

# Few Find the Way to Life

by Zac Poonen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of striving to enter through the narrow door of salvation, and warns against the dangers of pride, haughtiness, and prioritizing what is earthly over what is spiritual.*

**Duration:** 57:22

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 24:35, Mark 8:38, Hebrews 12:14, Revelation 3:5, Revelation 7:14, Revelation 14:1

**Topics:** "Narrow Way"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of striving and putting total attention into following the words of Jesus. He criticizes the current state of preaching, stating that many preachers do not emphasize the need to strive for salvation. The preacher highlights the significance of our daily decisions, comparing them to sowing seeds in a vineyard. He warns against making careless decisions like Esau, who traded his birthright for a single meal. The sermon encourages listeners to be mindful of their choices and to seek fellowship with humble believers.

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## Transcript

We are living in a day of what is known as mega-churches and I don't think Protestant Christianity has seen the type of numbers that there are in churches nowadays. I mean there are huge Roman Catholic churches in many places, but in many, many countries we have many thousands. There are churches with twenty, thirty thousand people and churches with even more than that, some I think a hundred thousand.

And of course everybody would be proud of the fact that they are part of a large church. The question that comes to me in all this is, of course we rejoice, God wants all men to be saved. And if there are nearly seven thousand million people in the world, God wants every one of them to be saved.

It says that in 1 Timothy 2. And it says in 2 Peter 3 that God wants every one of them to repent also. So there is not a single person whom God does not want to repent or to be saved. The question is, in all these churches nowadays, were all the people sitting there really saved or not? Was it God's will that there should be these huge churches which just listen to one pastor and where people don't know one another, don't build fellowship with one another in the local church? I don't think so.

One of the goal of God was ultimately to build fellowship between people, to make two people into one, to make opposite people into one. In Luke chapter 13, someone asked Jesus this question, Lord are there just a few who are being saved? Are there only a few who will be saved? He said to them, strive to enter

through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

He didn't answer that question directly. Question is Lord, are there only a few who are going to be saved? What was his answer? Strive to enter. Don't worry whether other people are saved or not.

Don't worry about how many people are saved or not. You make sure that you have entered through the narrow door. And is it something you can walk through? No.

He said here you got to strive. And in the Message Bible it says it requires your total attention. It requires your total attention.

You got to put your mind to it. Set your mind to it. Strive.

And then that's one thing. I don't think a lot of people are being told to strive. Have you ever heard an evangelist preach a gospel saying strive to enter in through the narrow gate so that you can be saved? I've never heard one like that in my life.

And I've lived a long time listening to preachers. I want to tell you something honestly brothers and sisters. We're living in a time when the words of Jesus are not preached.

And he said that heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away. And people have taken just some words of Jesus here and there and made that the gospel. When we proclaim the whole counsel of God, the whole purpose of God, if someone says to me, are there only few who are going to be saved? I've got to give him the same answer that Jesus gave.

Brother, let me urge you, strive to enter through the narrow door. And the second thing I will tell him is, there are many who will seek to enter and will not be able. How about that? Now we thought that anybody who wants to enter, he can enter.

But he said, there will be many who will seek to enter and will not be able to enter. There could be various reasons for that. You know the rich young ruler, he wanted to enter.

He wanted to enter through the narrow door but he couldn't enter because his money made him so big. Now if he had got rid of his money, he could have gone through quite easily. Now Jesus told him to get rid of it because he loved it so much.

He didn't tell everybody to get rid of all their money. Zacchaeus gave up only half his money to the poor. And Mary and Martha, as far as we know, probably gave up nothing.

You know it's like cancer. Some cases, the doctor says, yeah, I can just go in and it's very early stage, just take out a little bit and you'll be okay. And some other people, the cancer has spread so much, the doctor says, I've got to take out the whole organ.

I've heard of people who's got cancer in the stomach and 80% of the stomach is cut out. It's the only way they live. Sometimes the whole organ is taken out because the whole thing is spread and some other people it's just a little bit and they're cured.

So in the rich young ruler's case, the cancer or the love of money had spread so much that the whole thing had to be removed. But he wasn't willing. So what happens when a person's cancer has spread so much and the doctor says the whole thing has to be removed and he says, no, I don't want it.

Well, then keep it and you die. That's what exactly what happened to the rich young ruler because Jesus gave him the same invitation that he gave to Peter. Come, follow me.

He could have been an apostle, but he had to go through the narrow door and just think, if I don't know where he is today, if he never repented, then of course he's in hell. But if he repented towards the end of his life, maybe he did get to heaven after living a wasted life on earth. But wherever he is, go and ask him.

I mean if you were to make that choice again, what would you do? He'd say, oh, now that I see from eternity's standpoint, I have no doubt as to what choice I would have made that day, but it's too late now. Brothers and sisters, we are going to review the decisions we made in our life one day. All the little, little decisions that we made.

You know, we're making decisions. Decisions about money, decisions about our attitude to sin. We decide what type of books to read, we decide what type of programs to watch on TV, we decide what type of sites to go to on the internet.

It's all decisions. And we've got to remember that a decision is like sowing a seed. Your mind and your heart is like a vineyard, and every day you're sowing some seeds.

And those seeds may be good or bad. And you know how it is when you sow seeds. Some seeds, you plant a mango tree, you won't get anything for a whole year.

Coconuts, some years, you get nothing. But then it keeps on producing. So, it doesn't, I mean, it's too late to change the type of tree after it started growing up.

It's just going to produce what you sowed. So, years later, you're going to be reaping exactly the result of all these little seeds that you've been sowing in your younger days. You remember, you know, in the Gospel, in Hebrews 12, in verse 15, it says, take heed.

Take heed that there's no one among you like Esau. Hebrews 12, let's turn to that verse for a moment. Hebrews 12.

Now, Hebrews is very obviously written to believers. Can you believe it, that I was in a city in the Gulf, where some brethren people, Plymouth brethren people there, were disturbed that I was preaching that your name can be erased from the Book of Life. I mean, it's written in Revelation chapter 3, but I don't know why they don't believe it.

So, they wanted to have a discussion with me, and they invited me to their home. And one of those elders, there were two or three of them sitting there, asked me, do you believe that you can be saved and then you can be lost? So, I said, I'm not going to say those in my words. I will read you scripture.

That's all. I won't add anything to scripture. I'll read the scripture and stop.

And you tell me what it means. I mean, that's the best way, so that your argument is not with me, but with God's Word. I want to give you that little bit of advice when people question you about something.

Just give them a scripture, so that, move out of the way and let them fight with God, not with you. So, I said, I want to show you from Hebrews some verses. And immediately he said, this is a brethren elder.

He said, Hebrews is not for us Christians. Boy, I got a shock. I never heard such a thing in my life.

I mean, if some godless unbeliever said it, I can understand. That's the first time in my life. I said, who is it for then? Hebrews, for the Hebrews.

Oh, I'm not a Hebrew. Well, I suppose I'm not a Colossian either. I'm not a Philippian.

I'm not from Thessalonica. I'm not a Roman. That's hardly anything left in the Bible for me.

I was absolutely surprised. I mean, you wouldn't believe it. I mean, if I had heard that story from somebody else, I would have thought, yeah, maybe he didn't hear it right.

But I've got very sharp hearing. And he was sitting right there. I said, why don't you cut it out of the New Testament? Why do you keep it? He said, it was for the Jews.

Anyway, but you know what the Bible says in Hebrews 3.1, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus the apostle and the high priest of our confession. That's no Jew. No Jew accepts Jesus as his high priest.

You know that. Holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling. Who's that? The Jews had an earthly calling.

It's so clear. But if you want to be blind to it, you'll be blind. Now, the reason why so many people can go around fooling many believers today is because many, many believers today don't know the Bible.

How many of you sitting here seriously go through the Bible? I'll tell you honestly, I think a lot of people in CFC do not seriously go through the Bible. There's a CD of mine called Through the Bible in 70 hours, which was produced six and a half years ago. And CFC people were the first people to know about it.

Do you know that my guess is 90% of people here have never listened to it. I've heard in different countries, people say, Brother Zach, I've gone through it twice. In many countries in the world, they have valued God's Word.

But we have got so much of it. We say, we know. We're specialists.

You know, that's why we find, I'll tell you honestly, we are now finding brothers and sisters from other churches who are much more spiritual than brothers and sisters in CFC. How did that happen? How can you have such good doctrine and not become more spiritual than some of these other people? It astounds me. I've actually seen such people.

And it really amazes me. And I believe the reason is, there's a certain amount of haughtiness and pride that has come into people in CFC. Because we think we're better.

We think we know more. There are many ways in which we can be proud. It could be because we have Bible knowledge, or we are associated with a church which has got a good name, or something like that.

You know, like the Jews said, we've got Abraham for our father. John the Baptist said, that doesn't mean anything if Abraham is your father. In the same way, we belong to CFC, we can say.

It's just like saying, we've got Abraham for our father. So what? It doesn't mean anything. John the Baptist said, the stones can be better than you.

So, we've got to be very careful. God gives his grace to the humble. And I'll tell you, there are many marks of humility.

Essentially, humility is before God. But if you have low thoughts about yourself, one mark of humility will be that you seek fellowship with lowly people. CFC has got some highly educated people, and thankfully CFC has got some lowly people who are not so educated, not so cultured.

And if you're a humble person, you will seek fellowship with them. I asked, I found out rather, from one of the poorest sisters in our church. I said, do some of these educated sisters speak to you? She said, no, they haven't spoken to me for two years.

Can you imagine? Now, if that sister was a highly educated sister, all of you would have spoken to her. You ask yourself, whether you have spoken to some of these lowly brothers and sisters in this church. When was the last time you just spoke to them? Even on a Sunday, it could be years.

Do you realize how haughty you are? You know, you may think you have grace. You don't have it. I'll tell you the truth.

Some of you young brothers, you came from very poor families, but you seek for fellowship only with the rich and the educated. You may be very zealous, but I can see there's not much grace upon your life. You may be doing well in your profession, get good jobs and all that.

It counts for garbage in God's eyes. I would exhort you to be lowly minded. I have been tremendously enriched in my life.

I'm as educated as most of you, but I've been so tremendously enriched in my life by fellowship with very, very lowly people who are not so educated, who are not so cultured, who are not so capable. I'll tell you honestly, my salvation is when I go down to the villages of Tamil Nadu and escape the sophistication of Bangalore. It brings me down to earth.

It helps me to fellowship with people who are not sophisticated and highly educated and talk at high levels and talk about this thing and that thing, the latest thing. They don't know about all the things you can talk about, and they talk about the Lord, and it blesses my heart. And that's preserved me through 32 years that I've received the grace of God.

I'll tell you honestly, I fear for a number of you, because I don't feel you have that spirit. So be careful. That's all I can say.

I say to you as a father. It says in Hebrews chapter 12, and verse 16, see that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. He made a decision in his life as a young man.

I want this. I don't care for the birthright. That's in the future.

When is it going to come? I don't know. Many years. And in any case, the birthright is a sort of invisible thing.

This bowl of soup is what I need right now. Satisfaction for my body. That's what I need right now.

The birthright was something spiritual, you know, because God had said to Abraham that through your seed I will bless the whole world. So in some way, I don't know how much Abraham knew, but Jesus once said in John chapter 8, Abraham saw my day and was glad. He said that in John 8, which means that Abraham had some understanding that Christ was going to come.

And he may have passed that on to Isaac, who must have told his two sons Esau and Jacob, you know, for this world of sin, this Messiah going to come one day. And Esau, you're the lucky one, because you got the birthright. And Esau said, who cares for that? Something in the future.

I want to take care of my life. He sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. And it says afterwards, when he realized what it was, I mean, it was also an earthly blessing, he desired to inherit the blessing.

He was rejected. There was a time later on when he wanted that badly and he wept. Couldn't get it.

He found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears. I want you to see that expression. He found no place for repentance, even though he sought for it with tears.

I mean, that's written, as I said, to holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling. And I want to take that seriously. Is it possible that if I don't repent today, one day I may want to repent and I can't, even though I weep? Many Christians feel, well, I can repent any time I want.

Well, it's not true, because this is a warning to holy brethren, that the time may come when you won't find a place for repentance if you take certain decisions today, where you despise what is spiritual. Why did I speak about educated people and not educated people? When you value an educated brother, you are valuing something of the world more than spirituality. And you are in a sense rejecting the birthright and choosing a bowl of soup.

A bowl of soup is good. It's very valuable on the earth. Education is very valuable on the earth.

It has no value in God's kingdom. I've found simple brothers in Tamil Nadu who speak anointed words. I mean, some of them who can't speak one word of English, but boy, when they get up to speak, I'm blessed.

How is it that they can speak such words which highly educated people sitting here can't speak? It's grace. It's not education. It's grace.

You've got to be lowly minded. God doesn't care for education. I mean, he can use an educated person like Paul.

I think Paul was the type of fellow who would come first in every class and top of his college, and God used him. And he uses a chap like Peter, who was always in the lower 10% of the class. Always, I think.

It didn't make a difference. Paul and Peter equally anointed, equally used by God, because there were spiritual values. So, when we devalue something earthly and seek fellowship with people who have something earthly, or we want to be known as people who are associated with high society.

I've noticed that in different places. People who come from lower levels of society, they like to be associated with higher society people because it shows that we're sort of upper class. Because they feel very inferior.

In the back of their mind, they say, I come from a very lower level and I'm a bit inferior, so I don't want to show that I'm higher level. That shows that such people don't know the Lord. Don't really know the Lord.

I mean, they've gone through some ritual, but... And there are people like that in our midst. I see that. I like to go to the poorest brothers and sisters and ask them, do people talk to you? Do people in this church talk to you? Some people have been here 20-30 years.

Do they speak to you? No? Well, it gives me a pretty good understanding of the spirituality of all those people who appear so zealous. You know, we've got to change our whole attitude of mind. Now you see, next Sunday you can go and start talking to them.

It doesn't change your attitude of mind. You're just going through a ritual because you heard something today. It doesn't mean a thing.

It's a whole attitude of mind that has to change. And that won't change just by you going and speaking to somebody. I'm telling you, you're a loser.

You're losing a lot and you probably discover it only in eternity. I don't want to discover in eternity that I've lost anything that God wanted me to have on this earth. You know, we're so careful with money.

If we discover that we misplaced something or gave a 500 rupee note away thinking it was a 100 rupee note, I think you think about that a long time. You say, boy, these notes look so alike and I made a mistake and I lost such a lot of money. That is nothing compared to the loss we have when we don't value what is spiritual above what is earthly.

See, we're making decisions. And in those decisions, we are saying what I want. Lord, this is what I want.

Jesus said, strive to enter in. Afterwards, Esau said, oh, I want it. It's just too late.

That's what Jesus said in Luke 13 too. If you turn back to what we read earlier, someone said to him in verse 23, Lord, are there just a few who are going to be saved? He said to them, strive to enter in. Strive to enter through the narrow door.

For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door saying, hey, Lord, open up to us. He'll answer, I don't know where you're from.

Then you'll begin to say we ate and drank in your presence. Lord, don't you remember we were there for every breaking of bread meeting? We ate and drank with you. We drank the cup.

We ate the bread. And we even stayed back for the lunch we used to have once a month. And you taught in our church.

Oh, we heard such anointed messages. And he'd say, yeah, it's all true. But I tell you, I don't know where you're from.

Depart from me. And in that place, there'll be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves being thrown out. See, those people who heard it never thought that they're going to be thrown out.

And some of you feel, well, I'll never get thrown out. I hope so. But don't be so cocksure.

If you are humble of mind, I can guarantee you'll enter in. It all depends on your thoughts about yourself. What do you think about yourself in relation to other people in this church and in other churches? If you have low thoughts about yourself, you go in.

If you have high thoughts about yourself, you get stuck in the narrow game. So Jesus said, you know, there are going to be people coming from the east and the west and north and south and sit at the table of the kingdom of God and some who are lost, who you think are lost today. When you think of some names in the telephone list, ah, who is there? Nobody cares for them.

Lost. You may get a surprise. You may find them to be first.

And some who are first will be lost. Not all. It doesn't say all who are lost will be first and all who are first will be lost.

No. But some who are lost will be first. Some who are first will be last.

Some who were considered, you know, some of the senior brothers and some of the fine young brothers and sisters of CFC, they may not even be there. What is the great gulf? You know, Abraham told the rich man in hell, he didn't have a clue. The biggest surprise of the life he got was as soon as he died.

So he said, hey, where am I? Who are these fellows around me? Why is it so hot? He got a surprise. And Abraham said, he wanted to get out of there. Everybody who is in hell wants to get out.

And if he can't get out himself, he says, oh Abraham, please at least go and tell my brothers. They also think they're going to heaven. They don't have a clue.

Please go and tell them to repent of all their pride and their arrogance. So Abraham said, son, remember you had so many good things in your life. And there's a great gulf between you and me.

I can't cross it and come there and you can't cross it and come here. You know what that great gulf is? It's pride that takes people to hell. It's humility that takes people into God's kingdom.

There's a verse in Zephaniah chapter 2, I think, it says, pursue humility, seek for more humility. You've often heard me say the three secrets of the Christian life, number one, humility, number two, humility, number three, humility. Those are the three secrets of the Christian life.

And you can make out when you speak to people whether they've got a humble spirit. Everybody can talk humble. But a humble spirit you cannot acquire unless you walk close to Jesus, who was the humblest man that walked on the earth.

There's only one way to be really humble. I'll tell you that. It's not by listening to messages on humility.

You can hear something right now and say, I want to be humble. You won't be humble. You've got to walk with the humblest man that walked on this earth and that's Jesus.

And that's the great gulf. It's a very big gulf. You can't cross it.

Once you're dead and gone, it's over. I want to make sure that I'm always on the right side of that gulf and that the right side is the side of humility and brokenness. And for myself, I've discovered through many

years, there's only one way to be humble and that is to walk with the humblest man that walked on this earth.

And isn't it a great privilege to be able to walk with him every day? I fear that many of us are not walking with him because you cannot hide your spirit. You can act humble, but you can't hide your spirit, brother or sister. And I believe there are a lot of proud people in CFC, a lot of them, not one or two.

Now I have to tell you, I don't know which side of the gulf you'll be on the last day. You can't say, we have Abraham for our father. Lord, we ate and drank in your presence and you taught in our church.

It counts for nothing. There is a great gulf. Walk in humility.

Walk in low thoughts about yourself. Consider others as more important than yourself. There's a command of the Bible.

Let this attitude be in you, which was in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2 verse 3 to 5. Consider others as more important than yourself. You live like that every day.

I guarantee you'll be on the right side of the gulf in that day. But you get taken up with what God has done for you and how he has blessed you and how he's blessed your family and all that. There may have been a time when you were on the right side of the gulf, but you're on the wrong side today.

And if you're going in that direction, I would say you're in great danger. It's happened to other people who are better than you, who were here in CFC once. They were humble brothers.

It went to their heads and everything went well in their home. And they've fallen away. So we should take a warning from what's happening like that around us.

I heard a preacher once say that in Job's time, the devil said to God, Job follows you because you have blessed him so much. You've given him ten wonderful children and you've given him houses and lands and business and good health and everything and a lot of money. He's one of the richest people in the world.

Naturally he'll follow you. Take it all away and then let me see whether he'll follow you. And the preacher said, now it is different.

Now the devil says to God, these fellows are following you because they're so poor and they're so helpless and they don't have much and they're struggling, struggling, struggling. Just give them money and make it go well with them financially. Make it go well for their children financially.

Then let's see whether they are still spiritual or not. Do you think there's some truth in that? That the devil has changed his tactics? Because he knows in each generation how to ruin people. Honour God and he'll honour you.

In every little thing, honour him, honour him and he'll honour you. Walk in humility. Take those right decisions in life.

Yeah, that's very important. And he was speaking mainly here to the Pharisees who thought that if anybody would get into God's kingdom, I will. I want you to turn to Revelation in chapter 14.

You know this is a passage which certain groups say we are these people. The Jehovah's Witnesses say we are the 144,000 and I think some other extreme Pentecostal groups also say we are the 144,000. The book of Revelation is a book of symbols.

We must never forget that when we read the book. When it says a sword came out of the mouth of Jesus in Revelation chapter 1, it's not a literal sword. I hope you know that.

It refers to the word of God. When it says his legs were made of bronze, you know that Jesus' legs are made of flesh, not bronze. It's a picture and I mean that's right there in the very beginning of scripture.

Sorry, in Revelation it says the things which he sent and communicated by his angel to and in one translation it says it was signifying. That means with signs, Revelation 1. It was signified, it was with signs that God spoke to John. Now in Revelation 14, so when it says 144,000, that's just a way of saying that it's a very small number.

144,000 is a very small number compared to an earlier passage in chapter 7 where it says, Revelation 7, we read of verse 9, after these things I saw great multitude which no one could count. See 144,000 can be counted, but here is a great multitude which no one could count from every nation and tribe and people and language standing before the throne and before the lamb and they cry out with a loud voice saying salvation to our God. That means our salvation is entirely due to our God who sits on the throne and to the lamb and they fell on their face before the throne and worshipped and the elders explained to John in verse 14, these are the ones who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.

This reason they are before the throne of God, verse 15. So who are this great multitude from every tribe, tongue and nation. I believe there'll be millions of Indians in that crowd, millions of Africans, you know why? Because there are more babies that die in India and Africa than in almost any other country in the world and all those babies as soon as they die they go to heaven.

There are millions of abortions in these countries and all those aborted babies, whoever they are, Hindu, Muslim, Atheist, Christian, it's a baby. How does it go to heaven? Because the righteousness of Christ is put to its account. Can you put a million rupees into the account of a one day old baby? Yes or no? Okay, you go to a bank and ask them, they'll tell you yes, you can.

You can open an account in the name of a baby and put a million rupees there. It didn't earn one bit of it, but it's in its name. And it's like that the righteousness of Christ is put to the account of these babies because they haven't consciously done any sin, they've not had the opportunity to accept Christ.

And that itself will be a fantastic number that we cannot count. Think of all the babies that have been aborted and killed and you know the devils behind all abortions, but God's going to turn it for good because all of them are going to go to populate heaven. And so many, this infant mortality rate is very high in poorer countries and that's why I believe there's going to be a lot more people from the poorer countries in heaven than from all the rich countries.

From every tribe and tongue and nation, there's not one tribe or tongue or nation on the face of the earth, even in the jungles. The babies that die in the jungles of those barbarians are going to God's kingdom. It's such a great multitude that you can't even count that number and they're all clenched in the blood of the lamb and they're clothed in white garments.

It's the righteousness of Christ and they stand before. Now that's a number which cannot be numbered. Then you come to chapter 14, compared to these billions and billions and billions and billions, you find 144,000.

That's nothing. I mean even compared to the population of Bangalore which is about 8.5 million, 144,000 is nothing. It's nothing.

This is about 1 or 2% of the population of Bangalore. It's a very small number. What is 1%? It's even much smaller compared to the population of the world right now.

And compared to the population from the time of Adam, all the people who lived in the world, 144,000 is a tiny bit of sand. It's a very small number. So that's what he's emphasizing here.

Not a fixed number of 144,000. It's compared, contrasted with chapter 7. And he says here, these people are different from the people there in chapter 7. What did the people in chapter 7 say? Oh Lord, our salvation is due to you. We did nothing.

We're cleansed in the blood of the lamb. That's good. We all need to start there.

But here, about these people, it doesn't say these 144,000 had their sins cleansed in the blood of the lamb. It says a lot more. Just read.

They have the Lord Jesus' name and the Father's name on their foreheads, which teaches me one thing, that they were not ashamed, wherever they are, to be known as disciples of Jesus. Have you seen some Hindus who got marks on their forehead? They're not ashamed. They are boldly proclaiming, wherever they go.

They go to work like that. Hindu ladies who have a red mark, they boldly say everywhere, I am a Hindu. I have worshipped my God today and here is ash I have put on my forehead.

I've seen Muslims even in trains. I was traveling in the Brindavan once and I saw a Muslim man asking his children to get up from the seat and I was wondering what he was going to do. He spread his little mat on that seat and bowed down towards Mecca and he was praying.

I said, boy, it's Christians who are ashamed. It's the ones who believe, who say they believe in the true God, who are ashamed to acknowledge, I'm a disciple of Jesus. I may not get my promotion.

There are Christians who are happy that their names don't sound like Christian names. Thank God, my boss doesn't know whether I'm a Christian or not, so he won't stop my promotion. Are you like that? Are you bold, wherever you are, to be known? I'm not saying we go around advertising, but are you ashamed of one who is not ashamed to die for you on the cross? They have this name on their forehead.

In another place, it says the Antichrist offers you the option, that's in chapter 13, of having the name on your hand. It's chapter 13, verse 17, just a couple of verses earlier. You can have his mark either on your forehead or, verse 16, you can have the mark either on your right hand or on your forehead.

There's an option. The devil says, you can be a public disciple of mine or a secret disciple of mine. You know, you have the mark in your hand and nobody can see it.

The point is, the devil says, you can be a secret disciple of mine or a public disciple of mine. That's up to you. You know, you can publicly be an atheist or publicly do a lot of wrong things and publicly worship the devil in various ways.

Or you can be a secret disciple of Jesus, of the devil. That means, in your office or at home, you do things which are ungodly. But then you come to the church, your hands are closed and nobody knows the wrong things you have done.

Maybe you have done wrong things with your hand, which pleases the devil and not God. And then you come here and you sit here and sing the songs. The mark is on your hand.

Nobody can see it. The devil gives you that option. You're not like those other people who have the mark of the devil on their forehead.

You're not an open follower of the devil, a secret one. Use your hand to sign a false statement, to make some money. Nobody knows it.

The mark is on the hand. Do something wrong. But when it comes three verses down, it says, the followers of Jesus, they don't have that option.

Jesus doesn't say, you can have my hand, you can be a secret disciple of mine. No, you got to have it only on the forehead. That's it.

Open. So, this is different from those other people. And it also says about them, that they sang a new song, verse 3, which no one could learn, except these people.

Now, why was it such a difficult tune? Were these great musicians that only they could learn the song? I found some wonderful children of God who can't sing one line of our songs straight. Not one line. I mean, you ask them to lead a song, any song in the world, they'll be wrong in the first line itself.

You mean there's no hope for such people in God's kingdom? It's got nothing to do with musical ability. It's the song of the Lamb, which they learned. Do you know what the song of the Lamb is? Worthy art thou, O Lord.

I don't deserve anything. I'm nothing. I'm nobody, Lord.

It's a song. It's a song that we sing without our lips, in our heart. It's a heart attitude.

You know, it says about singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. You read that verse in Ephesians 5? You don't even open your mouth and you're singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. It's that type of song, where in your heart you're saying to God, O Lord, thou alone art worthy.

I'm not worthy of anything. I'm just a nobody. I was a nobody when I was first converted.

I know I've been in this church many years, but I'm a nobody today. They sing that song all the time. They're singing it in secret to the Lord.

There are others who don't know that song. They sang it once when they first came to the church. When nobody knew them, they used to sing, Oh, I'm a nobody here.

I'm so thankful I'm here in CFC. But after some time, they don't sing that anymore. Their song is, Well, I thank you, Lord, that I'm also a somebody today.

It's another song. They've forgotten the old song. But these people learned this song and went through with that song right through their life.

You're a blessed person. If you can sing that song till the last day of your life on earth, Lord, thou art worthy. Thou alone art worthy.

I'm a nobody. I was a nobody. I'm a nobody.

I'll give you a little homework that you should do now and then. I do it often. It really excites me when I do it.

I sometimes picture in my mind, you know, as I've often said, we have used our imagination for all types of filthy things in the past. Why not use our imagination now for some good things? And here's one of the good things you can use your imagination for. Just picture that the Lord has come and you are now standing in heaven.

And boy, what a crowd that is. That's really a mega church. Millions and millions and millions of people and you're sort of nobody.

Nobody knows you. I mean, here in this church, at least somebody knows your name. But boy, can you imagine getting into that crowd? Nobody even knows who you are.

And you're just standing there. Oh, you don't know a guy here, don't know a guy there. And you're standing here, nobody.

And you're absolutely thrilled that nobody knows you. You're really a nobody. And you say, Lord Jesus, thou alone art worthy.

I am excited when I use my imagination to think like that. Say, Lord, that's the thing I long for. Here, a lot of people know my name.

But I'm looking forward to that day when I'll be lost in that crowd. And even if you search me, search for me, you may take many, many hours or days to find me. It'll be such a huge crowd.

Oh, just to be lost there and to be taken up with Jesus. It's a good exercise. That's how they are.

They learn that song. And these are the ones who've not been defiled with women. That doesn't mean they were unmarried.

Remember, it's all sign language. And who are the women in Revelation? Babylon, the great harlot, and her daughters. That means those who have the spirit of a harlot, not the spirit of the bride of Jesus Christ.

The harlot is the one who claims to be engaged to Christ, but is fooling around with the world. No, these people didn't defile themselves with Babylon, the mother or with the daughters. They have kept themselves pure.

And here's the wonderful thing. These are the ones who follow Jesus wherever he goes. Say, Lord, I don't want to go to a single place without you.

I don't want to sit and watch a single television program without you sitting there and saying, you also enjoy it. I don't want to do anything in my life without you. I don't want to, you know, go anywhere.

Or if I speak to my wife, I want to know that you're there. I want you to listen to every word I'm saying to my wife. I want you to hear it.

I want you to be happy with the way I'm speaking to my wife. I want you to be happy with the way I'm speaking to my husband. I want you to be happy with my attitude towards the poor people in your church.

Lord Jesus, I want you to be with me all the time. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. And the Bible says here, describes these people as people who've been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

And here's another characteristic about these people. They did not tell lies. Boy, that's really a miracle.

I wonder if there's even 144,000. Some people say 144,000, small number. Are there 144,000 people who never told lies? I mean, not never, who don't tell lies.

You know, there's a verse which says, Psalm 58 verse 3. I don't know whether you've read this verse. The wicked are estranged from the womb. They speak lies and go astray from birth.

And the living Bible says the first words out of the womb are lies. What does that mean? They tell lies as soon as they're born. You know what it is? I have a few grandchildren now and I'm rediscovering the old days when I had children.

How they tell lies? They cry and scream and you think they are in some terrible pain. They're not in any pain. They just want you to pick them up and pat them.

That's all. It's a lie to scare you. And fathers usually get scared.

Boy, what's wrong with the child? Mothers know by now. They just want to be picked up. That's all.

They tell lies from the time they are born. You can tell a lie by crying. You can tell a lie without opening your mouth.

Ananias and Sapphira told a lie just by joining a queue. How can you join a line of people and tell a lie without opening your mouth? This is the line of the wholehearted people who are giving all their money to God. They escape quiet and stand in that line.

They told a lie just by standing in a line. You can tell a lie by claiming to be a part of a church because you want a name. Because maybe that church has got a name.

We've got Abraham for our father. It's wonderful. I want to be.

You know, these are the overcomers that the book of Revelation speaks about. People who really overcome. These 144,000 also told lies just like all other babies from birth.

How did they come to the place where it says finally there was no lie found in their mouth? They cleansed themselves. They were not different. They were not born different.

We are all born telling lies. But they cleansed themselves. They cleansed themselves and they came to the place where no lie was found in their mouth.

You know, when I read that, I say, Lord Jesus, make me like that. My heart longs. I say, Lord, I don't want to go to a single place on earth where you're not there.

I want to be where you are. I'm willing to go to jail for Christ's sake. I'll be crucified.

I'll kill for Christ's sake. Lord Jesus, if you're there, I'm happy to go anywhere. I'm happy to do anything.

Dear brothers and sisters, you know what the Lord's been saying to you today? He's not condemning you. He's not criticizing you. He's saying, my son, my daughter, come up higher.

Don't live in that low place you've been living all these years. Come up higher and walk with me in humility. That's real greatness in God's kingdom.

Let's pray. While our heads are bowed in prayer, I want to urge you to respond to the Lord Jesus, who's right here in our midst. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

You're right here. Right here. How wonderful that you can be here right next to us as we talk to you.

Just tell him exactly what you want to tell him. Be serious. Take those right decisions today and keep taking them every day.

Walk the path of lowliness. Associate with the lowly and not with the high-minded and you'll have grace upon grace upon grace till your last day of life on earth. Thank you, Father, for your word that preserves us in the pathway of life.

We praise you with all of our hearts. You love us and that's why you give us your word. We're surrounded by your love.

You rejoice over us with shouts of singing, but you are grieved when we live at such low levels. Lift us up. My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay.

I've heard the song of saints on higher ground and I want to get there. Thank you, Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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