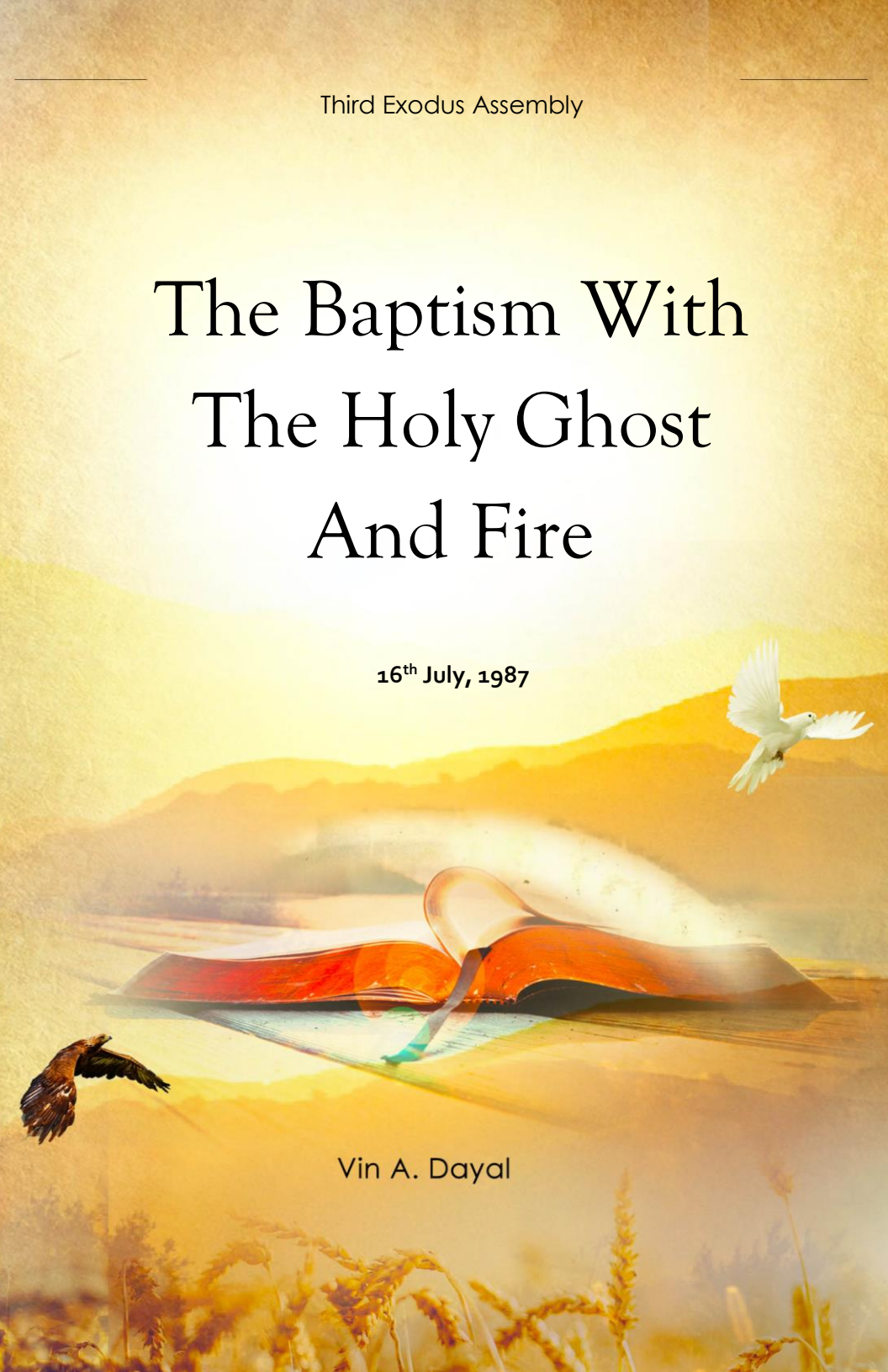

Third Exodus Assembly

Decisions And Choices

28th October, 1992

Vin A. Dayal



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TRINIDAD

Bro. Vin A. Dayal

FOREWORD

This is a sermon preached by Bro. Vin A. Dayal and is published through the freewill offerings of the members of the Third Exodus Assembly.

It is intended to edify the reader and make clear the Bride-Promises of God, which were revealed through the ministry of God's Prophet-Messenger, Bro William Marrion Branham, for the Elect in this Day. It is not meant to promote any special doctrine or person, save, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Divine Word.

The original video and audio recording can be accessed through our website www.thirdexodus.org

We pray the blessing of God upon each reader and may illumination by the Spirit of God be each one's special portion.



Excerpt:

You know, God gave us the power to choose. It's a great power but it's something very responsible too. And I think that many times people fail to see the kind of character that they need to make the correct choice. People need to see the approach; that they need to consult the Word of God and be sincere, and even take the will of God revealed from the Word as their Absolute, even though they have to put away their desires and shelve certain things. Amen.
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TRINIDAD

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 1992

BR. VIN A. DAYAL

[#137 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*Over and over, He molds me and makes me,
Into His image, He fashions this clay;
A vessel of honor I am today,
And it's all because Jesus
Didn't throw this clay away.*

Amen. What grace that is tonight. It's all because our Jesus didn't throw *this* clay away. Blessed be His wonderful Name. Hallelujah! Oh, wonderful Saviour, we praise You tonight. We give You glory and honor, dear God. Lord, we thank You for Your amazing grace. Hallelujah. We will forever lift our eyes to Calvary, Lord, and view the Cross, where You bled and died for us. Oh, glory and praise be unto Your wonderful Name. Hallelujah. Amen.

Let's just sing: *Mercy rewrote my life. Mercy rewrote my life.*

[#352 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*Mercy rewrote my life,
Mercy rewrote my life,*

Oh, everyone in the Spirit now just worshipping Him.
*I should have fallen, my soul cast down,
But mercy rewrote my life.*

If that is the story of your life, why don't we sing it one more time, giving glory and honor to the Lamb?

Mercy...

Oh, Jesus, we thank You. We praise You, dear God, tonight for this great, amazing grace; this Love that You loved us with, Lord. Hallelujah!

Mercy rewrote my life,

Oh, what grace that is.

*I should have fallen, my soul cast down,
But mercy rewrote my life.*

Amen. Let's bow our heads as we look to Him in prayer tonight. As we stand in His Presence, having this blessed opportunity to approach Him Who loved us and gave Himself to be the propitiation for our sins, Who by a new and living way through His death, the shedding of His Blood, made a way that we can have access to His great, holy Presence again.

Let us draw nigh with faith. Let us come in humility and sincerity. And I want to encourage you to believe tonight. Don't waste these moments; capitalize upon it. God has appointed this time that you could be here gathered in His Divine Presence. What a glorious opportunity to know that we are so close to Him right now, that whatsoever we have need of, if we would believe, if we would approach Him with faith, believing that He is and that He is a Rewarder of them who diligently seek Him, ("If you draw nigh unto Me I will draw nigh unto you," He said,) we can find grace to help us in a time of need.

You, sinner, you might be able to find mercy tonight to rewrite your life. We sang this little chorus: *I should have fallen, my soul cast down*. Yes, we were all guilty and condemned. But there was One Who took our place, Who took our judgment upon Himself that we can go free. What a blessed privilege that is tonight.

Look and live. Let's lift our eyes of faith unto Him tonight. Let's believe Him. He said, "If you ask for bread, I will not give you a stone. If you ask for a fish, I will not give you a serpent. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Ask and it shall be given. Ask that your joys may be full." Recognize tonight that He wants to give to us what we have need of even more than we can desire it. He knows we are not worthy. He isn't going to judge us by our

worthiness. If we have faith and believe in what He has done for us, then He'll have respect to that tonight.

Almighty God, as we bow our hearts in Your Presence tonight, Father, Lord, we realize we stand here only by the grace of the Living God. There is no worthiness in us that would merit us to stand in the Presence of the Living God, for all have sinned and come short of this glory. God, we realize that there is no good thing in anyone of us. Oh God, we were born in sin, shaped in iniquity and came into this world speaking lies, but it's only through Your grace, only through Your death Father, only through Your shed Blood that we can approach Your most holy Throne. And that is how we've come tonight.

Even the songwriter said: *Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy Blood was shed for me. O Lamb of God, I come.* [#47 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

And Father, as we come, we come making confession of our sins and our shortcomings, all our mistakes, all our failures, dear God. We place our faith in that finished work on the Cross of Jesus Christ where the Lamb of God was slain for us.

And, dear God, we acknowledge, Father, in Thy holy Presence tonight that it was our sins that put Him there and we receive Him, being the propitiation for our sins. And that is why we've come with our eyes of faith upon that finished work and making sincere confession from our hearts, dear God, praying tonight that Thy precious Blood would be applied to our confession and that we will be loosed completely from our sins and be caused to stand in Thy Presence without condemnation, stand justified Lord, that we could ask with faith, knowing that we are a needy people.

Oh, gracious God, tonight, even reading this request here, Father, our Bro. Simon's family, Lord, Lord God who is in Holland undergoing an operation, God there is no distance in prayer tonight. We pray as this request has come forth on behalf of this dear person, asking

dear God, that You, rich in mercy, God will look upon that person with love and compassion tonight; look at her through the Blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

And may, dear God, as she's in need of a touch from You, may dear God, You be so merciful for You are the great merciful and faithful High Priest that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Dear God, You would look down upon her and You would touch her and make her well. You would grant grace unto her in this time of need. Truly, You are a God Who answers prayer. We ask this for this person, in the Name of Jesus Christ tonight.

And all that would stand here tonight, believing that You are in speaking distance, You are in touching distance, You are in hearing distance tonight that by faith they can touch You; they can reach You, oh God. Lord, for You said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst." I pray dear God, that Father, faith would be released in the hearts of Your children that are needy and standing here tonight, that the Holy Spirit would move upon them and encourage their hearts to believe and to trust in Thee. For if they trust and never doubt, You will surely bring them out. You said, "Cast your cares upon Me for I careth for you." Oh God, may You grant it tonight, in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Bless our gathering tonight, Father. Speak to each and everyone in Thy Divine Presence, knowing dear God, at the end of the service, Lord, we are expecting to have water baptism, where we have some here who have made that decision. They have received You as their Lord and their Saviour and they want to come in to be in identification, Lord, with Your work on Calvary; Father, God making a public confession before witnesses here tonight. I pray, dear God, that Your great Holy Spirit would be here to baptize with the Holy Ghost and Fire even as we would stand ready to baptize

in water for the remission of sins. Let the Word go forth, Father.

And if there be one, oh God, that is desiring in their heart to receive You, if there is one You've drawn here by Your Presence tonight, if there is one needy, if there is one, oh God, Father, hungering and thirsting for righteousness coming in here tonight, don't know what to expect, don't know what is going to happen, dear God, Father, may Your Holy Spirit, oh God, move on the scene tonight in such a way, oh God.

May You touch every hungry heart. May You show Yourself alive. May You do something special, oh God. May You break the powers of darkness around the lives of Your children, oh God, that are in need. We pray, dear God, that there would be a great power of deliverance going into operation in this place tonight, Father, that souls would be set free. Oh, God, You said, "You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." Let the Truth, oh God, go forth, Father, with convicting power tonight, Lord, in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Lead us and direct us now. Get honor and glory in the service. We love You and appreciate You. We commit all things into Your hands. We thank You in advance for what You will do, for we pray and believe in Jesus' precious Name, amen.

Amen. God richly bless you. I would like to invite your attention tonight to the Book of 1st Kings; also Joshua. 1st Kings 18 and Joshua 24.

While you turn to that, this is just a note of thanks on behalf of Sis. Suzanne St. Hilaire. She wants to give God thanks for the saints who have visited her, prayed with her while she was hospitalized. She's now discharged. She's recuperating home so she's not there. I think some of the people thought she was still in the hospital, but she is at home resting, amen, regaining her strength. God bless her gallant soul.

1st Kings 18. I want to welcome everyone in His house tonight. We have baptism tonight and we just would like to speak around some of those things. The Bible says, “Whosoever will, let him come. [Revelation 22:17 -Ed.] “Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest.” [Matthew 11:28 -Ed.] While there is mercy, amen, may God speak to some heart and make His grace known unto them.

1st Kings 18. This was a time here of great darkness, spiritual darkness in the land; great apostasy. God had a prophet by the name of Elijah who was faithful to God’s Word and he was calling the people back to the true Word. Many of them had gone into idolatry, worshipping false gods and these things and God was laying out a challenge to His people.

And 1st Kings 18, verse 21, It says here:

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Amen. And Joshua chapter 24, verse 14. Here, at the end of the Book of Joshua, when Joshua was preaching his last message here to the children of Israel. They had a long campaign of fighting to possess the land, subduing the land. Joshua was old and he was giving them a warning before he had departed off the scene.

In verse 14 it says:

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the [river], and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the

[river], or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

¹⁶ And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;

¹⁷ For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

¹⁸ And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Let us pray.

Oh God, take these few words and Lord, though it may be simple, may it be straight to their hearts. May it go forth with power of conviction. May it cause men and women, Lord, to take inventory. Lord, we want to make a clean-cut decision for You in this Hour. We want to be true to Your Word that You can be pleased to be identified with us and confirm our claims of faith upon Thee. Grant it, Lord, we pray. For we ask it in Jesus' Name, amen.

God bless you. You may have your seat.

Well, I just want to be very simple tonight. I want to take for a little title tonight, **“DECISIONS AND CHOICES”**. And I'm trying to, as much as I can, to occupy the pulpit to preach and try to preach to all that are gathered under the sound of my voice. I know some of you have been established in the Word for many years. Some of you are now coming in. Some are young people. Some are now getting established in the faith. And though sometimes we sort of cater for one class of

people and it's difficult for others, but I just want to be really simple tonight.

And I was just thinking on this and dwelling upon this, and it just seemed like the Lord wanted me to speak it, and I am trusting His grace to take it tonight and just... I felt it was going to be fitting while we're going to have baptismal service also. "DECISIONS AND CHOICES".

You know, we all had to make a decision to be here tonight. I guess some of us, we could have been at home, we could have gone to a different place, we could have done something else but finally we decided to come. Maybe some of us might not even be feeling good, but the Lord just gave you grace. You wanted to be here. It was your decision to be here and God made a way for you to be here. You decided to trust Him. Some of you might have stayed right there in unbelief and was afraid to trust Him. But then sometimes because you decided to trust Him, God was able to work with that.

And sometimes if you make a decision to disbelieve Him or to maybe think, well maybe it's not your time as yet, then you might have stayed right there and the Holy Spirit might have passed you by because He might have looked and seen that you're not really under expectation to reach out to receive Him. But the people who really receive from God, are those who expect to receive from Him.

You see, and when you come to God, you have to be expecting of Him. You have to be looking forward, you see. For the Bible says, "He that cometh unto God must first believe that He is and that He is a Rewarder of them who diligently seek Him." And then when you seek Him, you must seek Him with all your heart. You must not just come: "Well I don't know. Maybe I'm going to try; if it doesn't work, it doesn't work." Well, it's not going to work like that.

But if you come expecting to receive and say, "God, You are true to Your Word. I might not be true to my

word. I might not be able to keep my own word.” If you are willing to confess these things. “But, Lord, You will keep Your Word. You said heaven and earth would pass away, and Lord I’m going to place my faith upon what You said.” Then you’re going to find, from the time you begin to do that, His Holy Spirit is going to begin to draw nigh unto you.

And sometimes, some people, it’s so easy for them to really enter in to receive from God while some people sit there with a lot of knowledge. They can explain a lot about God, but they have so little in their lives to testify what God does for them. When they compare their experimental knowledge of God and their theoretical knowledge of God, then they find that, brother, their theoretical knowledge of God is ten million times greater than their experimental knowledge of God; that they hardly have anything in experience to account for, but yet on the other hand, they have so much knowledge of what God can do. Then sometimes some people might not have half the amount of knowledge as some people, but there’s something in their hearts that pushes them out to reach out and believe God. Amen.

And I trust tonight we can pick that up and capture that from the Word to see why God has respect to some people, to see why the Holy Spirit in the simplicity of some people just releasing their faith to trust God, to cast down their reasonings and take ahold upon God, they find God faithful. They find God true to His Word. They find God ready to come into action on their behalf and show to them that His Word is true, and they are not wrong to put their faith upon It. Amen. He will always honor them for respecting Him (amen) and be willing to trust Him and take Him at His Word. Amen.

And I trust, you know, sometimes we as believers, sometimes you get there and your own knowledge turns back around to be a curse because you know so many different Scriptures, a multitude of Scriptures come in your mind. You want to use this particular Scripture to

approach God and another Scripture jumps up and says, "Well what about this over here. That doesn't have to be this" or "this could be this other Scripture," and "that could be this other Scripture." And then you go to get to reasoning a multitude of Scriptures and you say, "Ah, forget it. I don't have the mind of the Lord." And you walk away maybe more confused and depressed. And sometimes you find; if you only had maybe that one Scripture.

You know, it makes you think of Samson when he was in that great trouble there that time and the Philistines were upon him, one thousand of them, and they were all coming to take him, take ahold of him. They wanted to take him prisoner, and there was something in Samson, that inspiration struck him and he was reminded by the Spirit that he was raised up by God for the deliverance of his people, (amen) and that the Spirit of the Living God had anointed him to overcome those Philistines, and those locks that he had, represented a covenant, a Nazarite vow that he had from birth (amen!) and that God was on his side.

And I guess, as those things began to flood his mind, maybe in a split second, faster than the speed of light, the speed of thought, (amen), the Holy Spirit bringing inspiration to his heart, he looked around quickly and all he could see was a little, dry, old, jawbone. And maybe reasoning might have told him, "Well, that thing is going to shatter into a million pieces the first time it connects with one of those Philistine brass helmets." Amen. But he wasn't even thinking about that. Amen. He just removed that out of his way and he went to beating down Philistines with it. And the Bible said, "He destroyed a thousand of them." Is that right?

And then you might think of, well if you're going to be faced with a thousand Philistines, you want a certain amount of distance between you. You want some long-range missiles that could kill off a few before they come in close. See? Then you want maybe to be fortified head

to toe in case some attack you from the back or some attack you from the sides, or you want to oil down yourself so you could be slippery to slip out. I mean, you could think of all kinds of different things.

But then sometimes, God brings things upon you unawares that you're unprepared for because it's not by your might or by your power; it's not by your wisdom. Amen. All God wants is that you can trust Him and believe Him and make yourself available to Him. And that is why we find in the Bible, God chose the weak things, the things that are naught to bring down the things that are mighty, amen; the things that are foolish, amen, to destroy the things that are great. And you know, God has always done that.

When Moses, a great military genius was trying to make excuses in his mind and, you know, he felt: "How could God send me to deliver the people?" He said, "Who am I? They won't even listen to me to begin with. And what am I going to do against that great army in that great nation down there?"

And God got so fed up with Moses, the Bible said, God wanted to kill him right there. Amen. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against him and then God said, "What is that you have in your hand?" And it was his dry, old stick that he had, that he was using for a shepherd's staff and God said, "I'll take that." And God took that dry stick because God was going to make it so ridiculous. God was going to show Moses his knowledge was taking him farther away from God. Amen. While maybe he thought he wanted a spear and shield, and an army and these things, God just took a dry stick. Amen. Glory!

And so, you know you find many times that the things that God used... Look at Gideon when they were in the battle. God told him, "Get some empty vessels." And they had to go in their houses and search for vessels, and maybe all the vessels looked different. Maybe somebody was saying, "Well, if we

have to win, maybe all the vessels should be the same kind of vessels. Some of these vessels are short, and some of these vessels are tall, and some of these vessels are wide, and some of these vessels are narrow, and some of these vessels are colorful, and some of these vessels are simple, and some look weak and some look strong.” But God wasn’t interested. God was just interested in getting them empty. He said, “You just get empty vessels.” Amen! Hallelujah!

You know, reasoning just gets in God’s way many times. And many times we brag upon Him being the same yesterday, today and forever. Well, if we have to brag upon Him being the same yesterday, today and forever, then you are going to have to expect that God is going to deal with you in manners that are very unorthodox, very unsophisticated, very contrary to the modern taste and the modern trend. It might shake your faith sometimes. It might bring up a lot of reasonable doubt inside of you, but the thing is, if it’s God doing it and you can see the character of the God of the Bible, then it gives confidence to see that He does not change His ways. Hallelujah. And then those things back there were examples. It was written for your examples. Amen.

And, friends, you’re going to find out that all the great maybe Third Pull we’re looking for and all these great things to happen, and the great move of the Spirit and these things, we’re going to find that those things if we have it high and mighty in our minds or have it preconceived, we might miss it by a million miles. But if we are simple-minded, if we are scriptural-minded, (amen,) if we confess that He is the same, He does the same, amen: “I am God and I change not.” Amen. Why? Because He wants to show His greatness. No flesh will glory in His Presence.

And I was thinking about this little thought about “DECISIONS AND CHOICES” and you see so many people today, in their lives, they want to come out of

situations. But they made decisions to go into those situations. They are only where they are, as a result of a decision that they made. And some people begin to find out the pains of making wrong decisions or being pressured into decisions or making hasty decisions.

Some people buy the wrong house and they have problems. Some people marry the wrong wife and they have problems. See? Some people go out to the wrong school and they have problems. Amen. Some people take the wrong job and they have problems. Amen. But they made decisions!

Sometimes it looks favorable. Sometimes it seems like a good opportunity. Sometimes it looks like a shortcut. Sometimes the devil tells them, "You could still have that and God wouldn't mind." But they never saw the consequences that were to follow! They never examined carefully from the Word that our very decisions will determine our eternal destination! Amen.

And we find out that God doesn't like unstable people. God doesn't go for people who can't make up their mind. We find in the Bible, Elijah challenging the people, "Choose this day whom you will serve"—Joshua, rather, challenging them. They were indecisive.

Elijah saw them in his time too. God wanted to move. God wanted to manifest His great power. God wanted to show that He is God. God's people had forsaken Him. God's people had gone after the modern trend of the world. They had gotten under the influence of all the modern Jezebel religion and these things. And God had an old-fashioned prophet by the name of Elijah and God was using that prophet to rebuke all that modernism in that day; to shake that system. His life was in jeopardy, but God was anointing him to be bold and fearless. Amen. And he went out there and he began to preach with conviction because God always use men – God-called, God-trained men. Hallelujah!

And Elijah, he was like an arrow, a polished shaft from God's quiver that God was going to pierce into the

conscience of that nation and cause them to take inventory of themselves. You know, God is always like that. He raises up people, anoints them with the Holy Spirit, gives them conviction to preach the Word with teeth (amen) to cut the people, to pierce them in their heart and take inventory because God is determined His people will not be halfway. You'll not be one foot with God and one foot in the world. No man can serve two masters. Hallelujah! Glory!

And so, we find Elijah challenging the people. He said, "How long will you halt between two opinions? You're taking too long." God's patience was running out. Amen. They were dilly-dallying.

So many people today, they're confronted with the Truth. They know their life is not right. They know if they die at this very moment they don't stand a chance to go in God's Presence and they just go along taking Him for granted. They make God a little caddy boy. They're so elevated in their own mind, they fail to realize how they belittle God, their very Creator, the very God Who will judge them one day, when they could seek out His will sincerely, when they could find out what is required of them; when they could look in His Word and see what time they are living in and what is coming upon the face of the earth!

What do you see? You see they just take it for granted and they figure, "Well, I have this to do. I have my ox to prove. I have my land to sell. I have my house to build. And when I've done all those things, then I'll check God out." And, "I know my time." Amen.

And Elijah was looking at them in that dilly-dallying way, you know, and unstable, double-minded; trying to live between two desires; trying to serve God and mammon. Jesus said, "No man could serve God and mammon." Don't try it! If you try it, you'll be trying to make Him a liar! And He's the Truth and in Him there is no darkness. It's impossible for Him to lie! Amen. Yes, sir.

And so, we see then that God raised up Elijah to challenge the people in that Hour to bring them to the time of decision, to bring them to the place of decision; to take inventory because they were going down the wrong road. And God was giving them a warning: "Take heed otherwise judgment will follow." The very things that they tried to build will be destroyed in a moment. That prophet was crying out and the Bible said, "And the people answered him not a word."

It seems sometimes that preaching, no matter how strong it is, no matter how straight it is, no matter how true it is, no matter how inspired it is, it just wouldn't move some people; no matter how vindicated it is! They don't realize how proud and lifted up they are that "God will deal with me on my own terms."

If the people wouldn't believe it, Elijah was faithful to speak it. He was faithful to lay it right down the middle: "How long will you halt between two opinions?" God found that they were taking so long to decide like if it was not a close thing. There is nothing in comparison with God! There is nothing in the world, amen, to compare with what God can offer: no religion, no politics, no pleasure of this world, no society; no institution! Amen! Because all the things we see that are of man are temporal and they come to an end at some time.

Man works his life out looking for a pension; gets retrenched and has to take what he could get. False! Amen. Company goes into bankruptcy, every hope goes to the ground. Sends him insane; runs him to the madhouse or something. Amen. Trusting in temporal things.

And God was looking at the people. After a great God like that; all He did for them. They had such a history of God: coming down in Egypt, taking the people out, destroying that Egyptian nation, bringing them into that promised land, driving out all the inhabitants, coming down amongst them, and there was not a nation

like them on the earth. And yet what happened? They just wiggled and wiggled and wiggled right away, and began to get involved in all the idolatry that was all around them, in all those modern things; in all the things that were contrary to God's Word.

And Elijah said, "How long will you halt?" He said, "Don't you know that you have a certain amount of time to get yourself together, put your life in order, set your priorities right, examine yourself and see whether you're in the faith or not, (amen!); see if you're lining up with God's Word? Because if God was going to take your card off the rack, if He would call for you and you aren't ready, then what would be your excuse?"

Remember in the Bible It says, that rich man was building bigger barns and he was prospering and yet he got so taken up and lost in his prosperity. Oh, he was checking his bank book. He was checking the figures. He was just smiling inside. He was seeing more investments. He was seeing that he was going to monopolize the whole market. He's going to control all the trade. He's going to expand. He's going to be a big conglomerate. He was going to buy out everybody else. Brother, and the Holy Spirit came and said, "Thou fool, tonight I require your soul of you." Amen. See?

And here Joshua himself... Elijah called them to make a decision. And Joshua told them, "Choose this day whom you will serve!"

You know, decisions are made in the mind and before we can really make a choice on something, we must decide. If a young man is going to be married, he has to decide whether he thinks it's time for him to be married. He has to decide whether he thinks it's God leading him. He has to decide whether he thinks he's responsible enough. He has to decide upon the young lady that he's going to take to be a wife and a mother of his children; a maker of his home. He has to go into making that decision.

And then when he expresses that decision in the form of a choice, his choice is a result of a decision he has made. And when he makes that choice, it is going to reflect the nature inside of him, what he was really choosing, what kind of nature is inside of there; what influenced that choice. Is that right? And then when a man makes a choice like that, he just cannot back off soon after and say, "Oh, I went and I made the wrong choice; I'm going to make the right choice now." Uh, uh! [Meaning no, no -Ed.] Because a choice like that is 'till death do us part'.

Some young girl got caught in all kinds of infatuation and admiring Hollywood and these things and looking at a sports car; looking at some nice boy, well dressed. Maybe she likes how his clothes fit him, and that is all she likes. It's the same as getting married to a mannequin or something, because by the time they get under one roof, she realizes that the boy is as empty as the very mannequin out there. Amen. At least the mannequin can't get out of shape, so it will always keep the clothes; it will always keep looking nice in it, but it's empty.

Then when they come to a place, they can't submit. They can't come under the headship because they realize now, headship is not just dressing; headship is not just money! What do you have to reverence and come in submission to? What do you have to let rule you and call 'lord', and respect and obey and serve? Amen.

So then you realize - a choice. Many of you, (all of us) had to make a choice. I'm sure we have more than one change of clothes. If you don't have more than one change of clothes, then you have no choice to make. You just wear what you have to wear. But you had to make a choice what you were going to wear. And that choice reflects a certain nature too. You might have a motive for wanting to wear that. Is that right? It might be important; you want to look a certain way. You

might want to impress somebody. Amen! So our choice.

And here now, the choice that they were faced with, the opinions that they were deliberating with for so long, and he said, "Why halt you between two opinions? If God be God." There are only two powers. There are only two spirits. There are only two trees that were in the beginning. Is that right? One was the Tree of Life and one was the 'Tree' of death. And every man is placed before those same two trees. Every man or woman is going to come under the headship of those two powers; those two influences. We are going to be faced with it. We are faced with it tonight.

And Joshua seeing the people, he was telling them, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." He said, "You choose this day whom *you* will serve." You have to make a choice. God is bringing it down to a choice. God is not going to be called the God of people who wants to live halfway, serve the devil and then try to come to church." The Bible says, "Those people who have forsaken the land that they came from, have no desire to go back to the world, separated completely, God was not ashamed to be called their God." But He said, "If you're ashamed of Me and are ashamed to confess Me, I'll be ashamed of you." Is that right? Amen.

So we realize then every day we are faced with choices. Sometimes you have your money and you walk in a store and you see something nice and it looks attractive and everything else and you deliberate: "Should I spend my money on that? I had this money for something else. Oh, but this looks like a bargain. This is a sale." You see a big red sign marked S-A-L-E over the item. You see it marked: "Drastic reductions." And those kinds of things help to influence you. It helps you to make a decision.

And then you live to regret it. Is that right? You say, "I wasted my money with this thing! It's not good." You

see a nice pair of shoes or something. You already have one but you figure, "Well, two wouldn't hurt because this is a good deal. I can't pass up a deal like this." But, only to go and get yourself into problems. You made the wrong decision. It's pitiful.

Well those things are light things, but it causes pain. It brings regret. It brings hurt. Sometimes you say, "I will never do that again! Not me and these things! Any time I see 'sale', I won't believe it for anything!" We develop an attitude towards some of these things where we believe we have been tricked into making the wrong decision. Sure! And those are light things.

What about now when you come into, a man sells you a car and says, "This car is this and that. It only has so many miles on it." He says, "Check the speedometer for yourself." He says, "Look at this engine here, it's the original engine." See? Brother, he starts it there and takes you for a little ride. He knows how to drive it because he's been driving it for so long. Then after he says, "It's driving all right."

Then you buy it. Then you have problems. Then you feel cheated. You feel you've been robbed. And you realize, "If I didn't make my decision so quickly... If I didn't make that choice, I could have made another choice." But to make another choice now is going to cost you maybe \$20,000 and you don't have it. So you have a desire to make a choice but you can't choose.

What about when a woman now, she doesn't want to have children. And she says, "I'm not going to have any children. I can have children when I'm ready to have children." See? "I still need to look nice and I want to wear this and I want to wear that and children, you know... I want to go in and work. I want to go and do this." And they go out there and something happens to them. They are out of the will of God. They get into trouble with God and now the very thing that they want, they can't have it sometimes. And now they wish they

could undo those things and make a different decision; make a different choice.

So we realize that we are all free moral agents. I know we could keep on going on those things, but decisions are made in the mind. And before a man makes a choice, you know, the way it's presented to him, he has to sit and maybe he deliberates and he meditates on it.

Like some people, you know, they went and got baptized. They were baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost or they baptized them three times, or they baptized them in titles, or they sprinkled some water, or they poured some water on them and tell them they've been baptized.

They made a decision to go in those things, only to find out from the Scripture, they've been wrong. They made a wrong decision. They didn't check the Scripture carefully. They listened to somebody putting it across nice. They looked at some pious, old priest or something in a nice, long gown and in their mind it looked religious. And they're thinking, because they don't feel funny about it, maybe it's acceptable before God. It's not going to be on how you feel about it, it's going to be what God's Word says! Your feelings could change but the Word cannot change! Amen.

And so, when people are faced with decisions many times and they're being pressured... And we all come to the place where we have to make decisions. Even down to the smallest children, they're going to school, they see somebody pass and stop the car and say, "Come for a lift." They have to decide whether they want to go in that car or not.

Say, "That doesn't look like a person who really wants to give me a lift. And I remember my mummy telling me, I shouldn't get in just any car. Let me look carefully and see. Let me look at the number first before I go inside the car and sit. Let me take a little look at the driver." Because today, not everybody really wants to give you a ride for free. Sometimes the amount of things

it may cost; more than just the fare to go the distance. Amen. Sometimes people can't undo those decisions that they make sometimes.

Sometimes people go into a job, it's pressure; different things. They sign up to certain things. They've been suckered into going into debt. But because of covetousness and a desire for prosperity, they've been wooed and seduced by banks. Banks were designed to put people in debt.

Look at the creditor back there in the Bible in the days of Elijah; was to take the children into captivity; had no mercy. He came to collect the loan and he said, "The children have to go." And the poor woman didn't know what to do. She couldn't go to a next bank. She ran to the man of God. She said, "Oh God, I have a problem." She should have gone there first. But God was rich in mercy. God was going to perform a paradox to bring her out of the debt.

But sometimes they run to a next money lender, then they run to a next money lender and so they keep on going until they become owned. They become controlled. They become a commodity just like the very things they went after, until they're pressured. Some women lose all of their virtue; had to make a decision sometimes when they're faced with circumstances. Sure.

You know, God gave us the power to choose. It's a great power but it's something very responsible too. And I think that many times people fail to see the kind of character that they need to make the correct choice. People need to see the approach; that they need to consult the Word of God and be sincere, and even take the will of God revealed from the Word as their Absolute, even though they have to put away their desires and shelve certain things. Amen.

Decisions. Many people today, they would like to come out of situations; come out of conditions but they can't come out. They made a decision and they realize

what seemed like a just... “Well okay, I will do it. Yeah, it might be a good thing to do. Yeah, it’s alright. God loves me anyhow.” And they go into things. And what looked so innocent, what they behaved towards in such a trivial way, the tears, it’s not vials, it might be filling barrels by now, of the pain and the agony because of the wrong decisions.

Many of you have been influenced by others who were not influenced by God. Influenced by people who like to have influence and like to see others acting out their influence because it inflates their ego and they feel a pride that somebody is listening to them. Yet those people are so blind, they’re not seeing whether that person listened to God, (amen) and they let themselves become influenced. Then when God was not consulted, then they want God to come now and just abolish; do some magic and let them wake up like it was just a nightmare they were having, and start over on the right road and everything is good; no pain whatsoever; nothing. Oh my!

It just shows how spoiled some of us could be – like little spoiled children. We want to do things and we don’t want to have the responsibility for our actions. We just want the freedom to express our choice and we don’t want the responsibility to live up to the decisions that we’ve made. Some people want to shelve blame and put the blame on others for their wrong doings because the guilt and the weight are so heavy sometimes.

Let’s look at a few examples in the Bible of those who were faced with circumstances, where decisions had to be made urgently sometimes and how they approached it, and what were the results of those decisions.

There are all kinds of decisions we could take. Look at Cain. He was worshipping God, and he, I guess he wanted to have his little church and he had his ambition; put up his altar and everything else. And then when he saw the fire came upon Abel’s altar and

didn't come upon his, he began to get annoyed; he began to get bothered.

But God wasn't partial. God came to him in humility. He didn't go seeking God for the revelation, you know. God came to him in humility and said, "What are you worried about? If you do like your brother, I'll receive you. It's not like I'm not receiving you. But you got yourself in such self-will. You made your decision to do that." If you had made a decision to seek God instead of making a decision to act on your impression... Amen. So when God came down, God warned him. He said, "Look, sin lieth at the door." Is that right? He was warned but he made the wrong decision.

God gave him a chance to think over the matter. God put a roadblock. But like Balaam when God was putting roadblocks, brother, he wasn't seeing any roadblocks. It's a pitiful condition because sometimes wrong decisions put you in a wrong channel and block out your light. You're walking in darkness, feeling your way around.

And know this: one wrong decision led to another wrong decision, and each wrong decision was causing new developments; new circumstances. And every time a greater circumstance arose, he was more unequipped to deal with it. He was going into trouble where he couldn't come back, until finally he was marked and went out of the Presence of God. Yet God had given him a chance right there. But decision; he made his choice. He was going to have that kind of sacrifice. He was going to believe it that kind of way. If God has to honor it, that is the way God has to receive it – just like that.

Oh, may we never make a decision like that. May we consult the Word for our decision. May we let the Mind of Christ be in us. Let us see God's approach.

Look at the people in the antediluvian world. They went there; they too had a decision to make. Do you think God destroyed those people without mercy in the

days of Noah? No. But they were trusting more and more and more in their scientific discoveries.

Now I was reading a little letter some planetary society sent for me. You know, people get your name and they send you all kinds of stuff. And they're talking about the Mars landing they're hoping to have by 1996 and, you know, how the images are going to be on television; to see the first landing on Mars, and all these pink sunsets, and this red soil, and all the different things, and pyramid shaped mountains. And all that is happening right now, and the part that they're playing and all the great personalities that are part of society, and trying to recruit more membership and you know, develop more interest.

And they're talking about all of these great things you have to study: the different ether waves and things out there and maybe over one hundred million channels I think they would be able in the next four years to scan. Right now they can scan just so much amount of channels. And the possibility of any voice anywhere within a certain range, how they'll be able to pick it up to know if there are extraterrestrial beings and all these different things.

Are they trying to convince me of that? What they're waiting for, brother, we already know the outcome of these things. The Seven Seals have been opened! The Book is opened! The cover has been taken off! What was hidden, is brought into view! Hallelujah! The Supreme Judge has already come in Investigation Judgment. Amen.

Brother, it's time to run into the Ark! You don't have to play around with all of this nonsense. It's time to heed the Voice of the Prophet! Hallelujah! "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Coming of the Son of Man."

But what happened? They made their decision. They made a choice. They were more influenced, they were more impressed, they were more thrilled, they were

more elated at all those reports of science and this discovery, and this and the other and these things. And the more they filled their minds with that, is the more they were shutting out the Light. And the more they received those things, is the more they were rejecting what God was speaking through His prophet.

Oh, it was a pathetic thing. They believed their theories instead of the vindicated Word. Here were men with their imaginations trying to imagine a theory, educated guesses of educated men; all kinds of well-worked out explanations. And here's the Word being vindicated: **THUS SAITH THE LORD.**

But they made a choice. They held on to their scientific explanations: "Oh, there is no moisture. There is no rain up there. This man is crazy. Where is rain going to come from? We don't have such a thing. He and that boat, he will be a laughing stock in the years to come. He's trying to disprove us and these great learned men." Oh my.

Well the people stood between those voices and they had a decision to make. They looked at the ark and it didn't look like the right decision. The majority was not going in there. They looked at the prophet and he didn't look cultured and refined and learned in this great Age of learning and science. Amen. And you know what happened. They all perished in the flood when that rain began to fall. It's the decision that they made. God didn't shut them out. They made a decision. They rejected it. Their decision was to accept or reject. One hundred and twenty years Noah preached for and they halted so long between their two opinions, until finally God's time ran out.

We have to face reality. If we pay so bitterly for making wrong decisions in natural things, are we going to escape in spiritual things? If people are living with the bitterness today of choices that they made and things they're trying to come out of and they can't come out of it; they're bound to it... "I should have never

taken that loan.” As soon as the loan’s interest started to pile up on it, you get laid off. Then you start to question whether you were led. But while your job was sound and you’re listening to the man in the labor office and somebody was telling you, “Don’t be afraid. We have a man inside. Everything’s ‘freeco’.” [Something of value given away for free –Ed.] You don’t want any ‘Still Small Voice’ after that? Amen.

See, I know how to get home, you know. I’m in my home. I am not in Venezuela or somewhere. I’m right here in Abel Country. Amen. See? If people have to pay for those things, pay the bitter price, pay for the rush of blood that comes to their head... That little rush of blood, that little excitement is temporary. Brother, now they’re trying to... It seems so dry but they felt so charged when they were making their decision. And as soon as the decision was made, no more inspiration. It’s straight to the dungeon; put the chains on. See?

If people have to do that and make those decisions, what about the greatest decision a man could make – to accept life or reject it? Any sensible person, any normal thinking person...

You know, little children going to school, they have an examination and they fail to prepare. Do you know what they say when they fail to prepare? Prepare to fail. They made a decision: “I think I’ll go and sleep now.” They made a decision: “Well I don’t think I’ll study now. I’ll get up early in the morning.” Oversleep; Satan gives you some dream there, holds you in dreamland and you’re enjoying that dream and you don’t want to get up at all. You want to live in that delusion. By the time you get up and you see the clock, you’re late for school already. Problems.

Now we are faced with the greatest decision. Do you know right now, the pressure to make a decision and an urgent decision is upon every CARICOM [Caribbean Community –Ed.] leader right now? When I was preparing

this message, I was thinking about that too. And do you know when they had their big meeting there recently, what was the title of their report? *“The Time Has Come For Action.”*

In 1986, the Holy Spirit said that. God called a halt to playing church and the time had come for action. Do you know when the time comes for action? They said, “You play around and you don’t break into a global vision, and you are seeing a little, small island here with your little, small West Indian mentality, and the world is changing. Europe is being united. The Berlin Wall was broken down. The communism is de-communized. The whole world is being reshaped. The new geopolitical lines are being drawn. The new trade zones are coming up.” Said, “And you all want to play little, petty politics sitting around here?” He said, “The time has come for action. Move now or get left behind and you and your people will suffer like a blind shepherd leading blind people. You’ll all fall in the ditch. You’ll be so fragmented when the time comes, you won’t even have any influence on the market. The whole thing would be swallowed up and monopolized by the bigger countries.”

And that is the message to them. And they had their big meeting and every man was trying to get in line and get the people’s influence and trying to devise ways and means through the media to stir up interest and get the people ready to make this move. Well, just when they’re talking about the time for action, God is still in time for action. It’s time for action. Amen! But they had to make a decision. It’s facing them.

Some of you here tonight, some of you young people, you’re right there in the crossroads of life. Decisions come every day: “Should I do this? Should I not do this? Oh, I like this boy, but he’s in the world.” Leave him alone! Amen! Or, “I like that girl in school.” Leave her alone! Sure. You’re going to pay for those decisions. And when a man is making a decision and a woman is making a decision, you better be responsible to accept

what goes—the results of the decision. Because our decisions can determine our eternal destination.

Look at Esau. Esau made a hasty decision that he lived to regret and he paid dearly for making such a terrible mistake. He wept bitter tears. He became revengeful. He tried to build an army. He tried to undo the decision. He tried to reverse the results of it, but it couldn't be done because in that brief moment—he didn't realize that that day was going to be the changing factor in his life. The sun rose the same way.

Friends, let me tell you this. Catch the seriousness of what I'm talking about. Catch the reality of what I'm talking about tonight. There are men and women who are coming to this pool tonight to be baptized in Christian baptism. That is one of the greatest decisions that they could ever make! Amen! God has given them power to choose. God has put right and wrong before them. God has brought Himself right within touching distance. God has presented the Word before them to search out their ways, to consider themselves; to see what is being presented. And even while this message is going forth tonight, you too listen. If a man or woman would come to this pool tonight halting between two opinions, they are not fit to come to that pool.

Esau thought it was just another of his clever tricks. He's a great hunter. He could outsmart the animals. He studied their ways. He could trick them; use his superior intelligence to back them up. See? And here he thought, "Well this is just another ploy. He doesn't really mean it." So he thought! Well you see, that's why the Bible says a man must give account for every idle word. Let your yes be yes and let your no be no, because by a man's own words, he will be justified and by a man's own words, he will be condemned. Is that right? Take it seriously.

And here Esau thought, "Well, that's my brother. We're brothers; same father and same mother; we're twins." And right in that moment he esteemed

that pottage to be more valuable to him. He esteemed it greater worth than the birthright in that moment while he was hungry, while all he could think of was his physical appetite; while his whole being was consumed with the desire to satisfy the flesh, the outward man. Let me tell you, the outward man will perish any how you take it, but the inward man is renewed day by day.

And right in that moment... And many of us are in that moment sometimes. Sometimes the heat is on and the crave of the flesh becomes strong. And sometimes though we're serving God, though we're in the Message but you're being consumed with the crave of the flesh. And momentarily right there, you have a passion to break the Word, to overstep the boundaries of the Word to satisfy the crave of your flesh because you think it's just a backwards step like that and you'll come right back in after you make that next step. You can't redo it, friend. You don't redo it like that. No, sir! It doesn't happen like that.

Turn with me to Genesis 13. Let me show you how it doesn't happen like that. I'll show you, one mistake leads to another. Let's look at Lot here. He's the one we're going to dwell on for a few moments while we try to hurry up. You turn—flip those pages faster than that if you want me to finish this message.

Genesis 13. Let's read quickly. There was a famine, which Genesis 12, from verse 10-20, tells you about it – how Abraham went down into Egypt. The Bible said, "Don't go down to Egypt for help at all." But Abraham went down to Egypt for help and he began to lie down there. Is that right? Fear began to take him. He began to lie. He began to get himself into problems. And in Genesis 13, God, rich in mercy, delivered him out of that condition; brought him back up.

¹ And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

Oh, I like that. That is the very same place where he had his tent pitched and that is where he left and he went down to Egypt when he was tested. And he had to come right back to the place. You see, you have to go back to the place where you left God. You have to go right back there and make your confessions and get your wrongs right.

4 Unto the place of the altar...

So where did he come back after he sinned down in Egypt? He came right back to the place where the tent was pitched and right where the altar was pitched. Because his tent spoke of a pilgrim life, his pilgrim life, and that he was a stranger in that land; had no continuing city. And the altar spoke that he was a true worshipper of the One and true Living God.

So here he's:

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee,

*and between my herdmen and thy herdmen;
for we [are] brethren.*

Oh my. Look at that character: “Don’t let the Philistines or Canaanites see us fighting. We are brothers.” Amen. “Let us hold a good testimony before the unbeliever now.”

⁹ Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where...

Let’s catch that deep. Let’s catch the instruction of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes...

Right there as he began to lift up his eyes, he began to see something. You see, the eye gate is where most of your temptation comes. There are three things: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

¹² Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

¹³ But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

When he lifted up his eyes, he didn’t see the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly before the Lord. He

didn't see how wicked the city was and the perversion. He didn't see God was going to have to judge that sin. He didn't see that. He saw it was well watered.

You see, if you have covetousness in your heart, if you have an appetite for temporal things, if you want to walk by sight and not by faith, there are things in that journey of faith you're going to be confronted with that you're going to come to the place, you'll have to make decisions.

And so in this journey, Lot came to the place where he had to make a decision. And right there that day, what presented itself as an opportunity to his eyes, what presented itself like an increase that he was going to get in life: he was going to be well off, he was going to be more secured, he was going to be better situated, (amen) he's going to have more to eat and more to drink; could dress better; he saw room for improvement; he saw he was going to be able to climb the social ladder... What he might have started off to say: "Boy, I believe I am blessed. I believe God really led me right." Look. He was looking upon it. As he looked upon it with those eyes, he began to just notice the natural things.

First... Watch the steps of Lot backsliding. First, he lifted up his eyes and beheld. Secondly, he chose all the plains of Jordan. You see, it started to influence him. He came to a decision and he made a choice. He weighed out what he saw. He saw the proposition of going in the wilderness or going this way. He saw it. Abraham said, "You choose first. The choice is yours. Make the decision." Is that right?

Now remember, Lot is a type of the carnal believer. He's a penny. He's justified. He's righteous. "The righteous soul of Lot was vexed, that just man," Peter said. But he was a penny; he was carnal. Look.

Then he separated himself from Abraham and that was one of the biggest mistakes. He didn't realize, his blessing was because of his association with Abraham.

Then the next thing was, he dwelt in the cities of the plain.

Turn with me to chapter 14, verse 12. Let's read from verse 11. This is where the kings came, a great invasion in Sodom while Lot was down there. A great invasion came and Lot was captured.

11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their [food supplies], and went their way.

12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Is that what your Bible says? [Congregation says, "Amen." – Ed.]

13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt [by the oaks] of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

15 And he divided [his men] against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

So here Abraham had to go out and get him. But I want you to notice something: from the cities of the plains, he was dwelling eventually in Sodom. He kept going further because opportunities were opening up. Amen. "Now we can go down there." There was a big position waiting for him. He could go down and be Mayor. Oh my.

“Abraham, eat your heart out. Look where I am. Look where I’m being blessed. Look at the authority I have. Look at the dignitaries I associate with. Look, my name is on the lips of all these great people. Look at the confidence they have in me. You couldn’t see anything in me but look how much they’re seeing in me. I’m the Mayor down here.”

Sounded good. Looked good. But that day when he lifted his eyes, friends, (that’s what I’m talking about,) in that moment, did he recognize his life had come to that place and in God’s sight that choice was going to determine where he was going, where he was going to end up, where his family was going to be, where his riches was going to be; where his future was going to be. It hung that day when Abraham said choose.

Genesis chapter 19 quickly. I’m running behind time. God, help me. I’m still on the negative side. I’m trying to get out of here quickly. Chapter 19:

¹ And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

² And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

When Abraham saw them, Abraham said, “Don’t turn aside. Come here and sit with me. Let me fetch some bread. Let me get some water and wash your feet.”

And they said, “Sure.”

They took off their sandals. They sat there.

Abraham said, “Sarah, get some cakes quickly.”

And they were chatting and talking and they were entertaining those Angels. But when they went to Lot’s house, they said, “Nay! We aren’t going inside of there.”

Mistress Lot was painted up like an 'aint'. [Not a saint -Ed.] Hair all bobbed up. Painted up; looking like the world; smelling like the world. Those two perverted boys, those two 'Rickies' that those girls married to.

And the Bible said:

³ And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

⁵ And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

See? Perverted.

⁶ And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

⁷ And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

⁸ Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

Look at this man. This man was willing to take his two virgin daughters and throw them out there for his own preservation, for his own security. This man had become so backslidden. He might have increased in wealth but he decreased in spiritual goods. He might have been smelling better; driving better. Maybe had a nice chariot with diamond studs or whatever it is; specially imported Arabian stallions, (amen) PAY or whatever they call them [Latest series in local vehicles -Ed.] (see?) but inside of there, look at the condition of the

man's heart! Look at the meanness and the selfishness of the man's character. It was quickly displayed when the situation came. Look at the kind of proposal that he was making to those men.

He wasn't even conscious spiritually of those angels as he should have been. He saw angels, he tried to get them in but he still didn't understand that they were Supernatural beings. See? Brother, with one word they could have turned that world upside down, yet he was trying to defend them. Look at his backslidden, deteriorated, filthy condition and he wanted to defend an angel from the Presence of God who came in investigation?

Brother, I tell you some people could be so presumptuous. Some people could think of themselves so highly and not have a good discernment of their rotten condition. They didn't have to smite Lot blind, Lot was blind already. He was so blind. Amen.

Look at verse 14:

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city.

Look at him trying to witness now. Boy, now he got on fire. He got charged; he saw a miracle. When he saw the angels smite those men blind; he got charged up. He rose up out of that backslidden condition and now he wanted to testify.

...Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

What does it tell us? His testimony was powerless. Do you know why? Because of the life that he lived before; the life that they were accustomed to seeing him live every day. He was trying to play serious overnight. He was trying to play on fire for God and desperate overnight, when all the time with the shady deals, all the time sitting in the city gate; all the time playing

around with these perverts. Amen! Now he was trying to play on fire and testify and say, "The Lord came to destroy this place!"

Let us see if he believed it. Look at verse 15:

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here...

He was trying to hasten his sons-in-law and the angels were trying to hasten him.

...lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him...

Look at the same man full of fire, wanted to go around and testify and charge up the place and charge up people and get them delivered, and look at his condition.

Let me tell you, some people think it's carnival. Some people think is a masquerade. Friends, we have to face reality. We have to recognize the Hour that we are living in. As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be in the days of the Coming of the Son of Man. Amen!

God being merciful to him. He was so mean and selfish. He tried to throw his virgin daughters out there. He, himself, the father, had given those two girls, knowing they were going to marry two perverts. They were still virgins. They didn't know any man when they were married to these men. Then he was going to throw them to those men on the outside! Then here he was coming back around now playing he wanted to testify and charge up people to get them saved.

Then when time for he, himself to go, brother, he started to study all the riches. He started to study this over here, and this over here; his wife too. Until the

angel even had to grab ahold of them and jerk them and hasten them out of that place.

Look. After, the fire fell. Verse 30, to save a little time. You read it when you go home and study it out.

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him...

Now, let me get back a little further. I want to... Verse 23:

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Let me tell you, she was supposed to be salty. But you see, when the salt loses its savor and it was good for nothing, and they were outside down there involved in everything compromising with everything, just using the Name of the Lord conveniently: "Oh, the Lord is blessing us. Oh, I tell you, the Lord is..." and their mouths were more painted up more than anything else. See? The dress was more tighter, like if they poured her inside of it. From the time when she left Abraham, it started to go up and up and up and up and up and up; was in such a condition. She looked back and God turned her into a pillar of salt.

27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

All the nice, big, stately mansions for the Mayor. Mayor's residence in the nice celebrity area that goes with a Mayor's job, and the Mayor's vehicle, and the Mayor's office, and all the different prestige, he was now in a cave. That was how secure his riches were. That was how secure the things that he coveted after that day when he lifted his eyes, when he looked and he didn't put the wickedness of the men of Sodom on one side and the watered plains on the next side of the scale and weighed it and see which one outweighed the other one. He didn't see his two sons-in-law were going to die under judgment. He didn't see his wife was going to die under judgment. He didn't see his two daughters were going to commit an act of incest with him while he was drunk. See? He didn't see it. But all he was seeing was the watered plains when he lifted his eyes.

When you lift your eyes tonight, what are you focusing upon? Look. Verse 31:

31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:

32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

34 And it came to pass on the [next day], that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay [last night] with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

Look at this cruel crime.

35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

Incest.

37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.

38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

And those two nations always warred against Israel, which came from Abraham. Is that right? And to see where they ended up, friends. That is what I want you to see. From one, it was going to a next. One mistake was going to the next until finally, he who sowed to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption. But Abraham all that time was getting faith to come back young; got a new body; brought forth the promised son. Amen. Glory.

Turn with me quickly to Hebrews. Let's jump on the positive side a little bit and close; take a Scripture here quickly, Hebrews 11. Glory. Time for baptism. Let the candidates get their hearts and minds centered on the Lord Jesus. Amen. Let the people just stay in the Spirit that those who tonight are brought to a place of decision... Whenever you hear the Word of God, you come to a place of decision. What will you do with this

Jesus called Christ? We are not playing church, friends. We are not trying to be popular or friendly for some ulterior motive or something. This is trying to be truthful and speak what God has spoken.

Hebrews 11, verse 24:

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

By what? By faith. This man now had to choose but he wasn't choosing by sight. He wasn't lifting up his eyes and looking by sight. He wasn't lifting up his eyes and looking at the throne of Egypt, and the glamour and the prosperity of Egypt, and the opportunities, and how close he was to the throne, and that he was going to be the next Pharaoh. He wasn't looking at that! Hallelujah! By faith, by revelation!

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming...

In other words, 'regarding as valuable'.

...the reproach of Christ.

That made so many people shun away. They say, "Well, they are going to laugh at me. People are going to talk about me. I'll have to dress differently. I'll have to act differently. They are going to call me names. They are going to say I got brainwashed. They will say I joined this church now. Now I can't do this and I can't do that." Let me tell you, that is just the devil trying to hold you back. Amen! This is not dos and don'ts. This is seeing the grace of God; what God has in store for us.

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt...

He was weighing it out. He was making—he had to make the decision. He wasn't halting between two opinions.

...for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Oh my. Look at Moses. By faith. On a message, *By Faith Moses* [1958-0720m - paras. 30-31 -Ed.] the Prophet said: *And in this faith walk there comes a time there has to be a choice. Lot made that sad mistake that we make. A lot of times we choose for our own good. We choose things that would be a better... Sometimes if there's a little squabble comes in the church, and someone would say, "Well, the deacon or the pastor's on this side..." Don't look at that, look at what's righteous. Get that thing out and bring them both together if that's godly.*

There's a choosing, and we choose for ourselves. We choose something that's for our own good. But Moses chose the afflictions and the disgrace, that he might walk with the people of God. Think of it, now. Listen to it: "Chose the afflictions of the people of God and counted it a greater treasure, for he endured seeing Him Who was invisible."

He said then: *You are today what you are, because several years ago you chose to be what you are now.*

Sometimes you look back and say, "Boy, if I had made that decision. I had such opportunity. Look where that person is today. Look how they are successful. Look how this is happening here and that thing was confronting me. I didn't even think about it." See?

He said: *And what you choose now, will determine what you'll be five years from today. [...what you choose now, will determine what you'll be five years from today.] Five years from today you may be a missionary. Five years from today you may be a renown Christian.*

Or five years from today you may be in hell, because you made the wrong decision.

Five years from today you may be cleaning spittoons in a barroom. Five years from today you may be a prostitute on the street. Or you may be a man or a woman ... that's a credit to any society, because of your choice for Christ. Five years from today you may be in glory, gone in the rapture, because you made your choice today. But you've got to choose. [Amen!] And don't look at what you see; choose what you see by faith. [That's the real thing.] That's the only thing that will count, is what you choose by faith.

Amen. Glory! By faith Moses, he looked down there and saw the hardship. He didn't sympathize with the people. He didn't say, "Oh God, well, maybe I should go down there and I hope things..." No, no, no. He realized what God was doing in that Hour. He recognized it was the time of visitation. He saw it was the Hour for the promise and he was determined to make that decision and take that stand, come what may. Amen. He took his place in the mud pit and began to tramp out the mud. Amen. He looked at the throne and he walked away from it.

Somebody might have said, "Foolish. You should not have given away that great opportunity in life. You didn't have to do that and serve God." Sure. You might end up like Lot too. Amen. But something spoke to his heart. He chose rather to suffer affliction.

The choice wasn't a choice easy and comfortable for the flesh. Sometimes you are only paying for the flesh. If there is any hardship, if there is anything to give up, we are willing to shirk back. We want it on our own terms. We want it on our own conditions. God forbid. You aren't worthy to stand in the ranks of these in the Bible who had faith. Reasoning will never make you stand there. But if God could speak to your heart and drop that faith inside of there and you see the reality of God, and you can say, "I'm so glad I can say I'm one of

them. There is something inside of me (amen,) I don't care, amen; live or die, sink or swim; friend or no friend." Glory.

I don't have time to read all the Scriptures because we've already passed time. But look in the Bible. Rebekah, when the time came and she had to make a decision... The servant went out, Genesis 24. You read it when you go home. The servant went out there under a Divine commission. Abraham had to make a choice to get a bride for his son. And Abraham realized, "I just can't bring up this boy because it is the Messianic promise at stake. It's the bloodline at stake. And God gave me this boy as one from the dead. And God, when I was going to sacrifice this boy, raised him back up (amen,) though he was dead in God's purpose because God was only trying me to see how true I'm going to be."

And now the time came he had to get a bride for him. And he was looking that this bride couldn't come from among those Canaanites or among those heathens. It couldn't be any mixed thing. It couldn't be any unbeliever; unequally yoked going out in the world and looking for some painted up Jezebel or something. No, sir. Amen. There was something about character. He took that servant, his most trusted servant. Because it was so important to him, he wouldn't just send any servant. And he took that servant and he made him put his hand on his thigh and swear. He said, "You swear by the God of Heaven Who called me and gave me this promise that you will not choose from one of those Canaanites."

And that servant went out there knowing the responsibility. And then he too was faced with a decision: "Am I going to look for the prettiest girl? Am I going to look for the most shapely girl? Am I going looking for the best educated girl? Am I looking for the girl who is smelling the sweetest and in the latest fashions? What am I going to look for?" And he was faced with it.

And he knew, it had to be character. And he got down there and he began to pray sincerely to the same God. Amen! He said, "Let it be that the damsel that You have appointed (amen) for my master's son, let her be the one who comes and let her offer me to drink and then even draw water for my camels."

He asked a certain thing knowing it was going to take a certain quality of character. Amen. He decided to pray that way. And he was waiting to see God show the results of that decision. He was deciding, "I'm going to trust God in this thing. I'm not going to use my own thinking. I'm going to let God do the choosing for me instead." Hallelujah! He said, "Let God choose the damsel." Amen. "Let God bring that one. Let that one be like this. I'm not going to stand and try to use my intellect and figure out which one looks better, who is looking more matched, ask her what month she was born in, see what her horoscope is; see if it matches." Nonsense! Amen. "I'm going to watch and see. Amen. Let God do the choosing." When he decided to let God take over and make the choice, he knew he could never go wrong. Amen! Glory be to God in the highest!

Would you let God make the choice for you tonight? Amen! If it is God's Word, will you walk in it? How long will you halt between two opinions? What are you looking for in this Hour? Some nice church who lets you live anyhow you want to live and then in the end, you end up disappointed going down into hell thinking you can live anyhow and serve God? God wants people totally separated from all unbelief.

God wants people to love Him so much that they will give up (amen) the thing that they love the most, just for Him like Abraham was. "Now I know Abraham. The thing that you love, you are willing to sacrifice for Me." Amen. Yes, sir. Glory. "If any man can't hate mother and father, brother or sister, deny himself and pick up his cross and follow Me daily, he is not worthy to be My disciple!" Amen!

Decisions and choices! We've come to that place where we must make a decision. We must make that choice. It's going to reflect what's inside of us. You are free moral agents that God put on the same basis that He put Adam and Eve. We can't say Adam and Eve caused us be here. You have the same choice. You could choose today. You could choose right now. You could take your stand right now.

After the damsel came and she fulfilled the prayer exactly as it was, and he asked her, "Where are you from?"

She said, "I'm from the house of Bethuel."

Oh my. It was bringing confirmation. That decision was making it greater and greater. Every step was making it greater. On the other side everything was going worst. Now he said, "You are from Bethuel! Do you mean to say, out of the house of my master's family?" Amen! He knew God was answering prayer. They can recognize their prayer being fulfilled. Brother, they went to the house and begin to testify.

The mother and father said, "Oh, that is good. The thing proceeds from the Lord."

And then the brother said, "Well, let her wait for about ten days first."

And the servant said, "Look, don't hinder me. Since God has prospered my journey, please don't hinder me now!"

It was urgent! Why delay (amen) when God was already moving? Why would man get in the way?

They said, "Bring the damsel. Let her speak for herself."

She said, "I will go."

Amen! Brother, she didn't have to go and say, "Well, I don't know. Let me see what my friend says," and "Let me think it over." No deliberating. She too recognized the moving of God. Amen. She said, "I will go!"

And out of there came Jacob. Out of Jacob came Israel. Out of Israel came Judah. Out of Judah,

brother, came David. Out of David came Christ, the very Promise, the very Redeemer; the very One that was promised.

Do you see what we are talking about? She was willing to make that decision. She was confronted on a normal day just like Esau; a normal day just like Lot.

Look at Ruth, when Ruth was going back in the harvest time. Her husband had died. Orpah's husband had died. Two girls ended up as widows; young girls; no husband. Naomi's husband died. Three widows. They had everything in common. Then Naomi decided to go back to her homeland.

She said, "Well girls, it's better if you all stay. It is better if you all go back. Go back to your gods. Go back to your home. Go back to your fashion. Forget it. I mean, all I brought to you all were bitterness and hardship."

Orpah began to cry. She could cry quickly; lots of tears but tears to go back; tears to go... It was just emotion. She didn't even see anything. She couldn't catch what Naomi was talking about. She couldn't catch that God of Israel. She had married into Israel coming out of Moab and then went right back into Moab.

You just read, from Lot came Moab, that lineage. Look what she was coming from. Look what she was coming into – coming right back into where Abraham's seed was; where the promise was. Amen! She didn't catch that. She wasn't spiritual enough. Religion was religion for her. Church was church for her. Anything was anything for her. She couldn't catch the reality and the truth and so she went back.

And then Naomi turned to Ruth: "Look, well your sister went back. Go back too, okay?"

She didn't want to hear anything about 'sister went back'. Something had already dropped from here [head – Ed.] down into here [heart –Ed.] already. Amen! The gates of hell couldn't prevail against it!

She said, "Where thou goest, will I go. Your people shall be my people. Your God shall be my God. Where you die, will I die. Where you are buried, will I be buried. Entreat me not to leave thee."

Brother, coming as a little pauper, coming out there, coming back to be reproached and ridiculed, but she chose rather to suffer affliction; she chose rather to bear the reproach (amen) than to go back to those gods. And she went there and suffered a little while.

But then one day, Boaz, the lord of the harvest, came walking. Amen! Hallelujah. The one who could redeem her. The one who could lift her up from where she was. The one who could make her an heir of all that he had. Hallelujah! And out of her (amen) came Obed, and out of Obed came Jesse, and out of Jesse came David and out of David came Christ. Hallelujah! Why? She could make that decision. Amen. She could catch it at that moment.

Could you catch it tonight? You've had more explained to you than Ruth had, you've had more explained to you than Rebekah had, you've had more explained to you than Esau had and you are confronted with the same kind of decision. You have a far greater opportunity tonight. Oh my.

Elisha, when Elijah waved the mantle over him, he had seen too much of foolishness in the land. He was seeing all the people going after Baal. He was seeing all this bunch of nonsense; Baal prophets. He was seeing Jezebel and all this modern religion; hybrid religion. That couldn't satisfy him. No, sir. He had enough of it. He was willing to just serve God in his own way, go under his tree and pray, plough up his land, get involved in some honest work; make an honest day's work and make an honest living, rather than to get involved in all that nonsense that was going on in the land. He had some convictions. And God was seeing that all the time. God was seeing that he wanted a reality. God was seeing that.

And one day God had Elijah to pass by with the mantle. God had a day of appointment. He got up that morning and was plowing; plowing with his yoke of oxen. Maybe the night before he was saying, “Boy, I have so much of work to finish. I had better try to get this field ploughed because I don’t have any extra hands, and this rain will be coming soon and I better get all the furrows straight. It is going to take me working maybe about sixteen hours a day to get it done but I am determined to get it done.”

And while he was so involved in the work, while he was there plowing, God was speaking to his heart on his job. He was in a certain atmosphere. He saw this man came walking. He said, “But that looks like the prophet. That looks like that man of God.” He didn’t belong to any school of the prophets. He wasn’t with Zedekiah and them. He wasn’t in Jericho sitting there with all their traditions and their creeds and dogmas. “So this is the man who everybody hates – Elijah. This is the man who cries out against the system. This is the man who bawled out the preachers.”

And here came that little bald head prophet, came walking down the mountain, wrapped in that mantle. He was passing through that yard that day. Maybe he had to cross the fence. He couldn’t understand. It’s like, “The prophet, why would he do a thing like that? The road doesn’t lead this way.” He was coming for him. He is coming for you tonight. Glory.

He waved that mantle over him. And when he waved that mantle, he felt something inside his heart. I could see maybe all his life begin to—like on a reel of film, began to flash back before him. He had an experience. He couldn’t explain it. While he sat there, maybe taking a little rest, wiping the sweat off his brow, that prophet walked up there and waved the mantle over him; maybe after a hard day’s work.

Maybe you've come in here after a hard day's work tonight. He's waving that Holy Spirit over you; Something to change your life.

Something struck him. Amen. He looked at that oxen, he looked at that plough; he looked at those things and he said, "Look, let me go and tell my mammy, let me go and tell my daddy bye-bye. Let me go and talk to them first." Do you think the prophet had time? The prophet was on his way. He doesn't have time to wait on mammy and daddy. "That is your domestic business. You see about your own domestic thing. Make your own decision. You have your things to do."

Sometimes people want everybody to make all the decisions for them. But God put you in the situation you have to make your decision. He ran in there, he spoke to them, he came back out, he burnt that plough, he slew that oxen and he offered a sacrifice. He offered the bullock on the very wood, on the yoke and these things. He was determined he was not going to have anything to come back to. He had so believed it. He had so known he had come to the right thing. He wasn't trying to hold something, "In case this fails, I'll come back and pick back up this." No, sir! Amen! It was a clean-cut decision.

But look at the power of those choices. Look what it did for Moses. Fourteen hundred years after, Moses was on the mountain talking to Jesus. Is that right? Look what it did for Rebekah. Look what it did for Ruth. Look what it did for Elisha. Even after he had already died and gone, a dead man dropped on his tomb and jumped back to life. There was some Quickening Power inside his bones. Amen! Glory!

If you can see the choice, if you can get confronted with the Word tonight, friends... It may look like you stand there alone and nobody knows what you are going through in your heart making your choice, but God sees. Every angel in Heaven is standing right there in awe, to see many times the response of the people when

they get confronted with the Word of God; when they come to the reality to see how they are going to move under the power of that Word. If they come from that Word, there is a deep inside of them.

That struck Elisha so much, he said, “As the Lord liveth and my soul liveth, I will not leave thee nor forsake thee.”

He said, “No, but you can be the next chief prophet here in this school. You have the potential. You could go to Bible class and finish up this, and then you could get your own congregation, and you’ll have this and this and that.”

He said, “As the Lord liveth and my soul liveth, I will not leave thee.”

He said, “You could stand better over here.”

He said, “I am not interested in better.”

“Yeah, but Jacob was there one night and a great thing happened here.”

He said, “That is history. You are present tense.” Amen! Hallelujah! “This is ‘I am’. That was ‘I was’.” Glory. “Don’t point me backwards. Let me move with God in season.”

Amen! He could recognize what was happening. He had no other private ambition. Elijah was the only one to see what was down inside of there. The prophet wanted to see if he had any ambition for the world, for a career, for something else that he was going to put before God.

He said, “Then what do you want?”

He said, “I want a double portion of the Spirit upon me.”

He said, “You ask a hard thing (amen!) but if you see me when I go, you will have what you ask for.”

Oh my, friends, let me tell you, those things were written for our examples. The choice is yours tonight. The decision is yours. It’s right before you. What kind of decision you make is up to you. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. *Where He leads me, I will*

follow. Let the musicians come. I will go with Him all the way. [#452 - Songs That Live -Ed.] Amen! The Cross... I am going through, I am going through. I will pay the price no matter what others do! I've started with Jesus and I'm going through. [#741 - Songs That Live -Ed.] Amen. I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. The Cross before me and the world behind me. No turning back, tonight.

Oh my. He told the Prophet one time, "Because you have chosen the harder way, because you have chosen of your own choosing, because you have made this momentous decision, (amen!) a huge portion of Heaven awaits you. This will make and bring to pass that tremendous victory in the Love Divine."

Oh my! That's for every believer here tonight. Amen. Many of you might be a believer and you have a decision to make. Would you pay a greater price? Would you root those things out of your life to walk closer with God; to see the power of God move in your life as a believer, who might claim that you are a believer? God has called you to a full obedience, full surrender to this Word in this Hour, amen; cut all ties and become a prisoner, a love slave of Jesus Christ.

I'm going through. I'm going through. Amen. I wonder, friend, I wonder tonight as we close the service out, as we come to that Hour, what are we going to do? What are we going to do? I preached for all of you tonight: the strangers, the ones who are now coming in; those who are believers. Some of you, you are confronted with so many things and you get confused in your mind sometimes. But don't fail to approach God's Word. Don't fail to see the results of the decisions that people make consulting God, in obedience to God's Word, regardless of what condition, what it is going to require of them. Sometimes to follow Him, we have to pay a price. We have to separate from everything; things that might seem great to you.

The rich, young ruler came to Him. He said, “Master, what must I do to have Eternal Life?” He didn’t go to the Pharisees and the Sadducees. He knew that they had that religion for four hundred years and it never did anything for them. They were still empty.

But they saw the Word working in a Man. They saw reality. They saw something operate in human flesh that made God and man one. They saw it was according to the promises of the Bible for that day. They saw it introduced by a mighty prophet with the Spirit of Elijah. They saw it was far beyond what any denomination could produce in that Hour.

His disciples, they said, “Master, we forsake everything to follow You.”

And this nice, religious man came to Him and said, “What must I do to have Eternal Life?”

He said, “Keep the Law. If you are a ‘Seven Days’ [Seventh Day Adventist –Ed.], keep the Sabbath. If you are a Pentecostal, roll and speak in tongues. If you are a Baptist, just go right on believing that by faith you have everything. If you are a Methodist, just trust in your moral, upright life.” It couldn’t work.

He said, “All those commandments I have kept since I was small.” [Young –Ed.]

He looked him in the eye; He knew where his problem was. He said, “Take all you have, sell it and give it to the poor. Follow Me and you will have great treasures in Heaven.”

The Bible said, “He went away sad.” He came to the right Person, asked the right question, got the right answer, but he made the wrong decision. He just wanted information. He just wanted more knowledge. He wanted it without paying a price. When he realized what it was going to cost him, he had reservations.

When he trusted in his own moral life and thought he was so religious, under that Word, (not a denominational voice; the Voice of the Word Himself,) he realized that down inside of there, he was so tied to

temporal things. He realized where his god was. He realized what had a greater hold upon him, even greater than his own religion; even greater than the very desire to know Truth. He walked away sad. He rejected the Leadership of Eternal Life.

Let's sing that little chorus: *I'm going through, yes, I am going through.* You must be ready in your heart tonight. You want to go through, friends. Let it be between you and God. The choice is yours. The decision is yours to make; nobody can make that for you. Your thoughts speak louder in Heaven than your words on earth. God doesn't see as man seeth. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God knows the heart.

I'm going through.

[#741 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

I'm going through, I'm going through,

I'll pay the price whatever others do,

I'll take the way (like Moses did)

with the Lord's despised few,

Oh, sing it to Jesus.

I'm going through, Jesus.

...through, Jesus.

Oh, yes I am. *I'm going through.*

I'm going through.

If you really mean that, lift your hands tonight and sing it: *I'm going through.* Lift your hands (not to me, but to Him,) and sing it to Him as a confession of your soul tonight.

...I'm going through,

I'll pay the price, tonight.

Like Samson did; he was willing to pay it. It was going to cost him his life, but he was willing to die.

...whatever...

He couldn't look at others now; had to keep his eyes on the Word – what the Word was calling out to him.

I'll take the way...

That is my decision; an individual decision. Not a group decision tonight, not a family decision; an individual decision. Oh, I'm going through, Jesus.

*I'm going through, Jesus,
I'm going through.*

Every head bowed, every eye closed. As we close this service and get ready for water baptism, as we have designated this little time, some of the candidates are here ready to come forward, but I'm giving the opportunity that if there be one tonight. You say, "Well maybe I am not ready tonight, but I want to make my decision tonight." You said, "I didn't come with clothes." We have baptismal robes.

If not today, but while He is speaking to your heart. It's not a program. While He is speaking to your heart today, while it is called today, if you will hear His Voice. He may not speak to you another day, though you might be baptized another day. But He is speaking to you now, speaking to you through His Word, asking you if you will receive Him as your Lord and Saviour tonight, take a stand for His Word; to be identified with Him.

People in this world want to be identified with so many things. They wear their T-shirts with their heroes, their idols, their slogans, their party symbols because they want to show that they are identified with many of these things. They wear their little pins and their buttons. They wear their uniform. They wear it with a sense of pride because they want to be identified. But tonight we are not talking about those things. We are talking about a real identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If there is one here tonight as we will pray, say, "I want to be identified with Him. I want to receive Him as my Lord and Saviour. Please pray for me tonight. I feel that the Holy Spirit has spoken to my heart and I don't want to halt between two opinions. I want to choose this day whom I'll serve. Like Moses, by faith I want to make my choice tonight. Not by reasoning, not by

imagination, but by faith, to look beyond this world and look to my eternal destination that this decision I want to make tonight will be a decision I'll never live to regret because God has given me an opportunity."

If you feel that way in your heart tonight, while every head is bowed and every eye is closed, you say, "Lord, I want to receive You." Would you lift your hand if you want to receive Him tonight; you want to make that decision? God bless you. Someone who has not received Him as yet, someone who has not made that decision tonight, you want to be a Christian, a real Christian. You don't just want to come to church. You don't just want to be around the group but you want to take a stand for the Word because you are not ashamed of His Word. Amen.

Let's bow our heads.

Almighty God, You said, "If you will confess Me before men, if you are not ashamed of Me, I will confess you before My Father and His holy angels." God, when we realize, it's such a great privilege in this dark, sinful Age to stand and say, "I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe His Word to be the Truth. I believe Him to be the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

We see people get in carnival bands, get in little arenas, get there, Lord, in all kinds of displays and they want to be seen. Their pictures are being photographed, they are being spoken of and it makes them feel so good, Lord. Yet, Lord they are not ashamed of their identification, though it cannot give them eternal life, though it is something of this world and must pass away; though it is something that is not inspired of You but something of the devil, Lord, that glorifies him and his kingdom.

Yet Father, when we come face-to-face with Your Word, a spirit of shame, a spirit of embarrassment wants to come over us. But one of these days when the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, when every denomination is crumbled

and become atomic ashes and when You, the King of Glory comes to set up Your Throne and Your Kingdom upon the face of this earth, it will be them, Lord, in meetings like these who sat there and heard Your Word and stepped forward to be recognized.

Bless this young man, Father. Someone may have invited him tonight and he came into the meeting. He wasn't ashamed to raise His hand. Lord, may he never have to regret this decision, what beats within his heart now, as he may not fully realize the magnitude of this decision that he made in such simplicity. God, may the Holy Spirit continue to brighten up his path.

And these who have made that decision and have come to be baptized tonight in Christian baptism... And the only true Christian baptism is in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as it was down through the pages of the Bible and down through history, until the last apostle died. Oh gracious God, we thank You for restoring this Truth that we might worship You and fulfill Your Word as our apostolic fathers did, to know that the faith of our fathers is living still tonight.

Bless these Father, and may the Holy Spirit that have guided and brought them till this junction in their lives, so tonight as they turn a corner Lord, may You brighten their path. May this guiding Light, the great Holy Spirit, Who has brought them out of darkness to walk in this marvelous Light, may He continue to unfold that Light and bring them unto that perfect day.

Lord, as they would come tonight, may Your Holy Spirit stand present even to witness back and confirm their faith. They have come to confess thy Name tonight. Bless them Father, and give them courage and strength, in Jesus' precious Name we pray, amen.

Amen. We have some brothers here, while they would take them to be changed... If they have already changed, you can bring them around on this side. I'll invite the song leader at this time to come and we'll just worship a little bit. If some of you have to leave, you

can leave, but we are going to have baptism. It is just going to take a few minutes to baptize them here, and the pool is opened. He that believeth and is baptized, the same shall be saved. Repent every one of you and be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Deacons you can just—let one of the Deacons get them for me and just show them the way around. Bro. Alec, come. These brothers came from different walks of life and they will have a chance to give their testimony. I will ask them to give a short word of testimony; coming out of Catholicism; coming out... (Yes, it is all right, Bro. Neville. It is okay. It's alright. I spoke with him.) ...coming out of different walks of life and coming here tonight, and God breaking the powers of darkness around their lives.

Now we don't want to keep them back. We just want to come through quickly. We have been long enough preaching the Word. These people just need to come straight to be baptized while we worship God a little bit. The Bible says, "All of Heaven is rejoicing when one sinner comes to repentance." Amen. When children are being born in the Kingdom, it's always a joy and a gladness.

Let's sing and be happy here tonight and let's give God praise. Could we lift our hands and say praise the Lord! [Congregation lifts their hands and says, "Praise the Lord." -Ed.] Glory be to God in the highest! Amen. What a mighty God we serve; what a mighty God! Let's sing that. Let us sing and praise the Lord. Amen. What a mighty God we serve.

[Song leader leads and congregation sing #98 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Amen. Thank You, Jesus. Let's just bow our heads for a word of prayer before we continue by God's grace. We'll try to be as brief as we can be.

Blessed be Your wonderful Name, Father. Almighty God, as we stand here now in this water, Lord, coming

to fulfill Your commandment that You have given unto us: "Go into all the world preaching the Gospel, teaching them to observe all commandments and baptizing in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," which is the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And, dear God, knowing that You have called down through Seven Church Ages, and here in this late Hour, You are still picking up the last ones and twos, Lord, like You did when You came to the end of Your Own ministry with blind Bartimaeus, Zacchaeus; the thief on the cross. God, You had some in that late Hour who were coming to Light. Blessed be Your wonderful Name.

We thank You for these brothers, Lord, young men, God who are full of energy, and daring and adventurous, stepped out Lord, to seek and pursue their goals in life. But You met them like You did Saint Paul. You turned them around, Lord. You brought them to a new path. You opened up a new vision. You revealed Yourself to them. You extended to them Your grace and Your mercy.

Here they are tonight, Lord, coming to be identified. Father, I pray as they would come forth to be baptized in water, knowing that we can only baptize them in water, Father, but we believe that there is One standing amongst us Who can baptize them with the Holy Ghost and with Fire. And as they come, dear God, Lord persuaded in their hearts and their eyes upon Calvary, may You grant them a real vision of Calvary; a real experience of coming to the Cross of Christ.

As the song said, "*I shall forever lift my eyes to Calvary and view the Cross where Jesus died for me. Amazing grace, shall always be my song of praise.*" [#70 - Songs That Live -Ed.] God let it be like that for them, Father, that they would come and find that the Blood is still fresh just as though It was shed about ten minutes ago, with Power, Lord, to break up every molecule of sin; to loose them and set them free.

May the Angel of the covenant, the blessed Holy Spirit stand here with us, Lord, even as we baptize them with water, that You will baptize them with the Holy Ghost and Fire and bring that new covenant into effect in their lives, Father, that the old things will pass away and all things shall become new. That as Lord, the filth of the flesh, the deeds of the old man, that old nature, Lord, will all be washed away, buried Lord, as they raise up, they will raise up in the newness of life to live and walk by faith and not by sight. Grant it tonight, Father. We look to You and we ask these mercies, in Jesus' precious Name, amen.

We have our precious brother here, Kirk Walker, who is going to be baptized tonight and maybe he can just tell you who he is and where he came from; what God has done for him. God has really done some things for this young man. I know it will be a blessing to you.

[Baptism service proceeds -Ed.]



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