

The Sun Is Setting - Part 2

by K.P. Yohannan

The sermon emphasizes the importance of knowing God personally and living a life of surrender and obedience to His principles in order to be effective for Him.

Duration: 13:31

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Luke 10:41-42, John 1:4, John 13:35

Topics: "Fellowship"

Description

In this sermon, K.P. Johanan discusses the importance of knowing and trusting God in our lives. He emphasizes that our journey with the Lord is not about self-centered greed or worldly achievements, but about understanding the ways of God. Johanan encourages listeners to prioritize their relationship with God, especially in these last days before Jesus' return. He also highlights the need for Bible teaching and the challenges faced by young people in staying connected to the church.

Transcript

If you knew you had just a few days to live, no doubt you'd want to do what matters most to you. Many Christian leaders would agree that these are the last of the last days. Jesus is coming soon, and with that in mind, there's someone you need to get to know.

Dr. K.P. Ohanan, the founder and director of Gospel for Asia, believes wholeheartedly that getting to know the Lord is the most important thing we can do in these few precious days we have left. That's the emphasis of his message today on the road to reality called The Sun is Setting. We somehow need to come to the place, recognize that God is looking for a mighty minority.

You know that. You and I preach about Gideon's story to Noah and, you know, Paul and all that, and that's the reason why we need to learn the greatest need, as Jesus said, one thing you lack, to Martha, he said. That is, translating in simple language, to know me.

So, with the tremendous challenges we face, the recent study shows that 82% of the young people that grow up in evangelical, Bible teaching, preaching churches, they leave the church when they leave home. Forty percent or so will stumble their way back to some church in 20 years' time. I ask you the question, is it because we lack Bible teaching? Is it because we don't have enough music? Is it because we don't have enough books in the libraries? I think we have to understand, maybe, one of the crises we face is we work for God, but we may not know him, for him to live his life through us.

And when the Lord spoke to me in that statement, it was not a warning or guilt trip or condemning me or anything like that. It was, you know, my heart was like a desperate, thirsty man. I just wanted to know him.

And it made me to change my reading habits. It made me to say no to so many wonderful things I was involved with in the work of God. It made me to say no to a lot of friends.

They're not evil, bad people. It made me a lot more alone and lonely. But I found him so precious.

The only regret I have, I wish I heard him say that to me when I was 30. And I think when you look at the church, which I've been giving a huge amount of my time reading about the early church and, you know, the Desert Fathers and people that went before us, and then reading the scripture, the book of Acts again and again and again to see how 30 years these people lived. And I say, Lord, please help me understand more than words.

And the amazing thing is, like you read in Acts 17, looking at these people, those who watched them said, here comes trouble. These world revolutionaries have come here also. Yet we know these people, followers of Christ, they were not the most brilliant, rich, affluent, scholarly people.

As a matter of fact, you know, the verdict they said, I mean, where on earth did they get this kind of ability to say the kind of thing they're saying? They have not been schooled. But then there is a sentence that continues, and they recognized they were with Jesus. The followers of Christ, the church that we read in the scripture, they had this unbelievable oneness and link with the living Christ.

It was not they're rich and famous and affluent and, you know, scholarly as such, but the life of Christ was so real, manifesting through the earth and vessels. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. Light dispels darkness.

You don't have to, I mean, turn the lights off, it'll be completely dark. You turn one switch on, you don't have to say, I curse you darkness, get out of here. You just don't have to do that.

It just automatically dispels darkness. But what is that? It is not self-created, our ability and money and power and convincing philosophies and man's wisdom. It is his life becomes, through this earth and vessel, our very presence.

And I just want to quickly say this to you. Please, please, if your journey with the Lord is not where you think in your head, where it is not, don't condemn yourself, don't feel bad about it. It's like climbing a mountain.

You know, you go a hundred meters, and then you look down, people are climbing there. And then you climb a thousand meters, and you look down, and people are coming. Then you look up, you have a long way to go.

So what I'm saying, wherever you may be, I want you to know, the invitation is this, come up higher and know me. And that is possible. And so what was Christ's life and his life about? How can I be like Jesus? He said, be like me.

But he's God, and I'm a fragile, frail human being. But I think this is where, in my personal journey with the Lord, of all the people in the New Testament, next to Christ, the one that impacted me the most is the life of Paul. And as I read his life and study, I'm constantly amazed by the earthiness, the humanness.

If you don't believe me, please read 2 Corinthians. I read that once in every six months to stay normal in my head. I mean, he said one time, I almost had a mental breakdown.

We almost lost our mind. And he talked about the struggle, and the pain, and the agony, the sickness, and abandonment, and being misunderstood, and on and on, and like that. I mean, it's amazing how he continued.

But you will find what he wrote in Philippians is true. The life that is victorious and triumphant. See, the theory of chaos is true.

Aftershock book, the second book, if you read, I'm telling you, we have become victims of everything around us. We are not able to control anything. But someone who knows him, no matter what changes surround us, nothing shakes us.

Why? Because the sovereign, dear God, is no more a theology or theory, but rather he is in us, and we know that. And when I look at the life of Paul, you know, it encourages me a lot. Why? Because he says, I'm just a normal human being like you, and I start from zero, nothing good in me.

But he's the same person when these boys try to cast out demons, you know, remember that book of Acts? And the demon said, we know Paul, and we know Christ he's talking about, but we don't know who you are. Demons trembled at his presence, and recognized, and heaven knew Paul. Yet Paul was far from being a superstar Hollywood actor type of person.

The tradition says he was four feet six inches tall, and bald, and hooked nose, and bald legs. And he talks about people that accused him, believers said, yeah, he can't talk right. His speech was contemptible.

There was nothing impressive about him as a human being as such, although he had a brilliant mind. And what was it that caused Paul, helped Paul to have such a life? That he will, from the day he met Christ, some three years he spent alone, obviously listening. But then his life come to an end after decades of non-stop moving and serving.

And you read his writings, you can't help but find a man who lived with perpetual paradox. On one hand, he's like a bleeding animal, just trailing, just continually moving. You can't stone him and leave him dead, no, he'll get up and do it again.

And yet you find within this complicated world of his, a man who is absolutely like a rock, sober. Everybody around him screaming, Paul, this is unfair, you are sitting in prison, please, we are so sad. He says, don't worry about it.

In the book of Philippians he writes, you know, all this happened, you must know, for the furtherance of the gospel. His life was so lost in Christ that nothing happened around him became the reason for him to make changes continually and be a defeated individual. And what did Paul do? I mean, he talked about great glory or Billy Graham or, you know, huge names, people doing all kinds of things.

I mean, how many miles Paul traveled in his entire life? He can figure this out. How many congregations he started? But he sat in those prisons and wrote some letters that you and I still talk about. And in my journey to understand the ways of God, one of the things that I learned, the fundamental principle about effectiveness for God.

Now, looking at the story of Caleb, and I don't know how to teach about it because I'm sure you heard about it or you'll hear more about it. You know this, Joshua and Caleb, two people made it. What happened to the rest? Some 600,000? Is God unfair? I mean, you're talking about brilliant leaders with Joshua and Caleb went out to spite of the land.

Numbers 13, 14, you read that. And here's one individual says, don't worry about it. Let's go and do it.

Was it based on self-centered greed to get a big name established and property and land and do some great things? No, you read, you'll find out it had to do with this knowledge and trust, understanding the ways of God. In Philippians 3, the Apostle Paul summed up his life with these words, I want to know Christ. Today on the road to reality, KP Yohannan encouraged us to share the same approach to life.

The sun is setting, the days are few. And so let's be engaged in what truly matters. Before we leave you, we'd like to tell you about an excellent resource by KP called that they all may be one.

In this easy to read booklet, KP shares past struggles and offers real time examples of how to maintain unity. Jesus prayed that his church would be one and this will serve to help us in that direction. You can order that online at [road to reality.org](http://roadtoreality.org) that's [road to reality.org](http://roadtoreality.org). And please remember us in your prayers.

And as the Lord leads, we would appreciate your support as we continue to help people seek a deeper walk with Christ and reach out to the lost world. Let me also give you our toll free number. 1-866-WIN-ASIA.

That's 1-866-WIN-ASIA. KP Yohannan has been crisscrossing the globe for the last 40 years, challenging the body of Christ discipleship and encouraging listeners to reach the unreached with the love of Christ. This has been the road to reality.

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