

Even Through My Death

[Short Word Meditation (18)]

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He was physically weak and couldn't stay awake with Jesus for even an hour.

Peter's heart was fervent, determined never to forsake Jesus,
never to claim ignorance of Him. Yet, though he earnestly loved Jesus,
even as Jesus, in His agony, urged him to stay awake and pray,
Peter could not stay awake with Him even for an hour, not even for a single hour.
How could someone so physically weak avoid denying Jesus three times?
(Matthew 26:31-41)

3 requests, 3 denials, 3 questions, 3 missions

Jesus, who prayed 3 times, saying, 'Not as I will, but as You will,'
appeared to His disciples 3 times after His resurrection.
To Peter, who denied knowing Jesus 3 times,
Jesus asked 3 times, 'Do you love me?'
and 3 times entrusted him with the mission:
"Feed my lambs," "Take care of my sheep," "Feed my sheep"
(Matthew 26:34, 39, 42, 44, 70, 72, 74; John 21:14-17).

The greatest?

In the eyes of the Lord, the least among us are the greatest
(Luke 9:48).

Hypocritical church members with cunning thoughts?

Hypocritical churchgoers, like the Pharisees, deliberate with cunning thoughts on how they can trap Jesus' disciples with their words, then actually proceed to test the Lord's servants (Matthew 22:15, 18).

Unlike an earnest heart, a weak body ...

The fervent heart of the Apostle Peter was expressed in his declarations:

"I will never forsake you, even if everyone else does" and

"Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you."

However, his weak body led him to abandon Jesus and flee when Jesus was seized, then he followed from a distance and denied knowing Jesus three times

(Mark 14:29, 31, 50, 54, 68, 70, 71).

Are you ready to go?

The Apostle Peter, who declared, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death," followed Jesus from a distance all the way to the high priest's courtyard as Jesus was being taken into custody

(Luke 22:33, 54).

Let's offer a prayer of thanks and share God's word.

Let us give thanks to God and share the words of Jesus,
who is the bread of life, with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
Let us pray that the Lord opens their eyes
to understand and enlightens them with His words, warming their hearts
(Ref.: Luke 24:30-32, John 6:48).

The man who said that expensive perfume should be sold at a high price ...

The disciples of Jesus, upon seeing a woman
pour a valuable jar of perfume on Jesus' head, were indignant and said,
"Why this waste? This perfume could have been sold at a high price
and the money given to the poor."
But Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples, asked,
"What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?"
So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.
The person who said that the precious perfume should be sold at a high price
was the one who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver
(Matthew 26:9, 15).

The temple of the Lord becoming a den of thieves?

Is the temple of the Lord truly a house of prayer as written in the Scriptures,
or is it being turned into a den of robbers by merchants?

(Mark 11:15-17)

He who knows that there is no way to repay ...

The servants of the Lord,
knowing there is no way to repay the love and hospitality bestowed upon us by the Lord,
will humbly accept His invitation without any excuse when invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb
(Luke 14:12-14, 16-21).

Beware of false pastors!

We must beware of false pastors.
They come to us dressed as sheep,
but inwardly they are like wolves, plundering us.
The way to discern false pastors is by their fruit.
The bad pastors tend to bear bad fruit.
By their actions, we can recognize them
(Matthew 7:15-20).

Foolish church members who follow and blindly obey false pastors ...

Foolish churchgoers, to the extent of ignoring even the bad fruit of false pastors, blindly follow and obey them, only focusing on the sheep's clothing they wear (Matthew 7:15-20).

Foolish church members being preyed on by false pastors ...

Passionate churchgoers who cannot discern false pastors and blindly follow them will inevitably become victims of their plunder as a result of their own choices (Matthew 7:15).

A lying christian

The Spirit of truth guides us into all truth, but the devil, who is a liar and the father of lies, speaks falsehood according to his nature. (John 8:44; 16:13).

'If we claim to have fellowship with God and yet walk in the darkness of sin, we lie and do not live out the truth (1 John 1:6).

It looks clean on the outside, but on the inside ...?

The outside of hypocrites may appear clean,
but inside they are filled with greed and self-indulgence
(Matthew 23:25).

If we have faith as small as a mustard seed ...

Even if we have faith as small as a mustard seed,
after doing everything the Lord has commanded us, we can only say,
“We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty”
(Luke 17:6, 10).

Humble Jesus, arrogant us

Jesus was moving towards death as determined by God,
but among Jesus' disciples, there arose a dispute about who was the greatest.
In contrast to the humble Jesus, we are arrogant.
(Luke 22:22, 24).

We should be warned and repent ...

The soul in hell may think that even if someone rises from the dead and is sent back to warn their family, they will not repent. Therefore, while we are alive on this earth, when we sin, we must humbly accept the warnings of our brothers and sisters in Christ and repent (Luke 16:22-31; 17:3).

We must continue on our way.

When Herod intended to kill Jesus, Jesus said, 'I must keep going on my way' (Luke 13:31-33).

As disciples of Jesus, we must also continue to follow His path, even if there is persecution.

We continue to move toward the New Jerusalem.

We must continue to share God's word, as we continue to journey towards the New Jerusalem (Luke 13:22; Revelation 21:2).

In times of suffering, we must wear the yoke of suffering and drink the bitter cup of suffering until the period of suffering passes.

At the Garden of Gethsemane,

Jesus not only prayed, "Father, everything is possible for you.

Take this cup of suffering away from me.

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine,"

but after receiving an answer to His prayer from God the Father,

He was arrested by the Roman soldiers, the temple guards, and the Jewish officials.

He was eventually led away, bound, to be subjected to suffering, and crucified, after which He died.

(Luke chapter 23; Mark 14:36; John 18:11-12).

As disciples of Jesus, we too must drink our bitter cup of suffering,

fastening the yoke of suffering around our necks until the period of suffering has passed.

(Lamentations 3:28; Matthew 20:22; Mark 13:19, 24).

God has shortened this period of suffering for us,

whom He has chosen, and has made the valley of suffering a gateway of hope.

Therefore, we must undergo trials by the fire of suffering,

being refined to become like pure gold

(Job 23:10; Isaiah 48:10; Mark 13:20).

Cup of suffering in times of suffering

What we desire is for this cup of suffering to be taken away from us
and for this time of suffering to pass,
but if what the Lord desires is for us to receive this cup of suffering
during this time of distress,
then like Jesus, we must pray,
'Yet not what I will, but what you will'
(Mark 14:36).

The process of suffering

The process of suffering will become an opportunity to testify of Jesus
(Mark 13:8, 9).

All of this is just the beginning of suffering.

Things are happening now that must happen, but the end is not yet.
All of this is just the beginning of suffering
(Mark 13:7-8)

Will the Lord really look at me and say this?

Will the Lord really look at me and say,
'This person is a true Christian without any deceit'?
(Reference: John 1:47)

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness'

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness' as spoken through the prophet Isaiah, refers to John the Baptist, who cried out, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." He prepared the way of the Lord and made straight paths for Him (Matthew 3:1-3).

Similarly, we are like John the Baptist in this world, which is like a wilderness, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of the King Jesus is near," preparing the way of the Lord and making straight paths for His return.

False and bad pastors who steal money from church members

False and bad pastors love money,
so they dress in sheep's clothing and steal money from church members
(Matthew 7:15, 17, Luke 16:14).

Many people who go to church ...?

Rather than following many people who go to church
because they walk the wide road and enter the large gate that leads to destruction,
we should rather walk the narrow path
that only a few people find and follow them through the small gate that leads to life
(Matthew 7:13-14).

The brood of vipers in the church ...

The brood of vipers in the church
act well to show that they have truly repented
(Luke 3:7-8).

Two types of people in the church

There are two types of people in the church:
There are (1) people the world hates and (2) people the world cannot hate
(John 7:7).

The cause of all the problems in the church?

Perhaps ignorance of who the Lord is and what His will is
is the cause of all problems in the church
(Ref.: John 5:18).

Hypocrites in the church ... (1)

Hypocrites in the church
are teaching man-made laws as if they were God's teachings.
They are worshiping God in vain
(Matthew 15:7-9).

Hypocrites in the church ... (2)

Hypocrites in the church
are worshiping God in vain
and also speaking the Word of God in vain
(Mark 7:7, 13).

We must not imitate the hypocrites in the church.

We must not imitate the hypocrites in the church
who appear clean, beautiful, and righteous on the outside,
while on the inside they are full of greed, debauchery, skeletons, filth, hypocrisy, and sin
(Matthew 23:25-28).

Because we speak the right words in church ...

There may be disciples of Jesus who face difficulties
because they speak the truth in the church
without being able to provide evidence of wrongdoing
(Ref.: John 18:23).

They cause uproar in the church.

People who have wrong thoughts and are following the wrong path
cause uproar in the church by slandering people who are taking the right path,
even to the point of using force.
(Luke 23:2, 5).

People who suffer unfairly within the church

Allowing people in the church
who have wrong thoughts and are going down the wrong path
to do whatever they want can cause innocent people to suffer unfairly
(Luke 23:25).

People who are good at finding fault in the church?

People in the church, like the hypocritical Pharisees,
say a lot of things that are just for their own sake
and that they should not do anything
(Mark 2:24).

Only when the church becomes completely unified ...

Only when the church becomes completely unified
will the world know that the Lord, who is the head of the church, loves the church
(John 17:23).

We must make every effort to maintain the unity of the church.

Jesus, who asked God the Father to make us completely one in the Lord just as God the Father and God the Son, Jesus, are one, died to gather the scattered children of God and make them one (John 11:52; 17:11, 21, 22, 23).

Therefore, as children of God, we must do our best to keep what the Holy Spirit has given us to unite us with the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

Our rock as a church

The rock of the Lord's church is Peter's confession of faith, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In other words, our rock as a church is Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 16:15-18; 1 Corinthians 10:14).

Any excuse is necessary to get a divorce.

God, who created man, first created man and woman. Then the man left his father and mother and was joined to his wife, so that the two became one flesh. They are no longer two bodies, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no one can separate. However, people are abandoning their wives, and wives are abandoning their husbands, as long as there is an excuse (Matthew 19:3-6).

Salvation given by the Lord of Salvation

The salvation that Jesus, the Lord God and the Lord of salvation, came to this world and gave us is the salvation that saves us from sin and saves us from the hands of our enemies and all those who hate us (Luke 1:68- 71, 74).

Authority vs. service

The rulers of the world who do not believe in Jesus rule over citizens and exercise authority, but Jesus' disciples who believe in Jesus become servants of others and serve others (Matthew 20:25-27).

The more we listen and put it into practice

The more we listen to God's word and put it into practice, the more you will gain (Mark 4:20, 24).

Could he have forgotten the sound of the rooster at that time?

Could he have forgotten the sound of the rooster at that time?

At that time, when Peter heard the rooster's crow, he remembered what Jesus had said,

"Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me,"

and he cried endlessly. Could he have forgotten that memory?

He clearly said to Jesus with his own mouth,

"Even if everyone abandons me, I will never abandon you, Lord."

However, he not only abandoned Jesus and ran away,

but also denied knowing Jesus three times.

How could the rooster crow at that time?

Could he have forgotten that sound?

(Matthew 26:33-34, 56, 75).

Rather than understanding that word ...

Jesus taught his disciples that he would be handed over to men and be killed,

and that he would rise again three days after his death.

Instead of understanding his word,

the disciples argued with each other about who was the greatest

(Mark 9:31-34).

If we lose our taste ...

If we Christians, who are the salt of the earth, lose our taste,
we will be of no use and will only be trampled by people
(Matthew 5:13).

Pray to God to forgive that person without forgiving them?

Although we pray countless times to God
the prayer that the Lord taught us (the Lord's Prayer),
in real life we pray forgive us our sins
while refusing to forgive those who sin against us
(Matthew 6:12).

That is hateful before God.

Church members who love money and serve both God and money
are not faithful to the Lord's wealth.

Rather, they are sincere in handling worldly wealth,
but they often pretend to be right in front of people
and seek to be praised and respected by others.

This is hateful before God
(Luke 16:12-15).

What value would it have?

If Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said that if we give glory to ourselves, it is of no value, then what value is it if we give glory to ourselves?
(John 8:54)

We must follow Him.

We should not be able to do anything on our own without seeing what the Lord does. Whatever the Lord does, we must follow Him
(John 5:19).

I pray that they too can enjoy it to the fullest.

I pray to the Lord that my beloved physical family and church family will be able to enjoy to the fullest the joy of meditating on the Word that I am enjoying
(Ref.: John 17:13).

God glorifies such people.

God's children who know God the Father
by knowing Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
live only for the glory of God by keeping the Word of God.
God glorifies such people
(John 8:54-55, 12:45, 14:9; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

What do we do if we receive glory from such people?

What do we do if we receive glory from people
who do not have a heart for God?
(John 5:41-42)

It is God's will that cannot help but be so...

It is God's will that cannot help but be so,
but Satan and man's thoughts say, 'It cannot be done'
(Mark 8:31-33).

People who are on the wrong path ...

People who are on the wrong path
think that those who are walking on the right path
are walking on the wrong path
(Ref.: Luke 23:2).

Even if it seems like it would work ...

He died and was buried in the ground,
but while his soul was suffering in hell, he asked the Lord to please him.
The Lord, who died and came back to life,
sent the person in his arms to my family to warn them and repent,
so that at least my remaining family members would not come to this place of suffering.
Even if it seems like it would be okay to do it, that member who does not listen to the word of God
will not believe even if the dead person comes back to life
(Luke 16:22-31).

When we pray ...

When we pray,
we should not intentionally put on a sad face to show off to others
(Matthew 6:16).
We need to cry and pray so that only Father God can see us.

If we remember something we have offended ...

When we pray, if we remember something we have offended someone,
we must forgive in our hearts, and our Father in heaven will also forgive us for our mistakes
(Mark 11:25).

We must pray.

When a pastor, a servant of the Lord, performs his duties as a Sunday pastor,
church members must pray
(Luke 1:8-10).

The Lord who rejoices and weeps

Jesus was happy for his disciples that the sick were not at Bethany
where his beloved Lazarus lived,
but when he saw Mary weeping over the dead Lazarus
and the Jews who had come with her weeping,
he was filled with sorrow in his spirit, had pity on them, and shed tears
(John 11:15, 18, 33, 35).

Jesus, who rejoiced for the faith of her beloved disciples,
shed tears when he saw Mary crying over her dead brother
and the Jews who were comforting her (v. 31).

The Lord, who rejoices for our faith, sees our tears and weeps with us
(Ref.: Romans 12:15).

To those who do not easily believe unless they see miracles and miraculous works

The Lord performs miracles and miraculous works in people who do not easily believe unless they see miracles and miraculous works, and causes not only them but their entire family to believe in Jesus. (John 3:46-53).

God the Father keeps it clean.

God the Father, the farmer, cleans the branches that bear fruit while attached to Jesus, the true vine, so that they bear more fruit (John 15:1-2).

Church traditions that need to be broken?

Jesus is saying, 'Why do you break God's commandments because of your traditions?'
What church traditions do we need to break?
(Matthew 15:1-3).

Persistent prayer?

We need to pray persistently
until our prayers are answered according to God's will
(Luke 11:8; 1 John 5:14).

I get a glimpse into the heart of God the Father who loves a prodigal son like me.

While his father was still alive, he received his share of the property in advance,
went to a distant country, played with prostitutes, lost all his wealth through debauchery,
and came to his senses in the midst of starvation and poverty,
saying, 'I have sinned against heaven and my father, and now I have sinned.'
He is not even worthy of being called his father's son.
God loves a prodigal son like me through the heart of the father
who said, 'Please just use me as one of your laborers,'
said, 'He died and came back to life, was lost and was found again,'
slaughtered a fat calf, ate it with his servants, and rejoiced.
I see a glimpse into the heart of the Father
(Luke 15:11-32).

Rather than feeling ashamed of myself...

Rather than feeling ashamed of myself, I boast about my weaknesses,
so that people do not judge me beyond what they have seen and heard about me,
and as I humbly share what I have meditated on the Lord's word without being arrogant,
so that the power of Christ is revealed to me
(2 Corinthians 12:5-9).

It is beneficial for me if one person dies.

Let us serve the Lord's church with the thought
that it is beneficial for one person to die for all church members
(John 17:14).

[Thinking of my father-in-law, who died while serving the Lord's church
like a grain of wheat (John 12:24)].

Could I entrust myself to them?

If I knew the true intentions of the people around me,
would I really be able to entrust myself to them?
(John 2:23-25)

As a father I ...

As a father, I love Dillon, Yeri, and Karis,
so I have to show everything I do transparently to my three children.
Not only that, but I must entrust what I do to those I love,
according to God's will and in God's time
(John 5:20, 22).

Am I talking about Jesus?

Am I not talking openly about Jesus
because I am afraid of people who hate Him?
(John 7:13)

Am I a true disciple of Jesus?

A true disciple of Jesus who thinks about the things of God and not the things of men
is someone who denies himself, takes up his cross, follows Jesus,
and lays down his life for Jesus
(Matthew 16:23-25).

I am a blessed man.

A person who knows who Jesus is
through revelation from God the Father in heaven is a blessed person
(Matthew 16:15-17).

I am not alone!

Even if the people around me disperse and go their own way and leave me alone,
I am not alone because God is with me
(Ref.: John 16:32).

The Lord who takes care of me ...

The Lord who takes care of me
will wash away my shame, which everyone knows
(Luke 1:25).

A bad pastor cannot bear good fruit.

A bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

But foolish church members think that a bad pastor is wearing sheep's clothing and bearing good fruit in the eyes of the people, not knowing that inside he is a ravenous wolf (Matthew 7:15-20).

People who gossip negatively about me

Among the many people who had gathered after hearing about Jesus, there were also those who had gathered to hear Jesus' words and heal the sick, but they asked, "Who on earth is this person who dares blaspheme God? Who can forgive sins except God alone?" There were also Pharisees and teachers of the law who were whispering (Luke 5:15, 17-21).

We must be aware that among the many people around us, there may be people who gossip negatively about us. Those people who gossip negatively may end up attacking us fatally.

Even through my death ...

I hope pray that by dedicating my life for Jesus and the gospel,
I will be able to lead many people to the Lord Jesus Christ
even by dying at God's appointed time
(Mark 8:35; John 12:32, Ref.: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; Daniel 12:3).

Even later, He will remind me of those words ...

Even Jesus' disciples remembered Jesus' words,
"Destroy this temple. I will rebuild it in three days,"
and it was only after Jesus died and was resurrected
that they began to believe the Scripture and Jesus' word.
(John 2:19-22).

Even though we may not believe it at the moment we receive God's word,
the Lord may remind us of the word later
so that we can believe in the Scripture and what the Lord has said.

Even later, understanding is a blessing.

Jesus was acting according to the words of the Old Testament,
but his disciples did not realize it. They only realized it after Jesus was glorified
(John 12:16, Modern Bible).

I think it is God's grace that we realize this even later.
The reason is that not realizing it later can lead to distrust
and misunderstanding rather than understanding.

What God wanted to reveal?

The man who had been blind since birth thought Jesus was a prophet when he obeyed Jesus' words and went to Siloam to wash and open his eyes. When Jesus met the blind man and told him that he was the Son of God, the blind man said, "Lord, I believe," and worshipped Jesus (John 9:1, 6-7, 17, 35 - 38). Jesus not only healed the eyes of a man who had been blind since birth, but also saved his soul. This was the work of God that He wanted to be revealed in this man who had been blind from birth (v. 3).

Let us not be discouraged and continue to do good deeds.

Although Jesus did good things, the Jewish leaders who accused Jesus told the Roman governor Pilate that Jesus did evil things (John 18:29-30).

Disciples of Jesus should not become discouraged while doing good works (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

The reason is that if we do not lose heart and continue to do good, we will surely reap in God's time (Galatians 6:9).

Don't be discouraged but be courageous.

The people of the world who hate Jesus for no reason will naturally hate us, Jesus' disciples, for no reason and torment us. The more we are hated and tormented by the people of the world, the more we think of Jesus, who loved us until he was hated, suffered, and died on the cross. We must endure the shame and the pain of our cross for the joy we will enjoy in the future, and do not be discouraged. We must be courageous (John 15:21, 25; Hebrews 12:2-3).

Faithfully meditating the word of God every day

The chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people were plotting to kill Jesus, but Jesus continued to teach in the temple every day. At that time, all the people were listening intently to the words of Jesus, so the chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people could do nothing (Luke 19:47-48).

The lesson these words give is

- (1) To follow the example of Jesus and meditate on the Word of God every day and night and share it with our members,
- (2) To remain silent and faithful even when people who dislike and hate me are plotting to harm me.
- (3) God can protect those who diligently listen to His Word.

An official who serves to be seen by others?

People who serve in the church to be seen by others, like high positions,
or are hypocrites like Pharisees who like people calling them
'pastor,' 'elder,' or 'ordained deacon'.

We must not imitate them

(Matthew 23:5-7; 3 John 1:9-11).

I shouldn't say what I want ...

I should not treat the teachings made by people
as my own and speak on my own,
but should teach by putting into practice
the teachings of the Lord who sent me to this world
(John 7:16-17).

Why my heart praises the Lord and rejoices in the Lord

My soul praises the Lord, and my heart rejoices in God my Savior,
because he has cared for this lowly servant and has done great things for me,
exalting one who is lowly and humble
(Luke 1:47-49, 52).

Before I leave this world and go to the Lord ...

Before I leave this world and go to the Lord,
I pray that the Lord will safely protect my beloved wife Jane,
and three children Dillon, Yeri, and Karis, who remain in my heart,
and protect their faith so that not one of them perishes and receives eternal life
(Ref. John 17:11-12).

Even after I die ...

Even after the Lord calls me (even after my death),
the Lord will continue to share the word of the Lord, the bread of life,
according to the promise He made to me (John 6:1-15),
and through sharing all of my words through meditation,
He will continue to reach many people
(John 19:36; Hebrews 11:4).

I may one day stop and end on this earth,
but the work of sharing the Lord's word cannot be stopped.

The lips and hearts of very different hypocrites

The lips of hypocrites seem to love the Lord so much and are so close to the Lord,
but their hearts are so far away from the Lord
(Matthew 15:7-8).

‘You are my friends.’

To Jesus' disciples who go out into the world and bear the fruit of love by loving one another according to Jesus' commandments, Jesus says, ‘You are my friends’ (John 15:14-17).

Satan who causes a fall

Satan is causing the Lord's church to stumble by making us think about the things of men and not the things of God (Matthew 16:21-23).

‘You are free from disease.’

I pray that the Lord will say to the many members suffering from disease, ‘You are free from disease’ (Luke 13:12).

A hypocrite in the church is making people who worked hard to evangelize into hypocrites who are twice as bad.

A hypocrite in the church may work hard to gain one member, but in the end, he or she turns that person into a hypocrite who is twice as bad as he or she is (Matthew 23:15).

Satan's temptation to take us to a high position?

The devil takes us to a very high position in this world, shows us all the glory of the world, and tempts us by saying that he will give us all this if we bow down to him. In order to defeat this Satan, we must hold on to the words written in the Bible: 'Worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve' (Matthew 4:8-10). We must pray, "Lord, do not give us the glory. 'Do not give it to us, but give glory to your name alone' (Psalms 115:1).

Who is the robber?

People who turned the temple of the Lord, a house of prayer, into a den of robbers,
People came to catch Jesus with swords and clubs, 'as if he were a robber,'
while he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane,
Jesus was crucified with two robbers in the end.
He was crucified and died
(Mark 11:17; 14:48; 15:27).

Who do you eat with ...?

It is far better to dine with someone who thinks he is a sinner
than with someone who thinks he is righteous
(Mark 2:15-17).

Why do we despise others?

The reason we despise others, even in our hearts,
is because we believe ourselves to be righteous
(Luke 18:9).

'You drive like an unbeliever.'

Although I am clearly a disciple of Jesus,
don't I have a tendency to pretend and insist in front of the world,
'I am not a disciple of Jesus?' (John 18:25-27).
One day, I was driving to church with my wife.
On the way to church, I suddenly remembered what my wife,
who was sitting next to me, said when she saw me driving rough:
'You drive like an unbeliever.'

I'm even happier.

A person who hears and puts into practice the word of God
is happier than Mary, who gave birth to and raised Jesus
(Luke 11:27-28).

Church members who like money ...

Church members who like money do not manage the property
that the Lord has entrusted to them on this earth for a short time according to the Lord's will,
but rather waste it in the sight of the Lord.
So the Lord says to them, 'I can no longer entrust you with property,
so you must put in order all the stewardship work you have been doing.'
At that time, church members who love money, like the people of this world,
unfaithfully gather unrighteous wealth in order to be wise in their own way.
To such people the Lord says, "You cannot serve God and money."
However, church members who love money laugh at these words
(Luke 16:1-14).

Repent later

Rather than saying I will obey and then disobeying,
it is better to say I will disobey and then “repent later” and obey
(Matthew 21:28-31).

My hypocrisy is exposed.

My hypocrisy is exposed.
What comes out of my heart is unclean,
but my lips are proclaiming the holy word of God ...
(Mark Chapter 7)

Devil

Of the 12 disciples chosen by Jesus,
the one who would betray Jesus, Judas Iscariot, was a “devil”
(John 6:70).

So, wouldn't there be "devils"
among those who closely follow Jesus in the church today?

The devil's test

Even when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit,
we can be tempted by the devil
(Luke 4:1-2).

The devil's children ...

God's children believe in Jesus, who speaks the truth,
but the devil's children do not belong to God,
so they do not understand and cannot understand the word of God,
so they do not listen to it, but rather listen to the lies of the devil,
who is a liar and the father of lies.
(John 8:43-47).

There is no truth for children of the devil.

They say with their lips that God is our Father,
but in their hearts they do not love Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
So, they do not understand or understand the words of Jesus.
Therefore, they are disobeying the words of Jesus.
The reason is because they are not children of God but children of the devil.
Children of the devil do not have the truth,
so they cannot stand on the side of the truth
(John 8:38-44).

My heart is not troubled and I am not afraid.

Disciples of Jesus who have the peace
that the world cannot give and that only the Lord gives,
do not have trouble in their hearts or be afraid
(John 14:27).

Are the disciples of Jesus greedy for money in their hearts?

Church members, such as the money-loving Pharisees,
or disciples of Jesus, such as Judas Iscariot,
a thief who frequently steals money, say with their lips,
'The church's finances must be used to relieve the poor'
as if they were thinking about the poor.
Although they speak in words,
in their hearts they love money and covet it
(Luke 16:14; John 12:4-6; 1 Timothy 6:10).

Even though their hearts are already tainted...

The Jewish leaders who were trying to kill Jesus, the Passover lamb,
did not enter the Roman governor's residence
so that they could eat the Passover food without being defiled
(John 18:28).
Although their hearts of ignorance and disbelief,
not knowing and believing in Jesus, are already polluted,
they are hypocrites like the Pharisees within the church
and are trying to make their appearance clean in the eyes of others.

If our mind is dull, we are not careful.

If our mind is dull,
we do not understand the meaning of the Lord's words, "Be careful,"
and are unable to guard against erroneous teachings
(Mark 8:15, 17, 21).

Those whose hearts are in heaven

Those whose hearts are in heaven lay up eternal treasures in heaven.
However, those whose hearts are on the earth lay up treasures on earth that will perish
(Luke 12:33-34).

We must prevent them from entering our hearts.

We must prevent the worries of this world, the temptation for wealth,
and various other desires from entering our hearts
since they block the Word of God and prevent it from bearing fruit
(Mark 4:19).

If Jesus wanted to avoid the time appointed by God to die on the cross ...

Jesus Christ, who came to this world
to die on the cross at the appointed time of God,
was very distressed when the time came for him to be glorified.
He prayed, “Father, save me from this time.
But for this reason I have come to this time.
Father. “Glorify your name.”

If Jesus had only asked God the Father, ‘Save me,’
in order to avoid the time of death on the cross appointed by God,
Jesus’ salvation of life on the cross
would not have been the salvation of eternal life,
but eternal death for us.
In the end, as Jesus said,
he hated his own life and loved our lives
(John 12:25, 27-28).

The unsatisfied lust of the eyes

The unsatisfied lust of the eyes causes us to look at a woman (man) with lust
and thus commit adultery with her/him in our hearts
(Proverbs 27:20; Matthew 5:28; 1 John 2:16).

I hope our children will bring joy to many people.

Of course, my wife and I were happy and grateful
when our beloved Dillon, Yeri, and Karis were born.
But even more, we hope that many people will also be happy
with the birth of our three children
(Luke 1:14).

A lot of understanding, a lot of forgiveness, a lot of love

A Christian who realizes more
that his many sins have been forgiven loves the Lord more
because he forgives many people who have sinned against him
through the love of the cross of Jesus Christ.
But a Christian who realizes less that his many sins have been forgiven,
the less he forgives those who sin against him, the less he loves the Lord.
(Luke 7:47).

We can get to know a person through words.

Just as we can tell whether a tree is a good or bad tree by its fruit,
we can tell whether a person is a good or evil person through words.
Good people speak good words out of the good stored in their hearts,
and evil people speak evil out of the evil stored in their hearts.
People speak with their mouths what fills their hearts
(Luke 6:43-45).

A pastor who only talks but doesn't practice?

We should not imitate a pastor who only talks but does not practice,
but we must follow and keep whatever God's Word he teaches
(Matthew 23:2-4).

Someone who only talks, someone who acts?

As a tree is known by its fruit, so a Christian is known by their actions.
A person who merely says 'Lord, Lord' while not putting the Lord's words into practice
is like someone who builds a house on bare ground without a foundation.
When a flood comes, that house will collapse and be utterly destroyed.
But a person who hears the Lord's words and puts them into practice
is like someone who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock.
When the floodwaters rise and break against that house,
it stands firm because it is well built
(Luke 6:44, 46-49).

The Word-centered prayer

We must live in the Lord, keep His words,
and develop the habit of praying to God centered on those words
(John 15:7).

Farmers who sow seeds of the Word and the Gospel

We are like farmers who scatter the seeds of God's word
and the seeds of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Day by day, without us realizing it, the seeds of the word and the gospel
that are sown sprout and grow, bearing fruit.
First the shoot appears, then the head, and finally the ripened grain in the head.
When the grain is ripe, harvest time arrives.
So we must patiently wait until the Lord comes again.
"See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth
and is patient for it, enduring the autumn and spring rains.
You also must be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near"
(Mark 4:26-29; James 5:7-8).

‘Let it be done to me according to your word.’

Since nothing is impossible with God,
the servant of the Lord says in faith,
‘Let it be done to me according to your word’
(Luke 1:37-38).

The disciples of Jesus who have already been cleansed by the Word...

Disciples of Jesus who have already been cleansed through the words Jesus
taught us must purify our souls by obeying the truth
and love our brothers passionately with our hearts without lies
(John 15:3; 1 Peter 1:22).

It is very important.

It is important to pray that our faith will not fail
when we are tempted by Satan.

But it is also very important to repent and come back
and strengthen our brothers when our faith fails
(Luke 22:31-32).

Although I have correct knowledge of the Bible in my head ...

A person who has correct knowledge of the Bible
but tries to show himself as right in his heart
not only does not try to put that correct Bible knowledge into practice,
but even if he does, it will reveal his own glory rather than reveal the glory of God
(Luke 9: 27-29).

First ...

The life of a believer who seeks God's kingdom and God's righteousness first
involves treating others first rather than being treated first by others
(Matthew 6:33; 7:12).

How many Christians go first and make peace with their brothers and then come back and worship God?

If you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment;
and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council;
and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.
So when you are offering your gift at the altar,
if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,
leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,
and then come and offer your gift
(Matthew 5:22-24).

The unstoppable spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ

People therefore, who witnessed the raising of Lazarus from the tomb
and the fact that Jesus called him out of the grave, continued to testify about it.
Consequently, many people went out to meet Jesus,
as they heard about the miracles He performed.
Then the Pharisees said to one another, 'You see? You can't do anything!
Look, the whole world has gone after Him!'
(John 12:17-19).

This statement implies that the multitude couldn't be stopped
from witnessing what Jesus had done.
Thus, the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ is unstoppable,
to the point where even Satan and his forces cannot hinder
the work of the Holy Spirit in spreading the gospel.

So much joy that we forget all the pain

When Jesus comes again, we will have so much joy
that we will forget all the suffering we experience in this world
(John 16:21-22).

When we are hated by everyone

As disciples of Jesus, we must win our souls
through our patience when we are hated by everyone for the name of Jesus
(Luke 21:17, 19).

All covetousness must be resisted.

Knowing that a person's life does not depend on wealth,
we must reject all greed that causes brothers to fight over their parents' inheritance
(Luke 12:14-15).

A pastor ...

A pastor is a person sent by the true Lord
and must speak to the world only what he has heard from the Lord
(John 8:26).

When listening to the pastor's sermon ...

When we listen to a pastor's sermon,
we often enjoy listening to him even though we are very distressed.
But when he rebukes us for our mistakes,
We feel vengeful and want to harm him
(Ref.: Mark 6:18-19).

The church members who were tempted by the pastor's sermon ...

It seems that the church members who were tempted
by being rebuked by the pastor's sermon are watching him closely
and trying to pretend to be righteous and find an excuse in what he says
to kick him out of the church
(Luke Gospel 20:20).

Church members are scattered and struggling like sheep without a shepherd...

The Lord, who sees the multitudes
scattered and struggling like sheep without a shepherd,
takes pity on them and tells us to pray,
'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
Please send out laborers into the harvest'
(Matthew 9:36-38).

Jesus loved and served until the end, even though he suffered greatly.

Although Jesus suffered greatly,
he loved and served even Judas Iscariot,
who would betray him, until the end
(John 13:1, 21).

But I don't want to continue to love someone
who would betray me while suffering so much.
However, I pray that I can do not my will but the Lord's will
(Matthew 26:39, 42).

What are we working for?

We must not work for food that perishes,
but to fulfill the Lord's work by doing the will of the Lord who sent us,
food that lasts until we enjoy eternal life
(John 4:34, 6:27).

What are we protecting?

We want to protect our possessions on earth
more than to gain treasure in heaven by keeping the Lord's words
(Luke 18:21-24).

What is better?

It is far better to lay down our life for Jesus
than to lose our life to gain the whole world
(Matthew 16:25-26).

Obey Him unconditionally

At the wedding in Cana of Galilee,
the servants obeyed Jesus' mother's words,
"Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you,"
and Jesus told them to fill the six stones and "fill each jar with water."
Not only that, but the servants did so
when Jesus said, "Now take some and give it to the ruler of the feast"
(John 2:5-8).

How could the servants obey Jesus' command
to fill every stone jar with water when they ran out of wine?
Surely the servants filled the stone jars with water,
but could they have obeyed Jesus when he said,
"Now take some and give it to the person in charge of the feast?"
They must have thought that it was the water they had filled in the jar
that they were giving to the person in charge of leftovers when they left.

Did they truly believe in the moment that Jesus turned that water into wine?
According to John 2:11, the Scripture says,
"This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.
And his disciples believed in him."
It states that his disciples believed in Jesus,
but it does not mention that his servants also believed.
The lesson to be learned is that servants must unconditionally obey the Master's words.
It's not about obeying or disobeying the Master's words
based on one's own reasoning, emotions, or willpower,
but rather recognizing that a servant must unconditionally obey the Master's words.
Therefore, if we truly are the Lord's servants,
we receive the lesson that we must unconditionally obey the Lord's words.

Misunderstandings and misguided zeal and anger caused by ignorance and disbelief

Misunderstandings, misguided zeal, and anger caused by ignorance and disbelief
seek to harm those who do the will of the Lord
(Ref.: John 10:31-33).

Close the door and pray

Rather than praying to be seen by people like hypocrites,
it is better to go into a room, close the door and pray to God the Father
so that no one can see
(Matthew 6:5-6).

We're blocking the door.

Now, we Christians are evangelizing on one side,
but are blocking the door of evangelism on the other
(Luke 18:16).

Unbelievably good news

The good news that God tells us is unbelievable news
that our minds cannot understand
and things that cannot happen will happen
(Luke 1:18-20).

What believers seek first

What non-believers worry about and seek is,
“What shall we eat?” “What should I drink?” “What shall we wear?”
But we believers seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
(Matthew 6:31-33).

When we believe

Couldn't the saying that Jesus did not perform many miracles because of unbelief (Matthew 13:58)
be applied to the fact that the Lord performs many miracles when we believe?

Prioritize with faith!

If we live by faith and prioritize as the Lord wants,
the Lord will give us everything we worry about as a bonus
(Luke 12:22-31).

Let us look up to heaven in faith and give thanks to God.

Before performing the miracle of the five loaves and two fish,
Jesus looked up to heaven and gave thanks.
Before raising Lazarus from the dead,
Jesus also looked up to heaven and prayed,
“Father, I thank you that you have heard me”
(Matthew 14:19; John 11:41).
God's amazing work happens
when we look up to heaven in faith and give thanks to God.

Without faith ...

Without faith, we would not have been able to obey Jesus' words
and move the stone that blocked the entrance to the cave tomb of the dead Lazarus.
We would not have seen the glory of God without faith (John 11:38-45).
“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).
“We live by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

We who have little faith ...

Even though life is more important than food,
we who have little faith worry about what we will eat,
what we will drink, and what we will wear for our bodies
rather than serving God, who is the source of our life.

We also serve God and wealth together

(Matthew 6:24-30).

Because we have little faith ...

Because we have little faith, we listen to Jesus' words and obey them,
walking on the water toward Jesus, and then see the waves,
and we are scared and sink into the water.

So we shout, "Lord, save me!"

In a word, we doubt because we have little faith.

Hearing our prayer with little faith,
the Lord immediately stretched out His hand and saved us
(Matthew 14:28-31).

We are worried because we have little faith, but ...

Since we have little faith,
we seek God's kingdom and God's righteousness first with the right priorities,
but also ask, "What shall I eat?" "What should I drink?" "What should I wear?"
We are worried, but we believe that the Lord will give us all these things as a bonus
and today's suffering is enough for today. So we are going to worry about tomorrow tomorrow
(Matthew 6:30-34).

Hypocrites who tempt us with truths they don't believe in

Hypocrites in the church who have wrong ideas
because they do not know the Bible and the power of God
try to test other believers by questioning them
with truths they do not even believe in
(Mark 12:18-25).

They do such things because they do not have correct knowledge.

Those who deceive Jesus' true disciples and drive them out of the church,
thinking that they are serving God, do so
because they do not know God the Father and Jesus Christ
(John 16:2).

“It is true that they are zealous for God,
but that zeal does not come from sound knowledge”
(Romans 10:2).

Such zealous and impatient people without sound knowledge
are likely to cause problems within the church
(Proverbs 19:2).

Good fruits of right actions?

If the brood of vipers in the church
do not produce good fruit of right actions
that will show that they have truly repented,
then the ax is already laid at the root of the trees,
and they will all be cut down and thrown into the fire
(Luke 3:7-9).

Church members like Pharisees ...

Church members, like the Pharisees,
who pursue their own righteousness based on their own merits,
must do the right things to show that they have truly repented
(Matthew 3:7-8).

The words of the Scriptures will definitely come true!

Jesus not only lived to fulfill the words of the Bible,
but also died to fulfill the words of the Bible.
However, the words of the Bible were fulfilled even after Jesus died,
are still being fulfilled, and will be fulfilled in the future.
Jesus will definitely come soon according to the Bible
(Mark 14:49; Luke 4:21, 22:37; John 15:25, 17:12, 19:24, 28, 36;
1 Corinthians 15:54; Revelation 22:20).

Because of the word of God we received

The world hate Christians who belong to God and not the world
because of the Word of God we received
(John 17:14; 1 John 5:19).

Those who are abandoned, those who are last, those who will be first

Many of those who are abandoned for the sake of Jesus and the gospel
are the last who will be first
(Mark 10:29-31).

Jesus who was rejected.

Jesus was not only rejected by this world (Luke 17:25),
but also by God the Father (Matthew 27:46).
Therefore, we have received the forgiveness of our sins (Colossians 1:14)
and have become children of God (Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:1-2).
God never rejects us.
Therefore, we should not be afraid of being rejected by people of this generation.

Why we can be thankful in everything?

As recorded in the Bible,

Jesus died and knew that the person who betrayed Him was one of His disciples.

How was it possible for Him to say a prayer of thanksgiving (blessing) while eating with that disciple?

(Matthew 26:24-27)

Rather than receiving healing ...

Receiving forgiveness of sins

is more important than receiving healing from illness

(Mark 2:9-10).

To be inconspicuous rather than visible?

Rather than intentionally trying to show people your good deeds,

it is better to do good deeds without being noticed by others

(Matthew 6:1, 4).

The prayer we should imitate

Rather than praying while repeating many useless words,
the prayer we should imitate is the Lord's Prayer taught by the Lord
(Matthew 6:7-13).

We are not ashamed.

Jesus' disciples are not ashamed of Jesus and His words
in this adulterous and sinful generation
(Mark 8:38).

Church members who think there is no resurrection ...?

Church members who think there is no resurrection
are mistaken because they do not know the Bible and the power of God
(Matthew 22:23, 29).

Obviously there is!

Obviously there is
a place where you receive eternal punishment
and a place where you enjoy eternal life
(Matthew 25:46).

Fire and charcoal

At the time of his denial of Jesus, the apostle Peter,
who had a fire in the middle of the high priest's court
and sat among the people sitting around him,
sat down with his disciples to eat fish and bread on the charcoal fire
that the resurrected Jesus had prepared on land by the sea of Tiberias
(Luke 22:55; John 21:1, 9).

When Peter saw the charcoal fire that Jesus had prepared,
wouldn't he have remembered that fire when he denied Jesus three times?

God called and will called!

God called the children of Israel out of Egypt during the Exodus

(Exodus 13:3, 16; Ref.: Hosea 11:1).

God called Jesus, who had fled to Egypt when he was born, after Herod died

(Matthew 2:13-15, 19-20).

When Jesus comes back to this world,

God will call us saints, the true children of Israel who believe in Jesus,
out of this sinful world like Egypt!

Misfortune will come.

Misfortune will come to those who give everything to God

but abandon justice and love for God

(Luke 11:42).

People who expect special treatment in a sense of comparison are dissatisfied and complain about the church.

The daily wage promised by the vineyard owner was one denarius, but the workers who worked early in the morning thought they would be paid more than the workers who came later than them. However, when the owner of the vineyard saw that they received only one denarius, the same as everyone else, they complained to the owner: “The people who came last only worked for one hour. Will you treat them the same as us, who worked hard in the heat all day?”

When we hear the complaints of those who came first, the cause of their complaint is that they wanted to receive special treatment compared to those who came later and also because the master thought (expected) to treat them specially. Clearly, although the master promised to give each worker, whether they came first and worked all day or came later and only worked for an hour, the same denarius, those who came first still thought they would receive more than those who came later, driven by a sense of comparison (Matthew 20:1-16).

The reason we harbor complaints towards the Lord within the body of the church is because of the thought, 'I have been diligently serving in the church since Sunday morning, why am I not treated specially and instead being ignored?' Those who came to the church first and diligently engaged in various tasks feel discontented that they are treated equally with those who came later to serve in the church. The complaint that their hard work and effort are not specially recognized stems from a mindset of comparison. While their actions may mimic the Lord's, their hearts fail to reflect His. By harboring discontentment within the church, born out of a failure to emulate the Lord's heart, they commit the sin of disrupting the unity of the church.

A person established by God who cannot help but become an object of criticism

The reason the one established by God
becomes the target of people's criticism is
because they reveal the thoughts of many hearts,
thus piercing their hearts like the word of God,
which is the sword of the Spirit
(Luke 2:34-35; Ephesians 6:17).

Although we are bound to suffer ...

Although we, the saints belonging to God,
suffer hardships in this world under the dominion of the devil,
we must be courageous and take heart as Jesus has instructed us.
The reason is that Jesus has already overcome the world
(John 16:33; 1 John 5:19).

Although we have experienced all kinds of suffering on this earth ...

While living on this earth,
indulging in luxurious living, wearing expensive clothes,
and enjoying every day may seem delightful,
it is far better to endure all sorts of suffering here
than to face torment in hell after death.
Even though one may experience various hardships in this life,
it is far better to die and be comforted in the arms of the Lord in heaven,
guided by angels, than to suffer in hell
(Luke 16:19-25).

Why we hate light and love darkness more

The reason people hate the light and love darkness more is
because their evil deeds are exposed by the light
(John 3:19-20; Ephesians 5:13).

How do you think about the love of the two sons of the mother of the apostles James and John?

As Jesus went up to Jerusalem, He said to His twelve disciples,
"There I will be handed over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law,
who will condemn me to death.
They will hand me over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified.
But I will rise again on the third day."
At that time the mother of Zebedee's sons (James and John)
came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.
She asked that her two sons might sit,
one at Jesus' right hand and the other at his left, in his kingdom.
She did not understand what she was asking
(Matthew 20:17-22).

I believe the love shown towards the two sons
of the mother of the apostles James and John was not based on proper understanding.
The reason I think this way is that she did not know what she was asking Jesus for.
Furthermore, the love of that mother for her children was not based on proper priorities.
The reason I think this way is that she desired her two sons, James and John,
to be exalted and esteemed more than Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection
(Matthew 20:26-27).

I believe the love shown towards the two sons
of the mother of the apostles James and John was not based on sound judgment.
The reason I think this way is that she asked Jesus for what she wanted,
causing the ten disciples to become indignant when they heard about it
(Matthew 20:24).

It seems she didn't even consider that her request to Jesus
would break the unity among the twelve disciples
and provoke anger towards her two sons from the rest of the disciples.
In short, her lack of proper judgment was a failure to grasp Jesus' teachings:
"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

and whoever wants to be first must be your slave"
(Matthew 20:26-27).

I believe the love shown towards the two sons
of the mother of the apostles James and John was not a love of service
but rather a love that did not imitate Jesus.

The reason I think this way is that Jesus said,

"I did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give my life as a ransom for many"

(Matthew 20:28).

However, that mother wanted her two sons to be served.

Such a love of a mother not only fails
to set an example for her children to follow Jesus
but also fails to set an example for Jesus' disciples.

Apostle John's reinterpretation of Jesus' twofold commandment?

Jesus' twofold commandment is:

- (1) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and
- (2) "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39).

Apostle John reinterpreted Jesus' twofold commandment in the First Epistle of John as follows:

- (1) "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world,
love for the Father is not in them" (1 John 2:15-17) and
- (2) "Love one another. Anyone who does not love remains in death" (1 John 3:11).

Rather than being esteemed by people ...

When you are invited to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor,
for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.

If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you,
'Give this person your seat.'

Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

But when you are invited, take the lowest place,
so that when your host comes, he will say to you,

'Friend, move up to a better place.'

Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests
(Luke 14:7-10).

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted (v. 11).

Let us strive not to exalt ourselves before people,
but to humble ourselves in the Lord.

Being esteemed by the Lord is far better than being esteemed by people.

The Lord who looks and speaks with a loving heart

If the Lord looks at me with a loving heart and points out one thing lacking in me,
will I listen to the Lord's words and obey,
or will I worry and disobey?

(Mark 10:21-22)

Even through the death of a beloved family member ...

Even through the death of a beloved family member,
I pray that I may come to realize even just a little more
the magnitude, depth, breadth, and height of the love of the Lord's salvation
(Psalms 63:3; Ephesians 3:19).

A business house?

The church should not be turned into a business house
(John 2:16).

The thoughts of Satan and human beings

The thoughts of Satan and human beings
involve acknowledging oneself (not abandoning oneself)
and refusing to lay down one's own cross (not supporting it),
while seeking to save one's own life, in following Jesus
(Mark 8:33-35).

Satan does not miss the good opportunity.

Even though he failed to achieve his intention when he harbored resentment and tried to kill him, Satan does not miss the opportunity and achieves his intention to kill him (Mark 6:19-28).

Satan harbors a grudge in our hearts and makes us carry out his impure will toward the person who rebuked us.

Herod was unable to carry out his intention to kill John the Baptist because he considered him a righteous and holy man and feared him, protecting him. However, on his birthday, when he held a banquet for his nobles, high officials, and the leading men of Galilee, Herodias's daughter came in and danced, pleasing Herod and his guests. Because of his oath to her and the guests who were seated with him at the table, he could not refuse her request (actually, the request of Herodias, her mother and Herod's brother Philip's wife). So he promptly had John beheaded in the prison. Herodias's daughter brought the head on a platter and gave it to her mother. How could Herod have been able to kill John the Baptist, whom he considered a righteous and holy man, whom he feared and protected, because of a promise to a girl who danced at his birthday party and the guests? Ultimately, Herod carried out his intention to kill John out of resentment for John's rebuke of him for marrying Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. Satan is always at work, trying to fulfill evil intentions against those who rebuke and accuse us in our hearts (Mark 6:17-28).

Satan's temptation

The chief priests, along with the scribes and elders, also mocked Jesus, saying, "He saved others but he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him" (Matthew 27:41-42).

As recorded in the Bible, the temptation from Satan to Jesus, to not die as written in the Scriptures and come down from the cross instead, cannot be denied. Satan tempts Jesus' disciples to not acknowledge ourselves and not support our own crosses but to follow "Jesus" (?) instead.

Zacchaeus

While people all murmured that Zacchaeus was a sinner, Jesus referred to him as a lost person and someone who needed to be saved (Luke 19:7, 10).

The difference between a hired hand and a good shepherd? (1)

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep,
but the hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep,
sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—
and the wolf snatches them and scatters them
(John 10:11-13).

The difference between a hired hand and a good shepherd? (2)

A hired hand does not care about the sheep,
so when a wolf comes, he runs away for his life,
but a good shepherd loves the sheep,
so he lays down his life for their lives
(John 10:11-15).

Power to throw away life

The Jews did not have the authority to kill people,
so they tried to kill Jesus by accusing him to Pilate, the Roman governor,
but Jesus, who had the authority to lay down his life,
laid down his life for us, his sheep.
This is how we know what love is
(John 10:11, 15, 18, 18:29-31; 1 John 3:16).

From the scribes' point of view ...

From the scribes' perspective,
it was a sin of blasphemy for Jesus to say to the paralyzed man,
"Your sins are forgiven."

The reason is because they believed
that no one can forgive sins except God alone,
and also because they did not believe
that Jesus was the Son of God, that is, God
(Mark 2:5-7).

They do not love each other and are fighting with each other.

Jesus loved Judas Iscariot, his betrayer, to the end and even washed his feet.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Love one another, just as I have loved you.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"
(John 13:1, 11 -12, 18, 34-45).

However, Jesus' disciples began to argue among themselves
over who was the greatest
(Luke 22:24).

Jesus' disciples who do not realize the love of Jesus
even after receiving it fight with each other rather than loving each other as Jesus said.

Freedom is gained through service.

The Jews did not understand Jesus' words that they would gain freedom because they were Abraham's descendants and had never been slaves of others, but as children of God, we who believe in Jesus Christ gain freedom by being slaves of others and serving according to the truth of Jesus (Matthew Gospel 20:27; John 8:32-33).

The sin of wanting to be served.

Jesus, who serves, came to this world to give his life to pay for people's sins, but Jesus' disciples continued to commit the sin of wanting to be served (Mark 10:43-45).

They wanted to be served.

When Jesus came to this world to serve and was willing to serve until his death, his disciples wanted to become great and be the first to be served (Mark 10:33-45).

Dying as recorded in the Bible

As recorded in the Bible,
the purpose of Jesus Christ who came to this world
was to die as recorded in the Bible
(Matthew 26:24).

The purpose of diligently meditating on the Bible

The purpose of our diligent meditation on the Bible is
Jesus Christ, to whom this Bible testifies.
The purpose of the Bible being written is
to enable us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and to enable us to believe
and gain eternal life in the name of Jesus Christ
(John 5:39, 20:31).

Holy Spirit-filled pastor and Holy Spirit-filled believer

A pastor filled with the Holy Spirit of truth
will not speak according to his own thoughts,
but will only speak what he has heard from the Lord,
and will also tell us what will happen in the future
(e.g. the second coming of Jesus)
(Ref.: John 16:13) .

When believers who are filled with the Holy Spirit
receive the word of God that they heard from a pastor
who is full of the Holy Spirit,
they do not receive it as human words,
but receive the word of God and the word works among believers
(1 Thessalonians 2:13).

I hope that they will become wise people filled with the Holy Spirit.

I hope that my beloved children Dillon, Yeri, and Karis
will become wise people filled with the Holy Spirit
and bring many people back to God
(Luke 1:15-16; Daniel 12:3).

I hope that they become children like John the Baptist.

I hope that my beloved children Dillon, Yeri, and Karis
will become great before the Lord, will not become worldly,
and will be filled with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 1:15).

People who want to be known to the world?

People in the church who do not believe in Jesus
do not testify that things in the world are evil, so the world does not hate them.
They are people who want to be known to the world
for saying that they follow Jesus closely,
ignoring the Lord's will and timing
(John 7:1-8).

We must let the world know.

We must let the world know
that we love the Lord and do exactly what He commands
(John 14:31).

No wonder the world hates us.

A disciple of Jesus who goes out into the world and is hated by the world
because he loves one another as Jesus commanded, does not belong to the world,
but the world hates him because Jesus chose him out of the world.
However, those who are loved by the world belong to the world, not to Jesus
(John 15:18-19).

A church that is preventing the world from believing in the Lord?

When the church is not united in the Lord
and is breaking up the unity of the church through conflict and strife,
the world cannot believe in the Lord who is the head of the church
(John 17:21).

They don't even try to lift a finger.

Those who talk in the church but do not practice
are like those who put a heavy burden on others' shoulders
but does not lift a finger
(Matthew 23:3-4).

While obeying ...

Those who have faith as small as a mustard seed
experience the miracles (presence) of the Lord while obeying them
by trusting in the Lord and obeying them with faith,
even if the commands of the Lord are not understood by their own understanding
(Proverbs 3:5; Luke 17:6, 14).

They are entangling the church in a snare.

Currently, within the church,
people are being ensnared by judging, slandering, and condemning people
based on man-made laws rather than God's laws
(Ref.: Job 18:9; John 19:7).

If we don't watch out for ourselves ...

If we are not careful,
the day of salvation and the day of punishment will unexpectedly strike us like a trap,
as we become dull with debauchery, drunkenness, and worries about life
(Luke 21:22, 28, 34).

When we're too busy and don't have time to eat ...

When we are too busy to eat,
we should go to a quiet place and rest for a while
(Mark 6:31-32).

We should be servants who run errands rather than people who sit at the table and eat.

Leaders sit at the table and eat, but servants run errands.

The humble Jesus who came to serve tells us that
although those who sit and eat at the table
have a higher status than servants who run errands,
leaders must be servants
(Luke 22:26-27).

Confession of faith

Simon Peter's confession of faith:

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

Martha's confession of faith:

"I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who is coming into the world"
(John 11:27).

“Siloam”

The man who was blind from birth went to “Siloam”
(translated to mean sent) and washed as Jesus said.

The Bible says, “So the blind man went and washed,
opened his eyes and came back.”

What did the blind man feel like when he went to Siloam
and when he came back with his eyes opened?

(John 9:7)

We who have been sent do not obey the words of the Lord
who sent us by sight, but by faith

(2 Corinthians 5:7).

“He who sows with tears will reap with joy”

(Psalms 126:5).

Emphasizing and paying tithes ...

Hypocrites in the church emphasize and pay tithes
while abandoning justice, mercy, and faith,
which are more important in the Word of God
(Matthew 23:23).