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Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: The Significance of Baptism

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we come together to reflect on the significance of what happens after baptism. Baptism is a crucial step in our spiritual journey, as it marks the beginning of our new life in Christ. But what happens after baptism? What is expected of us as baptized Christians?

Let us turn to the Scriptures for guidance. In Romans 6:4, it says, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Through baptism, we die to our old selves and are reborn in Christ. We are given a new life and a new purpose – to follow Jesus and live according to His teachings.

But this new life is not just about us. It is also about others. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells us, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” As baptized Christians, we are called to share the good news of salvation with others and to help them grow in their faith.

So what does this look like in practice? It means living a life that is guided by the teachings of Christ. It means showing love and compassion to those around us, even when it is difficult. It means forgiving those who have wronged us, just as Christ forgave us. It means being a light in the darkness and sharing the hope that we have in Christ with others.

We can look to the example of the early Christians for inspiration. In Acts 2:42-47, it says, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The early Christians were devoted to each other and to the teachings of Christ. They shared everything they had and cared for those in need. They met together regularly and praised God together. And as a result, many people were drawn to their community and were saved.

As baptized Christians, we are called to live out this kind of faith in our daily lives. We are called to be a community that cares for each other and for those around us. We are called to share the good news of salvation with others and to help them grow in their faith. And we are called to live according to the teachings of Christ, showing love and compassion to all.

So let us go forth from here today, my brothers and sisters, as baptized Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit and guided by the teachings of Christ. Let us live out our faith in every aspect of our lives and be a light in the darkness for all to see. Amen.

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Theme: The Anatomy Of A Backslider

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we gather to discuss a difficult but important topic: the anatomy of a backslider. A backslider is someone who was once on the path of righteousness but has turned away from God and fallen back into sin. It is a tragic situation, and one that we must be aware of in ourselves and in others, so that we can recognize the signs of backsliding and seek to help those who are struggling. Let us turn to the Scriptures for guidance on this topic. In Proverbs 14:14, it says, "The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways." This verse tells us that the root of backsliding is a heart that has turned away from God and towards sin. And as a result, the backslider will reap the consequences of their actions. In Jeremiah 2:19, it says, "Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will reprove you." This verse tells us that the backslider will be corrected by their own wickedness. They will be reprovved by their own actions, for they have turned away from God's ways and are living in disobedience.

So what are the signs of a backslider? Firstly, a backslider begins to neglect their relationship with God. They may stop praying, reading the Bible, or attending church. They may begin to prioritize other things over their faith, such as work, relationships, or personal pursuits. Secondly, a backslider may become isolated from the Christian community. They may stop attending church or spending time with other believers. They may distance themselves from those who can offer support and encouragement in their faith.

Thirdly, a backslider may begin to indulge in old patterns of sin. They may fall back into addiction, sexual immorality, or other sinful behaviours. They may justify their actions or try to hide them from others.

But there is hope for the backslider. In James 5:19-20, it says, "My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins." This verse tells us that we can help the backslider return to the truth by reaching out to them and offering our support.

We can also look to the example of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. The prodigal son was a backslider who had turned away from his father's house and squandered his inheritance. But he eventually realized the error of his ways and returned to his father, who welcomed him back with open arms.

The prodigal son's story shows us the anatomy of a backslider in action. Firstly, he became restless and dissatisfied with his life at home. He felt that he needed to strike out on his own and experience the world. This is often how backsliding begins: with a sense of restlessness and dissatisfaction with our current situation.

Secondly, the prodigal son indulged in sinful behavior. He wasted his inheritance on wild living and ended up destitute and hungry. This is often how backsliding progresses: with a gradual slide into sin and disobedience.

Thirdly, the prodigal son hit rock bottom. He realized that he had made a terrible mistake and that he needed to return to his father's house. This is often what it takes for a backslider to return to the path of righteousness: a realization that they have gone astray and that they need to turn back to God.

And finally, the prodigal son was welcomed back with open arms by his father. This is how God welcomes back.

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Theme: Angry Words! O Let Them Never

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we gather to discuss the power of our words, and the danger of anger. In Proverbs 15:1, it says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." This verse tells us that the way we speak can either diffuse a situation or escalate it. And in James 1:19-20, it says, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." This verse reminds us that our anger can lead us away from God's righteousness.

Angry words have the power to wound and destroy. In Proverbs 12:18, it says, "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." This verse tells us that our words can either hurt or heal others. And in Ephesians 4:29, it says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." This verse reminds us that our words should be used to build others up, not tear them down.

We can look to the example of Jesus for guidance on how to handle anger. In Mark 3:5, it says, "He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored." This verse tells us that Jesus was angry, but his anger was directed towards the injustice and stubbornness of the religious leaders, not towards the man with the withered hand.

We can also look to the example of the apostle Paul. In Ephesians 4:26-27, it says, "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." This verse tells us that it is possible to be angry without sinning, but we must be careful not to let our anger consume us and give the devil a foothold in our lives.

So how can we avoid angry words? Firstly, we must learn to control our anger. In Proverbs 29:11, it says, "Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end." This verse tells us that wise people do not give full vent to their anger, but instead bring calm to a situation.

Secondly, we must learn to listen before we speak. In James 1:19, it says, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." This verse tells us that we should listen carefully to others before we respond, so that we can understand their point of view and respond in a constructive way.

Finally, we must learn to speak words of love and encouragement. In Proverbs 16:24, it says, "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." This verse reminds us that our words can be healing to others, and that we should use them to build others up.

In conclusion, let us remember the power of our words, and the danger of anger. Let us strive to control our anger, listen before we speak, and speak words of love and encouragement. And let us

look to the examples of Jesus and the apostle Paul as we seek to follow in their footsteps. May our words be a source of blessing to others, and may we always seek to build up the body of Christ. Amen.

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Theme: Noah Found Grace In The Eyes Of The Lord

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” This question was first asked by Cain in the book of Genesis, chapter 4, verse 9. Cain had just killed his brother Abel, and when God asked him where his brother was, Cain replied, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

This question is not just a matter of historical interest; it is a question that still resonates with us today. It speaks to our responsibilities towards one another as human beings, as brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us explore this question through the lens of Scripture and examples.

The first example we will look at is the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10, verses 25-37. A man was beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. Two religious leaders passed him by, but it was a Samaritan, someone who would have been despised by the Jewish people, who stopped to help him. The Samaritan did not ask himself, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” He simply saw someone in need and acted with compassion.

The second example we will look at is the teaching of Jesus in Matthew chapter 25, verses 31-46. Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and those in prison, we are doing it to him. Jesus is reminding us that we are all connected, that we are all part of one human family. When we help those in need, we are helping Christ himself.

The third example we will look at is the early Christian community in the book of Acts. In Acts chapter 2, verses 44-45, we read, “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” The early Christians did not ask themselves, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” They simply lived in community, sharing their resources and caring for one another.

So, what does this all mean for us today? It means that we cannot simply ignore the needs of those around us. We are called to act with compassion, to love our neighbors as ourselves. As Christians, we are called to care for the poor, the sick, the hungry, and the marginalized. We are called to be our brother’s keeper.

In conclusion, let us remember the words of Jesus in Matthew chapter 25, verse 40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” May we always be mindful of our responsibility to care for one another and to be our brother’s keeper. Amen.

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Theme: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the story of Noah and how he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In Genesis chapter 6, we read that God was grieved by the wickedness of humanity and decided to bring a flood upon the earth to destroy every living thing. But God saw something different in Noah, and in verse 8, we read, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

What does it mean to find grace in the eyes of the Lord? It means that God looked upon Noah with favor and chose to extend mercy to him. In this story, we see God's love and compassion for humanity even in the midst of their sinfulness.

One example of Noah's faith and obedience is found in Genesis chapter 6, verses 14-16, where God gives him instructions to build an ark to save his family and two of every kind of animal from the coming flood. Noah could have easily dismissed this as a crazy idea or tried to reason with God, but instead, he obeyed God's commands without hesitation.

Another example of Noah's faith is found in Hebrews chapter 11, verse 7, which says, "By faith, Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this, he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." Noah's faith in God and his willingness to obey, even when it was difficult, allowed him to become an heir of righteousness and be saved from the flood.

So, what can we learn from the story of Noah and his finding grace in the eyes of the Lord? Firstly, we see that God is always willing to extend grace and mercy to us, even in the midst of our sinfulness. God saw something different in Noah and chose to save him from the flood. This shows us that we too can find grace in the eyes of the Lord, if we turn to Him in faith and obedience.

Secondly, we learn that faith and obedience go hand in hand. Noah's faith in God led him to obey God's commands and build the ark. Similarly, our faith in God should lead us to obey His commands and follow His ways. As Christians, we are called to live lives of obedience and faithfulness, even when it is difficult or unpopular.

Finally, the story of Noah reminds us that our actions have consequences. Noah's obedience to God condemned the world, but it also allowed him and his family to be saved. Our actions can also have a profound impact on the world around us, and we should strive to live in a way that honors God and blesses others.

In conclusion, let us remember the story of Noah and how he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. May we also seek to find God's grace and mercy through faith and obedience, and may we strive to live lives that please Him. Amen.

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Theme: The Choice Of Lot

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the story of Lot and the choice that he made. In Genesis chapter 13, we read that Abram and Lot had both become very wealthy and their flocks and herds had grown so large that they could no longer live together in the same place. Abram suggested that they separate and gave Lot the first choice of where he wanted to go. In verse 10, we read, "Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east."

Lot's choice was based solely on what he saw with his eyes. He saw the lush and fertile land, and he wanted it for himself. But what he didn't see was the moral decay that existed in the cities of the plain, including Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were known for their wickedness and immorality, and they were eventually destroyed by God.

In contrast, Abram chose to trust in God and let Him guide his steps. In verse 9, he says to Lot, "Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." Abram's focus was not on the physical land, but on God's promises and blessings for him.

So, what can we learn from the story of Lot and Abram? Firstly, we see that our choices have consequences. Lot's choice to live in the well-watered plain of the Jordan led him to live among wicked and immoral people, and he eventually lost everything when the cities were destroyed. Our choices can also have a significant impact on our lives, and we should strive to make choices that honor God and bring blessings into our lives.

Secondly, we learn that appearances can be deceiving. Lot's decision was based solely on what he saw, without considering the moral and spiritual implications of his choice. Similarly, we should not make decisions based solely on outward appearances, but should seek God's guidance and wisdom in all our decisions.

Finally, we see that faith in God requires trust and obedience. Abram trusted God's promises and let God guide his steps, even if it meant giving up his right to choose the best land. As Christians, we are called to trust in God and follow His ways, even when it is difficult or goes against our natural inclinations.

In conclusion, let us remember the story of Lot and the choice that he made. May we learn from his mistakes and seek to make choices that honor God and bring blessings into our lives. May we also trust in God and let Him guide our steps, even when it means giving up our own desires and preferences. May we seek to live lives that please Him and bring glory to His name. Amen.

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Theme: The Bad Bargain Of Esau

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the story of Esau and the bad bargain that he made. In Genesis chapter 25, we read that Esau and Jacob were brothers, but they were very different. Esau was a skilled hunter and outdoorsman, while Jacob was a quiet man who liked to stay at home. One day, when Esau came back from hunting, he was very hungry, and Jacob was cooking a pot of stew. Esau begged Jacob to give him some of the stew, but Jacob saw an opportunity to make a deal.

In verse 31, Jacob said to Esau, “Sell me your birth right now.” The birth right was a special privilege given to the firstborn son, which included a double portion of the family’s inheritance and the right to be the family’s leader after the father’s death. But Esau, thinking only of his hunger, replied in verse 32, “Look, I am about to die. What good is the birth right to me?” And so, he made a bad bargain and sold his birth right to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

Esau’s choice was driven by his immediate needs and desires. He was so focused on his hunger that he didn’t think about the long-term consequences of his decision. He was willing to trade away his birth right, which was a precious gift from God, for a temporary satisfaction of his appetite.

In contrast, Jacob understood the value of the birthright and was willing to make a deal to obtain it. He was patient and strategic, thinking about the future and the legacy that he could leave for his descendants. He was willing to sacrifice in the present for the sake of his future.

So, what can we learn from the story of Esau and Jacob? Firstly, we see that our choices have consequences. Esau’s decision to trade his birthright had a significant impact on his future and the future of his descendants. We should be careful about the choices we make and think about the long-term effects of our decisions.

Secondly, we learn that immediate gratification can be costly. Esau was so focused on satisfying his hunger that he didn’t consider the value of his birthright. Similarly, we should not be driven by our immediate desires and needs, but should seek to make decisions that honor God and bring blessings into our lives.

Finally, we see that wisdom and patience are essential in making good choices. Jacob was willing to wait and work for the birthright, understanding its value and importance. As Christians, we are called to seek wisdom and guidance from God in all our decisions and to trust in His plans for our lives.

In conclusion, let us remember the story of Esau and the bad bargain that he made. May we learn from his mistakes and seek to make choices that honor God and bring blessings into our lives. May we also be patient and wise, seeking God's guidance in all our decisions, and trusting in His plans for our lives. May we seek to live lives that please Him and bring glory to His name. Amen.

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Theme: The Forgotten Vow Of Jacob

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the story of the forgotten vow of Jacob. In Genesis chapter 28, we read that Jacob was on his way to Haran to find a wife. Along the way, he stopped for the night and had a dream in which he saw a ladder stretching from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it. God spoke to Jacob in the dream and promised to give him and his descendants the land on which he was lying.

When Jacob woke up, he was filled with awe and reverence for God, and he made a vow to Him. In verse 20, Jacob said, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Jacob's vow was a promise to serve God and give Him a tenth of all that he had. But as time went on, Jacob seemed to forget his vow. He settled in Haran, got married, had children, and became very wealthy. However, there is no mention of Jacob fulfilling his vow to God.

It was only years later, when Jacob was on his way back to his homeland, that he remembered his vow. In Genesis chapter 35, we read that God reminded Jacob of his promise and commanded him to go back to Bethel and fulfill it. In verse 7, Jacob built an altar there and called it El Bethel, which means "God of Bethel," and he gave God a tenth of all that he had.

What can we learn from the story of the forgotten vow of Jacob? Firstly, we see that our promises to God are not to be taken lightly. Jacob made a vow to God in a moment of awe and reverence, but he seemed to forget it as time went on. We should be careful about the promises we make to God and seek to fulfill them.

Secondly, we learn that God is faithful to remind us of our commitments. Even though Jacob had forgotten his vow, God did not forget. He reminded Jacob of his promise and commanded him to

fulfill it. Similarly, God is faithful to remind us of the commitments we have made to Him and to guide us in fulfilling them.

Finally, we see that honouring our commitments to God brings blessings. When Jacob returned to Bethel and fulfilled his vow, God blessed him and his descendants. In verse 12, God promised to make Jacob's descendants a great nation and to give them the land of Canaan.

In conclusion, let us remember the story of the forgotten vow of Jacob. May we be careful about the promises we make to God and seek to fulfill them. May we also trust in God's faithfulness to remind us of our commitments and guide us in fulfilling them. And may we experience the blessings that come from honouring our commitments to God. Amen.

Scripture references:

Genesis 28:10-22

Genesis 35:1-15

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Theme: The Excuses Of Moses

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the story of the excuses of Moses. In Exodus chapter 3, we read that God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and commanded him to go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. However, Moses responded with a series of excuses, expressing his doubts and fears.

The first excuse Moses made was that he was not worthy or qualified for the task. In verse 11, Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He felt inadequate for the job, and he questioned why God would choose him.

The second excuse Moses made was that the Israelites would not believe or listen to him. In verse 13, Moses asked God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" He doubted his ability to persuade the Israelites to follow him and questioned whether they would accept his message.

The third excuse Moses made was that he was not a good speaker. In Exodus chapter 4, verse 10, Moses said to God, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." He feared that he would not be able to communicate effectively with Pharaoh and the Israelites.

Through each of these excuses, Moses revealed his doubts and fears. He was unsure of his worthiness, his ability to persuade, and his communication skills. But God did not let Moses off the hook. He challenged Moses to trust in Him and rely on His power to overcome these obstacles.

In response to Moses' first excuse, God reminded him that He would be with him. In verse 12, God said to Moses, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you:

When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” God assured Moses that he was not alone and that He would guide and support him.

In response to Moses’ second excuse, God gave him signs to perform that would demonstrate His power and authority. In Exodus chapter 4, verses 2-9, God turned Moses’ staff into a snake, made his hand leprous, and turned water from the Nile into blood. These signs would serve as evidence to the Israelites that Moses was sent by God.

In response to Moses’ third excuse, God reminded him that He created his mouth and could give him the words to say. In Exodus chapter 4, verses 11-12, God said to Moses, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

What can we learn from the story of the excuses of Moses? Firstly, we see that our doubts and fears can sometimes lead us to make excuses. But we should trust in God’s power and promises and rely on Him to help us overcome our obstacles.

Secondly, we learn that God is patient and compassionate with us, even when we make excuses. He does not give up on us but instead provides us with the support and guidance we need.

Finally, we see that obedience to God’s call brings blessings. In Exodus chapter 14, we read that Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, and God parted the Red Sea to allow them to escape Pharaoh’s army. Through Moses’ obedience.

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Theme: The Character Of Joseph

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to explore the character of Joseph. Joseph is one of the most remarkable figures in the Bible, known for his faithfulness, integrity, and forgiveness.

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, and he was favored by his father. This favoritism led to jealousy and hatred among his brothers, who sold him into slavery in Egypt. But through God’s providence, Joseph rose from a slave to become the second in command in Egypt, and he used his power to save the people of Egypt and his own family from a severe famine.

The first aspect of Joseph’s character we see is his faithfulness. Even in the midst of trials and tribulations, Joseph remained faithful to God. When he was sold into slavery by his brothers, he could have easily become bitter and resentful. However, we see that Joseph did not lose faith in God’s plan for his life. In Genesis chapter 39, verse 2, it says, “The Lord was with Joseph, and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Joseph trusted that God was with him, even in the darkest moments of his life.

The second aspect of Joseph’s character is his integrity. When Joseph was serving in Potiphar’s house, Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him, but Joseph refused to sin against God. In Genesis chapter 39, verses 8-9, Joseph said to her, “My master has withheld nothing from me except you because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” Joseph valued his relationship with God more than his own desires, and he was willing to face the consequences of his actions rather than compromise his integrity.

The third aspect of Joseph's character is his forgiveness. After Joseph became the second in command in Egypt, his brothers came to him seeking food during the famine. Joseph had the power to punish them for what they did to him, but instead, he forgave them. In Genesis chapter 50, verses 19-21, Joseph said to his brothers, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." Joseph understood that God had a bigger plan, and he chose to extend forgiveness rather than seek revenge.

So, what can we learn from the character of Joseph? Firstly, we see that faithfulness to God is essential in every circumstance of our lives. Just as Joseph remained faithful to God even in the midst of trials and tribulations, we too should trust in God's plan and purpose for our lives.

Secondly, we learn that integrity is crucial in every aspect of our lives. In a world where dishonesty and deceit are prevalent, we should strive to live with integrity, even when no one is watching.

Finally, we see that forgiveness is a vital aspect of our Christian walk. As Joseph forgave his brothers, we too should forgive those who have wronged us. When we forgive, we release ourselves from the burden of anger and bitterness, and we allow God to work in our lives.

Let us pray that we may emulate the character of Joseph, seeking to be faithful, live with integrity, and extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us. May God grant us the grace to follow in Joseph's footsteps and be faithful servants of His Kingdom. Amen.

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Theme: The Hardening Of Pharaoh

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to talk about the hardening of Pharaoh's heart in the book of Exodus. Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt during the time of Moses, and he was responsible for enslaving the Israelites. But despite the many plagues that God sent to Egypt, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. In fact, the Bible tells us that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, which raises a question for many of us: why did God do this?

The answer lies in the fact that Pharaoh was not willing to repent and turn away from his sins. In Exodus chapter 7, verse 3, God tells Moses, "But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you." God knew that Pharaoh's heart was already hardened towards Him, and even if God sent plagues upon plagues, Pharaoh would not repent.

This is not the first time we see God hardening someone's heart in the Bible. In the book of Romans, chapter 9, verses 17-18, it says, "For Scripture says to Pharaoh: 'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.' Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden."

We also see a similar concept in the New Testament, where Jesus tells parables about how some hearts are hardened towards the truth of the Gospel. In Mark chapter 4, verse 12, Jesus says, “so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’”

So, what can we learn from the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart? Firstly, we see that God is just and merciful. Pharaoh was given many chances to repent and turn away from his sins, but he chose to harden his heart instead. God is patient and loving, but He will not force someone to repent and turn towards Him. He gives us the freedom to choose.

Secondly, we see that our hearts can also become hardened towards God. Just as Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God’s sovereignty, we too can become so focused on our own desires and pleasures that we forget about God. It is important to constantly examine our hearts and seek repentance when necessary.

Lastly, we see that even in the midst of hardness of heart, God can still use us for His glory. In the case of Pharaoh, God used him to display His power and might, which ultimately led to the Israelites’ freedom.

Let us pray that we may have a soft and humble heart towards God. May we not harden our hearts towards Him, but instead, seek to obey His commands and follow His will. May God grant us the grace to turn away from our sins and towards His loving embrace. Amen.

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Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: The Hardening Of Pharaoh

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to talk about the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart in the book of Exodus. Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt during the time of Moses, and he was responsible for enslaving the Israelites. But despite the many plagues that God sent to Egypt, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. In fact, the Bible tells us that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, which raises a question for many of us: why did God do this?

The answer lies in the fact that Pharaoh was not willing to repent and turn away from his sins. In Exodus chapter 7, verse 3, God tells Moses, “But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you.” God knew that Pharaoh’s heart was already hardened towards Him, and even if God sent plagues upon plagues, Pharaoh would not repent.

This is not the first time we see God hardening someone’s heart in the Bible. In the book of Romans, chapter 9, verses 17-18, it says, “For Scripture says to Pharaoh: ‘I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.”

We also see a similar concept in the New Testament, where Jesus tells parables about how some hearts are hardened towards the truth of the Gospel. In Mark chapter 4, verse 12, Jesus says, “so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’”

So, what can we learn from the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart? Firstly, we see that God is just and merciful. Pharaoh was given many chances to repent and turn away from his sins, but he chose to harden his heart instead. God is patient and loving, but He will not force someone to repent and turn towards Him. He gives us the freedom to choose.

Secondly, we see that our hearts can also become hardened towards God. Just as Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God’s sovereignty, we too can become so focused on our own desires and pleasures that we forget about God. It is important to constantly examine our hearts and seek repentance when necessary.

Lastly, we see that even in the midst of hardness of heart, God can still use us for His glory. In the case of Pharaoh, God used him to display His power and might, which ultimately led to the Israelites’ freedom.

Let us pray that we may have a soft and humble heart towards God. May we not harden our hearts towards Him, but instead, seek to obey His commands and follow His will. May God grant us the grace to turn away from our sins and towards His loving embrace. Amen.

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Theme: The Sin Of Nadab And Abihu

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to talk about the sin of Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, in the book of Leviticus. They were priests of the Lord, but they committed a grave sin by offering unauthorized fire before the Lord, which resulted in their death. This incident serves as a reminder to us that we must approach God with reverence and obedience.

In Leviticus chapter 10, verses 1-3, it says, “Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Moses then said to Aaron, ‘This is what the Lord spoke of when he said: “Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.””

The sin of Nadab and Abihu was not just a mistake, but a willful disobedience to God’s commands. They offered “unauthorized fire,” meaning that they did not follow the precise instructions that God

had given them for offering sacrifices. They took their own liberties and did what they thought was right, instead of following God's explicit directions.

This story reminds us that we must approach God with reverence and obedience. We cannot take shortcuts or make up our own rules when it comes to our worship of God. The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verse 1, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong."

We also see in the New Testament that God takes our worship seriously. In John chapter 4, verses 23-24, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

So, what can we learn from the sin of Nadab and Abihu? Firstly, we must approach God with reverence and obedience, taking His commands seriously and not taking liberties with them. Secondly, we must worship God in spirit and in truth, being true worshipers that the Father seeks. May we never forget the seriousness of our worship of God and may we always seek to honor Him with our lives. Let us pray for the grace to follow God's commands and to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Amen.

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Theme: The Priestly Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to talk about the Priestly Blessing found in Numbers chapter 6, verses 24-26. This beautiful and powerful blessing was given by God to Aaron and his sons, the priests of Israel, to pronounce upon the people of Israel. The blessing contains three parts, each asking for God's protection, favor, and peace upon the people.

The Priestly Blessing goes as follows: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

This blessing is a reminder of God's love and care for His people. It is also a reminder of the role of the priests in pronouncing God's blessing upon the people. The priests were set apart to serve God and to represent the people before God. They were responsible for leading the people in worship and

offering sacrifices on their behalf. Through the Priestly Blessing, the priests were able to bless the people with God's favor and protection.

We also see in the New Testament that all believers are called to be priests. In 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 9, it says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

As priests, we too can pronounce the Priestly Blessing upon others. We can ask God to bless them and keep them, to make His face shine upon them and be gracious to them, and to turn His face toward them and give them peace. This blessing is not just for the priests of Israel, but for all of God's people.

We also see in the Priestly Blessing a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, who is the ultimate High Priest. Through His sacrifice on the cross, He has made it possible for us to receive God's blessing, protection, and peace. In Hebrews chapter 7, verse 26, it says, "Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens."

So, what can we learn from the Priestly Blessing? Firstly, we can be reminded of God's love and care for His people. Secondly, we can be reminded of our role as priests to bless others and lead them in worship. Finally, we can be reminded of Jesus Christ, who is our ultimate High Priest and has made it possible for us to receive God's blessing, protection, and peace.

Let us pray that God would use us to bless others with His love and grace. Let us also pray for the grace to live as priests, representing God to others and leading them in worship. And may we always remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who is our ultimate High Priest. Amen.

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Theme: Caleb Followed The Lord Fully

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, we are going to talk about Caleb, one of the faithful spies sent by Moses to explore the land of Canaan. Caleb is a great example of a man who followed the Lord fully. In Numbers chapter 14, verse 24, God himself said of Caleb, "But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it."

Caleb was different from the other spies because he believed that God would give them victory over the Canaanites. He was not intimidated by the size of their cities or the strength of their armies, but trusted in God's promise to give them the land. In Joshua chapter 14, verses 7-9, Caleb said to Joshua,

“I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.”

Caleb’s faith in God’s promise and his wholehearted commitment to follow the Lord are qualities that we should strive to emulate. Caleb’s example shows us that when we trust in God’s promises and follow Him fully, we will experience the blessings that He has in store for us.

In the New Testament, we are called to follow Christ fully, just as Caleb followed the Lord fully. In Luke chapter 9, verse 23, Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Following Christ fully means putting Him first in our lives, denying ourselves, and being willing to take up our cross and follow Him, even if it means sacrifice and suffering.

As we follow Christ, we can be confident that He will lead us to the blessings that He has in store for us, just as He led Caleb and the Israelites to the Promised Land. In Philippians chapter 3, verses 12-14, the apostle Paul says, “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

So, let us follow Caleb’s example and trust in God’s promises, committing ourselves wholeheartedly to following the Lord. And as we do so, let us press on toward the goal of the prize that God has called us to in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Theme: Faith Vs. Fear

Dear brothers and sisters, Today, I want to talk to you about the power of faith and courage in overcoming our fears. Fear is a natural human emotion that we all experience at some point in our lives, but we should not allow it to control us. We can overcome our fears through our faith in God and the courage that comes from trusting in Him.

The Bible is full of examples of people who faced their fears with faith and courage. In the book of Joshua, we see the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land. The river

was at flood stage, and the Israelites were afraid to cross it. But Joshua reminded them of their faith in God, saying in Joshua 1:9, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Another example is the story of Daniel in the lion’s den. Daniel was thrown into a den of hungry lions because he refused to stop praying to God. Despite the danger, Daniel trusted in God and was delivered from the lions. In Daniel 6:27, King Darius declared, “He [God] rescues and saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

We can also turn to the Apostle Paul for inspiration in overcoming our fears. Paul was imprisoned and faced many hardships, but he did not let his fear control him. Instead, he wrote in 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

So, how can we overcome our fears through faith and courage? We can start by turning to God in prayer and asking for His help. In Psalm 34:4, we read, “I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” We can also meditate on scripture and memorize verses that remind us of God’s promises and His faithfulness.

We must also be willing to step out in faith and face our fears head-on. It may be scary at first, but as we trust in God and His strength, we will find the courage to overcome our fears. As we read in Deuteronomy 31:6, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

In conclusion, we can overcome our fears through our faith in God and the courage that comes from trusting in Him. Let us remember the examples of Joshua, Daniel, and Paul, and let us turn to God in prayer and meditation on His word. As we step out in faith and face our fears, we can be confident that God is with us and will help us to overcome. Amen.

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Theme: Betrayal

My dear brothers and sisters, Betrayal is one of the most painful experiences a person can go through. It can be devastating to realize that someone you trusted has betrayed you, whether it was a friend, a

family member, or a partner. However, we do not have to let betrayal define us or hold us back. We can overcome it and find healing through our faith in God.

The Bible is full of stories of betrayal, and perhaps one of the most well-known is the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot. Judas was one of Jesus' closest disciples, yet he betrayed Jesus by leading the Roman soldiers to arrest him. Despite this betrayal, Jesus forgave Judas and continued to love him, showing us that even in the face of great betrayal, forgiveness and love are possible.

Another example of betrayal can be found in the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Joseph's own brothers betrayed him by selling him into slavery, but through God's grace, Joseph was eventually able to forgive them and reconcile with them. In Genesis 50:20, Joseph tells his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

So how can we overcome betrayal? First, we need to acknowledge our pain and seek support from others. We can turn to God in prayer and ask for His comfort and guidance. In Psalm 34:18, we read, "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

We must also learn to forgive those who have betrayed us. Forgiveness does not mean excusing the behaviour or forgetting what happened, but it does mean releasing the anger and bitterness that can consume us. In Matthew 6:14-15, Jesus tells us, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Finally, we can find healing by focusing on the good that can come from our pain. Just as God used Joseph's betrayal for good, He can use our pain and struggles to bring about positive change and growth in our lives. In Romans 8:28, we read, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

In conclusion, betrayal can be a painful and difficult experience, but through our faith in God and His grace, we can overcome it. Let us seek His comfort and guidance, learn to forgive, and trust that He can use our pain for good. Amen.

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Theme: The Essence of Worship

My dear brothers and sisters, Today, I want to talk to you about the essence of worship. As Christians, we are called to worship God in spirit and in truth. But what does that really mean? And how can we ensure that our worship is pleasing to God?

To understand the essence of worship, we must first look at the purpose of worship. Worship is not just about singing songs or attending church services. It is about acknowledging God as the one true God, and giving Him the honor and praise that He deserves. In Psalm 29:2, we read, “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.”

True worship involves our whole selves – our minds, hearts, and bodies. In Romans 12:1, we are told, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.” This means that worship is not just a Sunday morning activity, but a way of life.

We can worship God through prayer, reading and studying His word, giving to others, and serving Him in our daily lives. In Colossians 3:23-24, we read, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

But what about the times when we come together as a church to worship? How can we ensure that our worship is pleasing to God? First, we must come with a heart of humility and repentance. In Psalm 51:17, we read, “My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.”

Second, we must come with a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving. In Psalm 100:4, we read, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” We should be thankful for all that God has done for us, and express that thankfulness through our worship.

Finally, we must come with a heart of expectation, ready to encounter God in a powerful way. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” When we gather together to worship, we should expect to encounter God’s presence and be transformed by His love and grace.

In conclusion, the essence of worship is about acknowledging God as the one true God, and giving Him the honor and praise that He deserves. Let us worship Him with our whole selves, in every area of our lives. And when we gather together to worship, let us come with humble and grateful hearts, ready to encounter God’s presence and be transformed by His love. Amen

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Theme: Unleashing the power of purpose

Dear friends, Today, I want to talk to you about unleashing the power of purpose in our lives. Purpose is the reason why we were created, the reason for our existence, and the reason why we do what we do. Without purpose, our lives can feel empty and meaningless. But with purpose, we can accomplish great things, fulfill our potential, and make a difference in the world.

The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This verse tells us that God has a purpose for our lives, a plan for our future that is good and full of hope.

We see examples of purpose in the Bible, like David, who was anointed by God to be king of Israel. David had a clear purpose and vision for his life, and he pursued it with passion and dedication. He faced many challenges and setbacks, but he never lost sight of his purpose, and he ultimately fulfilled it.

Another example is Esther, who was chosen by God to be queen and to save the Jewish people from destruction. Esther could have easily been overwhelmed by the enormity of the task before her, but she trusted in God’s purpose for her life and stepped into her role with courage and faith.

These biblical examples show us that when we embrace our purpose, we can overcome obstacles and achieve great things. But how do we discover our purpose? How do we know what God has called us to do?

First, we need to seek God’s guidance through prayer and studying His Word. Psalm 119:105 tells us, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” As we seek God’s direction, He will reveal His purpose for our lives.

Second, we need to examine our gifts, talents, and passions. Romans 12:6-8 says, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently.” God has given each of us unique gifts and talents, and He wants us to use them to fulfill His purpose for our lives.

Finally, we need to be willing to take risks and step out in faith. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” When we trust in God and step out in faith, He will guide us and help us fulfill His purpose for our lives.

In conclusion, unleashing the power of purpose in our lives requires seeking God’s guidance, examining our gifts and talents, and being willing to take risks and step out in faith. When we embrace our purpose, we can overcome obstacles and achieve great things, just like David and Esther. So let us seek God’s direction and pursue His purpose for our lives with passion and dedication. Amen.

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Theme: The fall of great Men

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I want to talk to you about the secret downfall of great people. We often look up to those who are successful, wealthy, and powerful, and we aspire to be like them. However, we must be careful because greatness does not always guarantee a good ending. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Let us examine some examples from the Bible of people who were once great but fell from grace.

First, let us consider King Saul. He was the first king of Israel, chosen by God to lead His people. Saul started off well, but as he became more successful and powerful, he became arrogant and disobedient to God. In 1 Samuel 15:23, Samuel tells Saul, "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king." Saul's downfall was his pride, which led to his disobedience to God, and eventually, his removal from the throne.

Another example is King Solomon. He was known for his wisdom and wealth, and his reign was a time of peace and prosperity in Israel. However, Solomon's downfall was his love for women. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines, many of whom were foreign and worshiped other gods. In 1 Kings 11:4-6, it says, "As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. So, Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Solomon's love for women led him astray from God, and his kingdom was eventually divided because of his disobedience.

Lastly, let us consider Judas Iscariot. He was one of Jesus' disciples, chosen by Him to be one of the twelve. Judas witnessed Jesus' miracles and heard His teachings, but he was also a thief and loved money. In John 12:6, it says, "He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." Judas' love for money led him to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and he eventually took his own life because of his guilt.

These examples show us that greatness can be a blessing or a curse. It is not enough to have success, wealth, or power; we must also have humility, obedience to God, and a love for what is right. The Bible tells us in James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." When we humble ourselves before God, we acknowledge that everything we have comes from Him, and we are dependent on Him for our success.

In conclusion, let us remember that the secret downfall of great people is often their pride, disobedience to God, and love for things that lead them away from Him. We must strive to be humble, obedient to God, and have a love for what is right, so that we may avoid the same fate as those who fell before us. Let us pray that God will give us the strength and wisdom to follow His ways and avoid the path of destruction. Amen.

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Theme: Dead but not Destroyed

The story of Jesus Christ is a perfect example of this concept. Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples, mocked, beaten, and ultimately sentenced to death on the cross. For many, his death seemed to be the end of the story. But on the third day, he rose from the dead, proving that death does not have the final say.

This is a powerful idea that has been present throughout history and is found in the scriptures. It reminds us that even when things seem hopeless, there is always a glimmer of hope, a chance for us to rise from the ashes and continue on.

The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that even when we face death, we are not destroyed. We have hope in the promise of eternal life that Christ offers us. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:42-43, "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."

This hope is not just for the future, but for the present as well. When we face difficult times in our lives, we can find strength in the knowledge that we are not alone. God is always with us, guiding us through our struggles and helping us to overcome them.

The story of Job is another example of this concept. Job was a man who had everything – wealth, family, and a good reputation. However, in a short period of time, he lost it all. He lost his wealth, his children, and even his health. Yet, through it all, he remained steadfast in his faith, trusting in God even when everything seemed to be falling apart.

Job's story reminds us that even when we face great loss and suffering, we can still find hope in God. As Job himself said in Job 13:15, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face."

As followers of Christ, we know that our ultimate hope is in the promise of eternal life. However, we also know that God is with us in the present, helping us to overcome the trials and tribulations of this life. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:31, "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

My dear brothers and sisters, as we face the challenges of this life, let us remember that we are dead but not destroyed. We have hope in the promise of eternal life, and we have the strength to overcome any trial or tribulation that comes our way with the help of God. Let us hold fast to our faith, knowing that in the end, we will be victorious. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel

Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
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Theme: The Power of Addiction

My dear brothers and sisters, Today, I want to talk to you about the power of addiction. Addiction is a powerful force that can consume a person's life, leaving them feeling powerless and lost. It is a struggle that many of us have faced or know someone who has faced. However, as Christians, we know that there is hope for those struggling with addiction.

The Bible speaks to the dangers of addiction in Proverbs 23:29-35, "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end, it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things."

This passage reminds us that addiction can be all-consuming, leading to a life of sorrow, strife, and confusion. However, the Bible also offers us hope for those struggling with addiction.

One of the most powerful examples of this is found in the story of the Prodigal Son. The Prodigal Son was a young man who became addicted to a life of pleasure and excess. He squandered his inheritance on parties, gambling, and other vices, ultimately finding himself destitute and alone.

However, even in his darkest moments, the Prodigal Son knew that there was hope for him. He remembered his father's love and returned home, repentant and seeking forgiveness. His father welcomed him back with open arms, showing us that even when we have strayed from the path of righteousness, God is always waiting for us with open arms.

Another example is found in 1 Corinthians 10:13, which states, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

This passage reminds us that even when we face the powerful temptation of addiction, God is with us. He will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear, and he will provide a way out for us. We can find strength in the knowledge that God is always with us, helping us to overcome our struggles.

As Christians, we know that we are called to live lives that honor God. We are called to be in control of our bodies and minds, avoiding the temptations of addiction. However, we also know that we are not perfect. We may stumble and fall, but God's love and forgiveness are always available to us.

In closing, my dear brothers and sisters, I want to remind you that addiction is a powerful force, but it is not unbeatable. With God's help, we can overcome any addiction and find hope for a better life. Let us hold fast to our faith, seeking God's guidance and support as we face the challenges of addiction. Remember the words of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Amen.

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Theme: Don't be Complacent

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today I want to talk to you about the danger of complacency in our spiritual lives. Complacency is a state of being satisfied with our current situation and feeling a lack of motivation to improve or make changes. When it comes to our spiritual lives, complacency can lead to a lack of growth, a lack of passion for God, and a lack of effectiveness in our ministry.

The Bible warns us about the danger of complacency. In Revelation 3:14-22, Jesus speaks to the church in Laodicea, saying, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." This church had become complacent in their faith, thinking they had all they needed and forgetting their need for a deeper relationship with God. Jesus warns them that their complacency will lead to their rejection.

We also see the danger of complacency in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable, a master gives three servants varying amounts of money, expecting them to invest it and make a profit. Two of the servants were diligent and invested the money, doubling it. But the third servant was complacent and buried his talent in the ground, fearing his master's anger. The master was displeased with the third servant's complacency and took away what he had.

Complacency can lead us to miss out on the blessings and opportunities that God has for us. It can hinder our spiritual growth, make us ineffective in our ministry, and cause us to forget our true purpose as believers.

So, how do we guard against complacency in our spiritual lives? The first step is to recognize our need for continual growth and renewal in our relationship with God. In Philippians 3:13-14, the Apostle Paul writes, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Paul knew that he still had room to grow in his relationship with God, and he was committed to pressing forward and not becoming complacent.

We must also be intentional in our pursuit of God. This means taking time each day for prayer and Bible study, seeking out opportunities for fellowship and discipleship, and being open to the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives. In Colossians 3:23-24, we are told, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." When we live our lives with a sense of purpose and intentionality, we are less likely to become complacent.

We must also be willing to step out of our comfort zones and take risks for God. In Matthew 16:24-25, Jesus tells his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." When we are willing to take risks for God, we demonstrate our faith and our commitment to Him. This can help us stay focused on our spiritual goals and guard against complacency.

Finally, we must remember that our ultimate goal is not to become comfortable or complacent in this life, but to serve and glorify God in all that we do

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Overcoming adversities of Life

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I want to speak to you about overcoming the adversities of life. Life is filled with challenges, and sometimes it can be difficult to find the strength to face them. However, as believers, we have hope and assurance in the promises of God. He is with us always and has given us the strength and power to overcome any obstacle that comes our way.

In the Bible, we see many examples of people who faced adversity and overcame it with God's help. In Genesis, we read about Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his own brothers and spent years in prison for a crime he did not commit. But despite his hardships, he never lost faith in God and eventually rose to a position of great power in Egypt. In Romans 8:28, we are reminded that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Another example of overcoming adversity is found in the story of Job. He faced unimaginable loss and suffering, yet he refused to curse God or give up on his faith. In Job 13:15, he declares, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face." Job's perseverance and faithfulness to God ultimately resulted in his restoration and blessing.

We also see the power of faith in David, who faced many challenges in his life, including fighting against the giant Goliath and being pursued by King Saul. But David never lost sight of his faith in God, as he wrote in Psalm 23:4, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

So, how can we overcome the adversities of life? Firstly, we must remember that we are not alone. In Isaiah 41:10, God says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." When we face challenges, we must turn to God for strength and guidance.

We must also cultivate a spirit of perseverance and determination. In Hebrews 12:1-2, we read, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Just as runners must persevere through pain and exhaustion to cross the finish line, so must we persevere through our trials with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Furthermore, we must rely on the power of prayer. In James 5:13-16, we are instructed to pray when we face sickness, hardship, or any other challenge. When we pray, we invite God's presence and power into our lives, and we can trust that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His will.

Finally, we must remember that God is always working for our good, even in the midst of adversity. In Romans 8:28, we are reminded that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We can trust that even when we cannot see the purpose behind our suffering, God is using it for our ultimate good and His glory.

In conclusion, dear brothers and sisters, let us take heart and find strength in the promises of God. Let us persevere through our trials, always keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. And let us trust that God is working for our good.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: God's Limitations

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to talk about a commonly held belief that there is nothing that God cannot do. While it is true that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present, there are certain things that God cannot do. But, the fact that God cannot do something does not mean that it does not exist.

Many people believe that God can do anything and everything, but this is not entirely true. In fact, there are certain things that God cannot do because they are not in accordance with His nature and character. For example, God cannot sin, He cannot lie, and He cannot deny Himself.

In the book of James, it says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one" (James 1:13). This scripture tells us that God cannot sin because sin is contrary to His nature. He is holy, righteous, and pure, and therefore cannot engage in sinful behaviour.

Likewise, in the book of Numbers, it says, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19). God is a God of truth, and lying is contrary to His nature. He is faithful and true to His promises, and therefore cannot lie.

Furthermore, in the book of 2 Timothy, it says, "if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). This scripture tells us that God cannot deny Himself. He is unchanging, and denying Himself would be contrary to His nature. He is who He is, and He will always remain the same.

These are just a few examples of things that God cannot do. However, just because God cannot do something does not mean that it does not exist. For example, God cannot make a square circle, but that does not mean that a square circle does not exist. It simply means that it is a logical contradiction, and God cannot violate the laws of logic.

Likewise, God cannot make a married bachelor, but that does not mean that a married bachelor does not exist. It simply means that the concept of a married bachelor is a logical contradiction, and God cannot violate the laws of logic.

In conclusion, my dear brothers and sisters, we serve a powerful and all-knowing God, but there are things that He cannot do that are not in accordance with His nature and character. Let us take comfort in the fact that our God is holy, righteous, and true, and that He will always remain faithful to His promises. May we trust in Him and His unchanging nature, and may we continue to seek after Him with all our hearts.

Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Divine Fortification

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I would like to talk to you about spiritual protection. As Christians, we are in a constant battle against the powers of darkness, and it is important that we equip ourselves with the necessary tools to protect ourselves from the enemy's attacks.

The Bible teaches us that we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, we need to be vigilant and take the necessary steps to protect ourselves spiritually.

First and foremost, we must put on the armour of God, as described in Ephesians 6:13-18. The armor of God consists of the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Each piece of armour is essential for our spiritual protection.

Let us look at the belt of truth. The belt holds everything together, and in the same way, truth holds us together spiritually. We need to be truthful in all that we do, and we need to surround ourselves with truth. The truth of God's Word will protect us from the lies of the enemy.

The breastplate of righteousness protects our heart. We need to live a righteous life, and we need to guard our hearts against the temptations of the enemy. We must live a life that is pleasing to God and be in right standing with Him.

The shoes of the gospel of peace represent our readiness to spread the good news of salvation. We need to be ready at all times to share the gospel with those around us. By doing so, we can help protect others from the attacks of the enemy.

The shield of faith is our defence against the fiery darts of the enemy. We need to have faith in God's promises and trust in His protection. We need to believe that God is with us, and that He will never leave us or forsake us.

The helmet of salvation protects our mind. We need to be saved and have the assurance of our salvation. We need to know that we are a child of God and that nothing can separate us from His love.

Finally, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is our offensive weapon. We need to know and use the Word of God to fight against the enemy. Jesus used the Word of God to resist the devil's temptations, and we can do the same.

In addition to putting on the armour of God, we need to pray for spiritual protection. In Matthew 6:13, Jesus teaches us to pray, "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." We need to pray daily for God's protection and guidance in our lives.

We also need to be careful about the things we expose ourselves to. We need to be discerning and avoid things that could potentially harm us spiritually. For example, we should avoid entertainment that glorifies sin and promotes ungodly behaviour.

In Psalm 91, we read about the Lord's protection for those who trust in Him. Verse 1 says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." When we abide in God's presence, we are protected from the enemy's attacks.

In conclusion, as Christians, we need to be vigilant and take the necessary steps to protect ourselves spiritually. We need to put on the armour of God, pray for God's protection, and be discerning about the things we expose ourselves to. Let us remember that God is our refuge and strength, and He is our ever-present help in need.

Church: Manuel White Chapel

Devotion: Sunrise Devotion

Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment

Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org

Theme: Redemption Power

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I want to talk to you about the power of redemption.

Redemption is a word that we hear a lot in Christian circles, but what does it really mean?

Redemption is the act of buying back or repurchasing something that has been lost or taken away. In a spiritual sense, it refers to the act of God buying back or restoring us to our original state before sin entered the world.

Redemption is a powerful concept that runs throughout the Bible. In fact, the entire story of the Bible is a story of redemption. From the fall of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden of Eden, where they were able to walk and talk with God. However, they were tempted by the serpent and chose to disobey God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As a result, sin entered the world and Adam and Eve were banished from the garden.

But even in this moment of disobedience and sin, God had a plan for redemption. In Genesis 3:15, God speaks to the serpent and says, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." This is the first mention of the gospel in the Bible. It is a promise of redemption through a Savior who will come and crush the head of the serpent.

Fast forward to the New Testament, and we see this promise of redemption fulfilled through Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 1:7, Paul writes, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Through his death and resurrection, Jesus paid the price for our sins and redeemed us from the curse of sin and death.

But the power of redemption doesn't stop there. It is a continuous process that takes place in our lives as we walk with Christ. In Romans 12:2, Paul writes, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." This is the process of redemption. It is a continual transformation that takes place in our hearts and minds as we submit ourselves to Christ and allow him to work in us.

There are many examples of redemption in the Bible. One of my favorites is the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, a profession that was despised by the Jews because they often collected more than was required and kept the extra for themselves. But when Zacchaeus encountered Jesus, he was transformed. He repented of his sins and promised to give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back anyone he had cheated four times the amount he had taken. Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Brothers and sisters, the power of redemption is available to all of us. No matter how far we have strayed from God, he is always ready and willing to redeem us. In 1 John 1:9, we read, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” So let us embrace the power of redemption and allow God to transform us into the image of his Son.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Power Of Loyalty

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I want to talk to you about the power of loyalty. Loyalty is a word that we don't hear as much as we used to, but it is still an essential characteristic of a Christian's life. Loyalty is the quality of being faithful to someone or something, especially through difficult times. In our relationship with God, loyalty is an essential part of our faith journey, and it is a powerful force that can change lives.

The Bible is filled with examples of loyalty, both positive and negative. One of the most famous examples of loyalty is the story of Ruth and Naomi in the book of Ruth. Naomi was a widow who had lost her husband and two sons. She was left with her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, but encouraged them to go back to their own families. Ruth, however, refused to leave Naomi, saying, “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16).

This act of loyalty changed the course of Ruth's life. She eventually married Boaz, a wealthy landowner, and became the great-grandmother of King David. But more than that, Ruth's loyalty to Naomi showed her love and commitment to God. She trusted in God's plan for her life, even when it was difficult, and her loyalty was rewarded.

In the New Testament, we see the ultimate example of loyalty in Jesus Christ. In Philippians 2:8-9, we read, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.” Jesus demonstrated the ultimate act of loyalty by humbling himself and becoming obedient to God's plan, even to the point of death on the cross.

As Christians, we are called to follow Jesus' example of loyalty. In Revelation 2:10, Jesus tells the church in Smyrna, “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.” Loyalty to God means being faithful to him, even when it is difficult or unpopular. It means trusting in God's plan for our lives and being willing to follow wherever he leads us.

But loyalty isn't just about our relationship with God. It is also about our relationships with others. In Proverbs 17:17, we read, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.” Loyalty in our relationships means being there for our friends and loved ones, even when it is difficult. It means standing by them in times of trouble and being a source of support and encouragement.

However, loyalty can be difficult to maintain in today's society. We live in a world where people are quick to abandon relationships or commitments when things get tough. But as Christians, we are called to be different. We are called to be loyal, even when it is difficult or inconvenient.

So let us embrace the power of loyalty in our lives. Let us be faithful to God and to one another, even when it is difficult. Let us trust in God's plan for our lives and be willing to follow wherever he leads us. And let us always remember the ultimate example of loyalty in Jesus Christ, who demonstrated his love for us by becoming obedient to death on the cross. May we be inspired by his example and strive to live lives of loyalty and faithfulness in all that we do. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Sacrifice in Hopelessness

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I want to talk to you about sacrifice in hopelessness. We all face difficult times in our lives, times when we feel hopeless and helpless. During these times, we may be tempted to give up, to stop trying, and to succumb to despair. But as Christians, we know that there is hope, even in the darkest of times. And sometimes, the key to finding that hope is through sacrifice.

Sacrifice is a central theme in the Bible. We see it in the story of Abraham, who was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, as God had commanded him. In Hebrews 11:17-19, we read, "By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death."

Abraham's sacrifice was a powerful demonstration of his faith in God. He trusted in God's plan, even when it seemed impossible. And God rewarded his faithfulness by sparing Isaac's life and blessing him abundantly.

In the New Testament, we see the ultimate sacrifice in Jesus Christ. In John 3:16, we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was the ultimate act of love and sacrifice. He willingly gave his life so that we could have eternal life with God.

But what about us? How can we demonstrate sacrifice in our own lives, especially when we are facing hopelessness and despair? One way is by sacrificing our own comfort and desires for the sake of others. In Philippians 2:3-4, we read, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

When we are feeling hopeless, it can be easy to become self-centered and focus solely on our own problems. But by sacrificing our own comfort and desires for the sake of others, we can find hope and purpose. We can make a difference in the lives of others, and in doing so, we can find meaning and fulfillment.

Another way we can demonstrate sacrifice in hopelessness is by sacrificing our own will and desires for the sake of God's will. In Luke 22:42, Jesus prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from

me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Jesus knew that he was facing a difficult and painful sacrifice, but he submitted himself to God’s will, even when it was hard.

Similarly, when we are feeling hopeless and lost, we can choose to sacrifice our own will and desires for the sake of God’s will. We can choose to trust in God’s plan, even when it is difficult, and we can find hope and peace in knowing that God is in control.

In conclusion, sacrifice in hopelessness is a powerful tool for finding hope and purpose in our lives. We can sacrifice our own comfort and desires for the sake of others, and we can sacrifice our own will and desires for the sake of God’s will. By doing so, we can find meaning and fulfillment in even the darkest of times. Let us remember the examples of Abraham and Jesus, and let us strive to live lives of sacrifice and faithfulness in all that we do. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Criminal Christian

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, I want to speak to you about the criminal Christian. We all know that being a Christian means living a life of righteousness, following the teachings of Jesus Christ and striving to be like Him. But unfortunately, there are some who claim to be Christians but live a life of criminality, deceit, and sin.

As we know, God’s word clearly states that we are not to engage in criminal behavior or break the law. Romans 13:1-2 says, “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

So, as Christians, it is our duty to obey the laws of the land, for by doing so, we are obeying God. However, we know that there are some who choose to break the law and engage in criminal activity. They steal, cheat, and lie, all while claiming to be followers of Christ.

But the truth is, a criminal Christian is an oxymoron. One cannot claim to follow Christ while engaging in criminal behavior. This is not to say that Christians are perfect and never sin. We all fall short of the glory of God and need His grace and forgiveness. However, when we sin, we are to repent and turn away from our sinful ways.

We see examples of criminal behavior in the Bible, such as Judas, who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. He was a disciple of Jesus, yet he engaged in criminal activity. In the end, his actions led to his downfall and ultimately his death.

Another example is the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. They sold a piece of property and kept some of the money for themselves, lying to the apostles about how much they had received. Their actions were not only criminal but also deceitful, and they paid the price for their sin.

As Christians, we are called to be a light in the world, to be salt and to spread the gospel of Christ. We cannot do that if we are engaging in criminal behavior. Instead, we must live a life of integrity, honesty, and righteousness. We must strive to be like Christ, who was sinless and perfect.

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus tells us, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Let us, therefore, strive to be salt and light in the world, to live a life that glorifies God and shines His light to those around us. Let us turn away from all forms of criminal behavior and seek to do what is right in God’s eyes. For in doing so, we will not only be following His will but also living a life that is pleasing to Him.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel

Devotion: Sunrise Devotion

Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment

Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org

Theme: “Repentance and Walking in the Light of God”

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we come together to reflect on the importance of repentance from sin and walking in the light of God. As followers of Christ, we are called to turn away from our sinful ways and live in the truth and righteousness of God. Let us turn our hearts and minds to God’s Word to guide us on this journey of repentance and transformation. Scripture 1: 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Explanation: One of the first steps in repentance is acknowledging our sins before God. When we confess our sins with a humble and contrite heart, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from our unrighteousness. This verse reminds us of the mercy and grace of God that is available to all who come to Him in repentance. Scripture 2: Acts 3:19

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Explanation: Repentance involves a turning away from sin and a turning towards God. When we repent and seek forgiveness from God, He promises to wipe out our sins and bring us times of refreshment and renewal in His presence. Let us not delay in repenting and seeking God’s forgiveness, for He is eager to welcome us back into His loving embrace.

Scripture 3: Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

Explanation: As we continue to walk in the light of God, His Word serves as a guiding light for our journey of faith. The Word of God illuminates our path, showing us the way to righteousness and

leading us away from sin. Let us immerse ourselves in God's Word daily, allowing it to shape and transform our hearts and minds as we strive to walk in His light.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we reflect on the importance of repentance from sin and walking in the light of God, may we be reminded of God's never-ending love and mercy towards us. Let us continually seek His forgiveness, turn away from our sinful ways, and live in the truth and righteousness of God. May we be guided by His Word and empowered by His Spirit as we journey together in faith. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: The Power of Faith

Dear congregation, today we gather to reflect on the profound impact that faith can have on our lives. Faith is more than just a belief; it is a foundation, a guiding light in times of darkness, and a source of unwavering strength. It is through faith that mountains are moved, hearts are healed, and miracles are witnessed.

In times of uncertainty, it is our faith that anchors us, reminding us of the promises that have been made. It is faith that gives us the courage to persevere when faced with challenges and the hope to see beyond our current circumstances. As we walk our journey of life, faith is the constant companion that never wavers, never falters.

Let us remember the words of Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” This verse reminds us that faith is not just a passive belief but an active trust in the promises of God. It is this unwavering trust that propels us forward, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

As we navigate our lives with faith as our guide, let us also remember the words of James 2:26 – “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” It is not enough to simply profess our faith; we must also live it out in our actions and interactions with others. Our faith should be a beacon of light, illuminating the darkness and bringing hope to those around us.

May we take this message of faith to heart and allow it to transform us from the inside out. Let us walk boldly in faith, knowing that we are guided and protected by a power greater than ourselves. May our lives be a testament to the power of faith, shining brightly for all to see.

Scripture Verses on Faith:

1. Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”
2. Matthew 17:20 – “He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’”

Church: Manuel White Chapel

Devotion: Sunrise Devotion

Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment

Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org

Theme: The Power of the Grave: Resurrection Through Jesus Christ

Dear congregation, today we gather to reflect on the profound and transformative power of the grave as seen through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The grave, a symbol of death and finality, was forever changed on that glorious day when Jesus broke free from its chains and triumphantly rose from the dead. It is through this miraculous event that we find hope, redemption, and eternal life.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we see the account of the resurrection of Jesus in chapter 28, verses 5-7: “But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead.’”

These words remind us that the power of the grave was no match for the power of our resurrected Lord. Death was defeated, and new life was ushered in through the victory of Jesus over sin and darkness. The grave, once a symbol of despair, became a symbol of hope and new beginnings.

As we contemplate the power of the grave in light of Christ’s resurrection, let us also reflect on Romans 6:4: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Through our belief in Jesus Christ, we are not only granted forgiveness of sins but also the promise of new life, both now and for eternity.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a historical event; it is a living reality that continues to shape and transform our lives today. It reminds us that no matter how dark our circumstances may

seem, there is always hope. The grave has been conquered, and we are invited to share in the victory of our resurrected Savior.

May we take comfort and strength in the power of the grave as demonstrated through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us live each day in the light of this truth, knowing that we are heirs to a hope that can never be taken away. May our lives be a testament to the transformative power of Christ's resurrection, shining brightly for all to see.

As we go forth from this place, may we carry with us the joy and confidence that comes from knowing that the grave has no hold on us. Through Jesus Christ, we have been set free, and in His resurrection, we find our ultimate hope and salvation. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Woe Unto Me If I Don't Preach the Gospel of God

Dear congregation, today we gather to reflect on the solemn responsibility and calling that we have as believers to preach the Gospel of God. In the book of 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul expresses the urgency and weight of this calling in Chapter 9, verses 16-17: "For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me."

These words remind us of the importance of sharing the good news of salvation with others. It is not merely a suggestion or a choice but a mandate that we are called to fulfill. Woe unto us if we neglect or shy away from this crucial task of spreading the gospel.

The Gospel is not just a message of hope and redemption for ourselves but a message that is meant to be shared with the world. In Mark 16:15, Jesus commands His disciples, saying, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." This Great Commission extends to all believers, calling us to be ambassadors of Christ, sharing the message of salvation with everyone we encounter.

As we consider the weight of this calling to preach the Gospel of God, let us also meditate on Romans 10:14-15: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

These verses emphasize the interconnectedness of faith, hearing the Gospel, and proclaiming it to others. It is through our willingness to share the good news that others have the opportunity to believe and be saved. Our responsibility to preach the Gospel is not to be taken lightly, for woe unto us if we fail to fulfill this divine mandate.

May we be inspired and motivated by the urgency and importance of sharing the Gospel of God with those around us. Let us take up this calling with courage, humility, and faithfulness, knowing that through our obedience, lives can be transformed, hearts can be healed, and souls can be saved.

As we leave this place today, may we go forth with a renewed commitment to proclaim the Gospel of God, recognizing the weight of the responsibility that rests upon our shoulders. May we be faithful stewards of this precious message, sharing it boldly and unapologetically with a world in desperate need of the hope and salvation that it offers. Amen.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: Withstanding the Storms of Life

Life is often compared to a voyage across the sea. Sometimes the waters are calm, but other times, fierce storms arise, threatening to overwhelm us. How do we remain steadfast and unshaken when life's storms come? Today, we will draw from the wisdom of the Scriptures to find our anchor in times of turbulence.

Recognize the Presence of the Storm- Scripture: Mark 4:37-38 (NIV)

"A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'"

Jesus' disciples experienced a literal storm that caused great fear. It's important to acknowledge that storms, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, are real and can be overwhelming. Denial won't make them disappear.

Anchor Your Faith in Jesus- Scripture: Mark 4:39-40 (NIV)

”He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, ‘Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith? Jesus calmed the storm with His command. Similarly, our faith in Jesus can bring peace amidst chaos. When we anchor our faith in Him, we are reminded that He is sovereign over all circumstances. Lean on God’s Promises- Scripture: Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

God doesn’t promise a life without storms, but He does promise His presence and protection through them. Trusting in God’s promises helps to navigate and endure difficult times. Seek Refuge in Prayer, Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

”Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Life’s storms are inevitable, but our response to them makes all the difference. By recognizing the storms, anchoring our faith in Jesus, leaning on God’s promises, seeking refuge in prayer, and building our lives on the solid foundation of His word, we can stand firm and unshaken. Remember, the one who calms the storm is with you always.

Church: Manuel White Chapel
Devotion: Sunrise Devotion
Broadcast: Voice of Empowerment
Website: www.manuelwhitechapel.org
Theme: The Glorious Return of Our Savior

As we gather here today, let us open our hearts to the message of hope and salvation through the promise of the glorious return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The scriptures tell us of His first coming as the humble servant who sacrificed Himself for our sins, but they also foretell His second coming in power and glory to establish His kingdom forever.

In Matthew 24:30, Jesus Himself tells us, “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.” This is the assurance we have that our Savior will come again, not as a baby in a manger, but as a triumphant King reigning over all creation.

The apostle Paul reinforces this message in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, declaring, “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” What a glorious promise this is for all who believe in Him!

As we await His return, let us not grow weary or complacent, but let us be vigilant in our faith, standing firm in the truth of His Word. In 2 Peter 3:10, we are reminded, “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.” Let us then live as children of the light, knowing that our redemption draws near.

Brothers and sisters, the coming of Jesus Christ is not simply a future event to speculate about; it is a reality that should shape our present lives. Let us be found faithful and obedient, serving Him wholeheartedly and sharing the good news of His salvation with all those around us.

In conclusion, let us take heart in the words of Revelation 22:20, where Jesus declares, “Yes, I am coming soon.” May this truth be a source of comfort and encouragement to us as we eagerly anticipate the day when we will see our Savior face to face. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Amen.