.

Forget all this stuff. Let's not lose our kids. I thank God for Gisela's stable, deep, quiet walk with God.

Publicly, she never rebukes me or say any bad things, but at home, please don't tell this to her. And one day she said, my husband, there are two things I want to tell you. Because you know, the way she talks, her accent, now get the color of German, that, that, that, and I know it's dangerous.

She said, you know, if you don't believe for our children, they'll be lost. According to your faith, they will become. So a strong statement.

Daniel and his friends were in Babylon. They were preserved. And our God is the same God today.

We must believe. Secondly, she said, no matter how many times you preach and teach and whatever you do, whatever you write, if your inner life is broken and humble, our children will follow in your footsteps. That was a little too strong.

This is when I had to learn. I grew up in a home back in India where I never ever heard my father ever saying sorry to my mother for anything he did wrong or said. Any problem in my home is always my mother had to ask forgiveness in the end, even when my father was at fault.

And I remember my son was five, five and a half, six and like that. He did something bad and he needed to be punished. And I punished him.

Very severely. When it was over, the Holy Spirit very gently said, what have you done to him? I said, what do you mean? The one who spared the rod ruins his son. But you did what you did in anger, in frustration.

You have sinned. Now I reach back in memory and see my father who never ever would say sorry to anyone. What am I going to do? My culture, my DNA.

I remember walking in the room as he lay in bed sobbing and crying. I sat beside him and said, son, I'm so sorry. I have done wrong.

Would you please forgive me? It was needed, I should to punish you, but I didn't do it in love. It was out of anger. And he got up and reached over and hugged me so tight and start sobbing.

And I cried and I prayed. Beginning of a journey of understanding in my home, I can lead my wife, my children, not by writing 200 books and being a missionary leader, but rather a broken man when I began to accept my failures. How many hundreds of times I have asked my wife to forgive me for some things in the flesh and my children and my colleagues.

Brothers and sisters, if some sisters here, let me tell you also, you can go through life 20, 30, 40, 50 years with Bible crammed in your head. Powerful orator you may be, but you will never know the heart of God that burns continually and the experience of heaven until you see yourself and say, Lord, I know I'm wrong. And I say this to you because God uses failures in our life more than anything else.

I'm convinced to bring us to the place of brokenness because only as we are broken in our self-centeredness and pride and arrogance and this plastic superficial spirituality and lying and deceiving about who we really are. God cannot change us. He can't.

He can't. And this is a choice we must make. I left my home when I was 16, hardly 17.

And I happened to be with this very large missions organization with four, five hundred young people ministering and serving God. You know, there's a saying in my native language, in a country where no one has any nose, the one with the half nose is the king. You can quote me, okay, free.

I mean, of all the young people around, it looked like I was one of the few people had the gift or natural ability or talent, whatever to speak and teach. So within a few years time, I can become a hero among the whole movement. I was in great demand to come here, go there.

I'm teaching Bible and speaking in meetings and getting invitation from England to come and speak there. As young as I was hardly 19 at the time and things were really going well. I was studying.

I mean, this is no makeup. All night I would stay awake and study Bible so I can have the best message and illustration stories and all kind of stuff. Never forget, year end conference in Ajmer, Rajasthan, northwest of India, or 400 young people, three weeks of conference, after which we'll divide into small teams and go all over the country for ministry for the next six months.

As we go to the conference place, I said to myself quietly, oh man, what I'm going to do? The whole world is going to ask for me. Based on my previous experience, the coordinator from Punjab say, we want brother KP there and the guy from Rajasthan said, I want him here and Gujarat said, I want him there. I mean, I'm just one person, where can I? I mean, quietly going around thinking, well, you know, let's see how it go.

The conference came to an end. Teams were divided, leaders were picked, teachers were chosen and the rejects, you know, the useless ones, the blind, the crippled, nobody wants, they usually leave them behind and I happened to be on the list. The teams began to move out.

The day was like eternity for me. Evening came, sun went down, the old building in the shape of dome. The senior leader said, KP, I want to talk to you.

It was night. There was not a star in the sky. He walked in front of me, I walked after him.

When outside, there was a stone and he sat on that and I sat on the other end. He didn't look at me, I could see his face. He said, you realize nobody wanted you.

You are rejected by all. Your pride, your arrogance, high-minded thinking has caused this situation. You know, I like grace.

I like for someone to put his arm around me and say, brother, you know, I love you so much and I care about you. I mean, I just want to be kind to you, you know, and then polish it, put some spices in it and, you know, put some butter in it and make it tender and soft and all those things. This fellow didn't say nothing like that.

He just spoke those words and got up and left. And I sat there just weeping buckets and I remember literally, I looked up all I could see, the dark, dark night. No angel, no Jesus, no one, no human being and I said to myself, I will never again preach.

This is what they do to me for all the service I have given, all the thousands of miles I traveled, the endless nights I studied and agonized. If this is what they will do to me, I will not preach again. I was really mad.

But, you know, the grace of God for me is this, that in His mercy and His kindness, He softened my heart, not to continue harden it like rock, that it will take 20 years before I will learn. No, within a few weeks time, I was weeping daily when I saw how wretched individual I am on the inside. That was a beginning of a journey that I'm still on.

My precious brothers, please don't overlook sin. When you're driving along, somebody cuts in. I mean, you don't want to show the wretched sign with your fingers.

Especially your wife, kids sitting, they don't want to use ugly words he used to use maybe in the past, but inside you're saying, listen, that occasion, the Lord used to bring pressure upon yourself just to show you the inside has not changed. Had you got the knowledge, would it be possible for you to turn your wife and kids in the car and say, you know what? You don't know what's going on on the inside of me. Would you please pray for daddy? Would you please pray for me? My wife pray for me.

I'm so, so million miles away from becoming like Jesus. That very admission brings grace, but we are so conditioned that we can do all kind of stupid things in the name of culture and everybody doing it and then walk through life thinking that we know God, we don't. Then I have to move on fast here.

God never works with the kind of logic we have. You know, for us, two plus two is four, right? Before I came up, the prayer our brother offered, Lord, your ways are not our ways. And I said, that's cool because I was thinking about the same thing, you know, but in God's plan, he does things in a mysterious way.

That is, he has a plan way out there for our life and then he watches us to see how we respond to failures and temptations and all those things so we can change and become more and more like the Lord so he can fulfill his plan out there. A day for God is like thousand years and I'm telling you, if only we concentrate on Jesus and his dream to change us. Many people think, oh, God is in such a big fix that he need me so bad.

Yeah, God needs us. That's not a bad statement to make, but you know what? God never made man to do a lot of work for him. He got angels by billions.

He made man in his own image to have communion with him. And the highest priority God has is not I evangelize the whole world and tell the whole upside down. No, it is that I may know him and understand him because out of that life flows life changing messages, writings, attitudes, words and everything.

Hey, I tell you something interesting. It's not a secret, but maybe it is. You know, you read lots of books and I do also, not a lot, but I read enough books.

Now tell me, you read a book and somehow it just grabs you and creeps through the skin and then grab you and then you start weeping and you kneel and pray. English words. But then you take another book.

The same words are there. The same kind of teaching is there. The same writings are there, but it doesn't touch you.

Your mind don't even work. You know what's the difference? The first book that devastated you, ruined you was written by someone who knew the ways of God, not the acts of God. The children of Israel asked for wonders and signs and acts, show us, give us.

But he showed his ways to Moses which is internal. That's the difference. And the way God does that is basically use our external circumstances and problems to change us on the inside.

Well, another thing he does all this so that we can become an encouragement to others. My life is spent, somebody asked me recently, where do you live? I said in the suitcase because that's where we have brothers and sisters serving God in 10 Asian countries, some 14, 15,000 full-time workers and 1.5 million baptized believers in the 21,000 churches overseas. And so my life is a little bit busy.

And five years ago, the Lord spoke to my heart in time of fasting and prayer. And I didn't say fasting prayer to impress you that I fast. I do fast, you fast also, for nothing else lose weight.

The Lord said to me, spend majority of your time with your leaders. So I picked about 80 some people, 70 of them are really serious, very serious people. And out of that, there are about 24 that are senior most leaders.

And I find myself spending endless hours with these people on the telephone, here, there, all kinds of things. And recently in one of our very inner circle private leaders meeting, 24 people, something interesting happened. We were just talking, sharing and our journey last two, three years of learning from the Lord to be Godly leaders.

And one leader spoke up and said, we just wanted to know what changed us and helped us the most. It is not all the best leadership books and teachings you did, although they helped, you know, and John Maxwell in all the books are all out there. Then he said, the times you shared about your struggles, your sin, your failures, your repentance, the times you broke down before us, when you thought about your failures, it helped us the most to understand we are also human beings, we can learn and grow like you.

What a blessing, what a blessing. And my precious brothers, these are a few things I wish you would keep in mind. No one is immune to failure.

If you sit here and say, well, so far I have not failed, wait, it's going to happen to you. I promise. He who thinks he stands, he will fall.

Be careful. Today, tomorrow, sometime, we will face this kind of struggles in life. To sin is fallen man's lot.

Outside of God's grace, we have no hope, but in God's grace, the best he make out of it. I heard the story about this man, Robert Robinson lived in 18th century. He became a spiritual rock.

He came to the Lord through George Whitfield's preaching. He is the one who wrote the hymn, Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loveless praise.

Sadly, the man who wrote this hymn wandered away from the streams of life and hope. He became a prodigal, journeyed into the distant country of carnality and deep sins. One day he was traveling by a stagecoach and was sitting beside a young woman, engrossed in her book.

She ran across a verse she thought was beautiful and asked him what he thought of it. The verse was, she didn't know who this guy was, prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Busting into tears, Robinson said, Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago and I will give a thousand words if I had them to enjoy the feelings I had then.

So if you are one today, gone through a few months, a year or whatever, covering up very carefully, very wisely, it's amazing to me that Judas could live with Jesus for three and a half years and none of the disciples could figure out this guy was a rascal. And Jesus loved him so much that he wouldn't disclose who he was, how clever he was. He must have been involved in casting out demons and healing the sick because Jesus sent him out also.

He had fruitful ministry. This pastor who was weeping in my room, trembling, one of the amazing statements he said, I still preach, I still teach, nothing has changed, but I am the one dying on the inside. If you are one, may I ask you, my dear, dear brother, God is not desperate for your talents, your abilities, your money and your being a missionary pastor or a husband.

Listen, just you and the Lord asking for the grace to stop. And no more let the devil blind you from seeing the glorious face of our Lord who said, I came to give beauty for ashes. Don't waste one day anymore.

Accept his forgiveness. In the Old Testament, the blood covered like a bedsheet over a dirty table. But in the New Testament, his blood cleanses us from all, all, all sins.

He remembered it, no more. Years ago, Corrie Temboo speaking in Dallas, I went to hear her. It's interesting, she made a statement, God forgives, he forgives so completely and he put a sign by the seashore, no fishing.

And you come back and say, look, I'm so sorry for that. He says, what are you talking about? I don't know what you're talking about. If only we can believe.

May I ask you to remember this Bible verse in John 17. Jesus said, Father loves you just the way he loves me. Can you fathom that? That my father in heaven loves me the way, exactly the way he loved Jesus Christ.

He will hold nothing back from us. He gave all. The enemy's purpose is to remind us constantly and hold us on entering into the glory and the grace that he has for us.

And his blood is still sufficient. And by the way, God knows our breaking point. Psalm 103 verse 14.

He knows our frame. He remembers your dust. Listen, you are not going to be destroyed by the stuff that you face.

He knows. Just keep looking to him. And finally, I want to close by saying to you, believe nothing, nothing is impossible because he is the one who began the work and who will complete it.

I like the book of Ruth. As the book come to the conclusion. You remember, you read the story of Naomi.

Her name means pleasant, joyful, happy. But now, after having wandered away from the father, paid such heavy consequence, husband dead, sons dead, old, worn out, wrinkly face, beaten, hopeless, discouraged. She limps along toward Bethlehem.

And people see her from distance. Oh, look at that, who is coming? Oh, it's Naomi. She says, quiet, don't call me that.

Call me Mara, Victor. But you read on. She became one of the most significant individuals.

In the name of the Messiah. The overcomers are not the ones who have not failed, but those who overcame by the blood of the lamb that was shed for sinners and failures. When you read the book of Psalms, you read this.

I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But God, did you change this guy's name? He's a Jacob, he's a cook, a deceiver. He's on the side of me when I fail.

He just want me to know, I'm still the God of Jacob. And may I encourage you to come to understand him. And what do you have now? The broken marriage, with the broken children, past failures, disappointments, choosing the wrong profession, being in the wrong place.

Please listen to me. You have not missed God's best. Don't let the devil lie to you and kill you.

No, sir. No, sir. The best is now coming.

If only you can believe, if only you can believe. Let us pray. Lord Jesus, I want to thank you for these, my precious, precious brothers, my co-workers, those who are your servants, called to serve you in your church.

Their wives, their children, their family members, their fellowship, their responsibilities. Lord, you know everything about us so in absolute detail. Lord, thank you.

Forgive us, Lord, for running and running and pretending. Forgetting, Lord, these struggles and failures in our lives that you allow. It is not to destroy and throw us away, but to fulfill your best plan in and through us.

Lord, would you please help us that we will not forget what we have just heard. Father, Lord, the Holy Spirit will continue to work on our hearts, that we can come to you and embrace you and be embraced by you and walk in a newness, in a new way from now on. Thank you for your blood.

Oh, Jesus, thank you for your blood. We love you, Lord. Bless your people in Jesus name.

Amen.

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