

"I am the way and the truth and the life. (John 14 : 6)



Jeeva Vazhi

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Food for Thought



“Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders”

From the bottom of my heart.....

Greetings in the name of the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ.

"The Father has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." (John 8:29). These are the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples. What wonderful meaning-packed words.



Jesus is the Son of Man who gave himself to do the will of the Father. Jesus, who came as the Savior of the world, had courage. The one who sent me is with me. He did the will of the one who sent him without deviating from his will. He knew it was his meal to finish his work and he had a lasting relationship with the Father through his prayers.

He wants our relationship with God to be like this. Just as Jesus had an eternal relationship with the Father, so we must have an eternal relationship with Him. That relationship can be established through prayer, fasting, and worship. Those who have such a relationship may say, "He does not leave me alone." They will have that assurance.

In these days of this deadly disease where COVID is increasing and spreading, a child of God must understand that this worldly life is not permanent. Enough of running for worldly desires and passions. Don't waste your life anymore. Jesus Christ is coming soon. We must not be abandoned when he comes. Always do what is pleasing to the Lord and move forward. He will not leave those who do the will of the Lord alone in this worldly life. Yes. May grace and peace from the Almighty God be on all the readers of the Living Way magazine. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Livingston Zechariah.

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The Lord's Choice

Pastor Livingston Zechariah

What does it mean to be the Lord's choice? Whom does the Lord choose? What kind of people does the Lord choose? When does he choose? Why does he choose? What is the difference between the choice of the Lord and the choice of man? When such questions arise, the scripture teaches us what the Lord's choice is for an individual.

The measure of man's choice is based on merit and status. That is based on different aspects like property, comfort, beauty, knowledge, etc. These are the qualities that comes to the mind of a man for choosing someone. It will be different from person to person. However, there is a big difference between man's choice and the Lord's choice.

The great uniqueness found in the Lord's choice:

1. The Lord chooses a man before he is born, that is, not based on his ability or human qualities. For example, the Lord says about Jeremiah, "I knew you before you formed in the womb; before you came out of the womb I sanctified you and commanded you to be a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5). Isaiah also says, "The LORD called me from my mother's womb and called my name in my mother's womb." (Isaiah 49: 1). It can be seen in many places in Scripture that the Lord chose His servants in this way. (Isaiah 43:1, Luke 1:14).

2. The Lord chooses those who are termed as useless by the human eye. Moses, the man of God, was born to accomplish a great project. But Moses says to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant, but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." (Exodus 4:10).

Although David's parents thought that David was born only to take care of the sheep, the Lord knew David is to be a king (1 Sam: 16: 1). When we see in the New Testament, the society branded all of Jesus' disciples as "illiterate". But they were the ones who shook the whole world and caused the Christians to grow.

The history of those chosen by the Lord for such personal reasons is told in the Bible so that we may properly understand and act on the plans that the Lord has for us.

People are chosen by the Lord to grant salvation to many people

All those chosen by the Lord in the Holy Bible are very ordinary human beings. We read in Genesis 41: 42-43. Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command.

If this has happened in the life of the ordinary Joseph, we need to look at its background. Perhaps it's a history to an extent we can't accept. Joseph was the firstborn of Jacob and Rachel as a result of long waiting and praying to change their misery. He was also a lovable son of Jacob. (Genesis 30-23,24)

We can divide Joseph's life into three parts.

1. First stage: From the birth of Joseph until he went to Egypt. This is a period of failure (Gen. 30:22 - 37:36).

2. Second stage: From the time he arrived in Egypt until his inauguration as a ruler. This is the duration of a test. (Gen. 39: 1 - 41:36).

3. Third Stage: From ruler of Egypt to death. This was the period of success in his life. (Gen. 41:37 - 50:26).

Joseph felt a little relaxed when he passed the first stage and came to the second stage. Because things that happened in the first stage of his life were so horrible. He was thrown into a deep cistern when he came to his brothers wearing the colorful robe that his father Jacob had given for his beloved son. He came to Egypt as a slave, wearing slave's cloth.

Although he showed his skills in the second phase, he was imprisoned. These are all the results of a dream. Although he got the deep cistern and the prison as a result of his dream, the Lord showed the king the dream and brought him out of the prison. Yes, my dear child of God, God can give dreams to few people to elevate you. Your life will not be a failure forever. No one can stand in the way if the Lord wants to exalt you.

He was pushed into even bigger problems during the second stage, that is the trial period. The third stage, the stage of success, is waiting for the one who passed this trial stage. When he came to the third stage, the king took off his signet ring and put it on Joseph's hand. He had to wait a while with patience for this to happen. Some difficulties can come if the Lord decides to fulfill His plan in your life. But its result will be a great success.

When we look at the life of Joseph we can see that there are certain stages in our lives to reach the victory we need to reach. My dear ones, what stage are you at? Think. If you are in the first stage then understand that there is a stage of testing. If you are in the second phase of testing, believe that the Lord will complete your trials and bring you into the third stage and prepare for it. Because the third stage of wearing the signet ring and the gold chain and robes of fine Linen has arrived.

Even though Joseph was the chosen one, he had to go through some difficulties. But the Lord was with him throughout all the difficulties because the Lord is the one who chose him. So, wherever he went, everything he did was victorious. Scripture gives us a good answer to the question of why all this suffering. Genesis 50:20 says. "God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." My dear child of God, problems may have come step by step in your life. But understand that God has a certain plan for you. The Lord has chosen you to do the impossible.

In the first stage, Joseph was hated by all even though he was the beloved son of the father. In the second stage, he is a prisoner in prison. But the Lord brought him into the third stage of success and made him honorable, proving that the Lord would not allow him to remain a slave in prison forever. Similarly, you may have had many failures in your life. But failure is not always permanent. The Lord has chosen you with a special plan for you to bless many and keep many alive. With that faith that the Lord is with you, be patient amid adversities and move forward without forgetting the importance of what God has chosen us. Know that God has a special plan for you. Be a vessel and save the lives of many at all stages. May the Lord be with you and bless you.

Write Good Things



Binu Joseph - Vadasserikara, Kerala

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.

Four months have passed since the start of the new year. The fear sown by the corona in 2020 continues in 2021 also. However, let us thank the Lord for keeping us safe.

This began as a new notebook. We have to choose what to write in it. Some will scribble on its pages. Some others will tear off its sheets. But few people write what is well and good. It will inspire and strengthen others. Some will put it off without writing anything.

Unwilling days

We can make friends with love and forgiveness without fighting and hating anyone. There is nothing unforgivable in this life. We should not go to our grave with hatred. We read in Proverbs that love covers all wrong doings.

Let go of laziness and carelessness

The lazy mind has always been the devil's workshop. Lazy people are always the ones who give some reason or the other. They have excuses for everything. They postpone today's task to tomorrow. Let us count each day as the last day of our lives and live a worthy life.

Don't forget to help and do favors

Helping each other is what sustains our lives. We have to do as much as we can do every day. The gift of helping is a part of Christian life. Reputation is one of the spiritual goods.

This is the experience of a Jewish merchant named Yankel. One day, the Nazi extremists arrested him on a cold night and put him on a train which stopped somewhere. He did not know who was with him. There was darkness everywhere. He heard the moan of an old man near him. He sat down next to the old man who was shivering with cold and started rubbing his hands and legs to warm him. It was a little hot for him. The scene he witnessed when the night was over and the morning dawned amazed him. The only ones alive on that train were the merchant and that old man. The rest were all frozen to death by the cold. The reason is that both are sitting closely and the heat kept both of them warm. He was alive because the body has overcome the cold and warmed him up. Let's help each other, then life will be a meaningful book.

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Bible Quiz

Names - Meanings Names of Jehovah God

1. Adonai
2. Jehovah - TSidhenu
3. Jehovah - Elohim
4. Jehovah- Sabaoth
5. Jehovah - Hoseenu
6. El-Roi
7. Jehovah - Shalom
8. Jehovah - Elyon
9. Jehovah - Nishi
10. Jehovah - Jireh

1. Master - Lord
2. Jehovah our Righteousness (Jer 23-6)
3. Jehovah is our God (Psalm 95: 5, 8,9)
4. Lord of hosts (1 Sam 1: 3)
5. The Lord made me (Psalm 95: 6)
6. The Lord who sees me (Genesis 16 :13)
7. The Lord is my peace (Judges 6:24)
8. The Lord Most High God (Psalm 7: 17,99: 9)
9. The Lord is my banner (Exo 17:15)
10. The Lord who cares (Gen. 22:11)

Answer



NOTEWORTHY WOMEN -18



Sis. Bincy Livingston

Mary Magdalene, who lived a hard life in great suffering and shed her life like a withered flower received the much-deserved unconditional love by the deliverance she received through the Lord Jesus Christ. She completely surrendered her life to Jesus so that she could never be separated from him and she followed Jesus like a shadow.

Many Marys are mentioned in the Holy Bible. One of the most important of them was this Mary Magdalene.

Marys in Scripture.

1. Mary, the mother of Jesus (Matt. 1:16)
2. Mary in Bethany (Luke: 10:39)
3. Mary, wife of Clopas (John 19:25)
4. Mary, mother of Mark (Acts 12: 12-17)
5. Mary Magdalene (Luke 8: 2)
6. Mary the believer who lived in Rome (Romans: 16: 6).

Mary Magdalene lived in the village of Magdalena. The village was situated to the west of the Sea of Galilee and three miles north of the city of Tiberias. Hence, she was called by the name of the village along with her name. Her parents are not mentioned in the scriptures. However, we know that she was a very wealthy woman. Scripture introduces us that she was possessed by seven devils. She could not bear the harassment of the seven demons. That is why she continued to love Jesus after her deliverance. No matter how many struggles we face, if we believe in Jesus, the depth of His deliverance will be great. It was that deliverance that made Mary Magdalene the owner of this unconditional

love. That is why she followed Jesus like a shadow. It's a great bond of love that no one can separate. How delightful is the love of our Jesus!! She enjoyed and knew that love.

What did Mary do when she was delivered? What should do when God delivers us?

1. She served with goods (Luke: 8: 1-3)

Mary's deliverance enabled her to participate in the Lord's service. She served Jesus and his disciples. In those days it was customary for priests to receive precious treasures as gifts. But they do not count on receiving an offering from women. Not only that, but they don't even talk to their wives in public. But only our Lord Jesus was able to give the same freedom and love to all, regardless of gender. Dear child of God, are you set free by Jesus? Then you are committed to giving to the Lord and his ministry.

2. She served and followed Jesus. (Matthew 27: 55-56)

We can see Mary following Jesus more than the service of giving. She would have walked with Jesus and witnessed to many the benefits of the salvation she had received. Perhaps in all the places she went, she would have made many women follow Jesus by her witness and acted as a leader. She was ready to work for God in anyway.

Mary's life is an example that the Lord gives us. Jesus told his disciples to follow him during his call. But if Mary lovingly followed Jesus without any invitation, then we too should love and follow Him more as the salvation he gave to us is great. We must become witnesses of Jesus. We must serve Him at every opportunity that is available to us. It should be not out of compulsion, but out of love.

3. The women who followed were watching from a distance (Luke 23:49).

While Jesus was taken to be crucified, many women who followed Jesus went back with tears in their eyes, unable to see Jesus being condemned and crucified. But Mary Magdalene was reluctant to go back and she was watching from a distance. Her hands which served him during Jesus' ministry could do nothing to help him. She was heartbroken in this situation. The death on the cross is something that no one can bear.

What is our relationship with Christ? Didn't those wounds break our hearts? Don't we have to do some work to make him a witness to why he accepted the crucifixion? We must be willing to follow Jesus even if everyone runs away from him.

4. Mary found Jesus at the door of the tomb (Luke 15: 4)

It is not usual for women to go to the tombs. The sight of the crucifixion and the visit to the tombs was unbearable for ordinary women. After seeing it all, Mary came to the tomb as her thoughts were fully about Him. According to Jewish custom, the anointing of the fragrance was the norm. But the life of Jesus was the fragrance of many. The anointing with the fragrance was not done to Jesus and so she went with a very big plan.

5. She brings spices (Mark: 16: 1)

Many questions may arise here!! Mary saw the place where Jesus was buried and the stone that covered the tomb. They also know that they cannot roll the stone. Then why did she bring those spices? They were not even sure that they would be allowed to do the anointing process to Jesus.

Although she knew all this, she was not worried about the obstacles. The depth of her love defeats the

obstacles. Beloved, many of us point out the obstacles as a hindrance for us to act on. On the way, they discussed about "who will roll the stone". But her love gave courage to her heart.

As she approached Jesus (near the tomb) he commanded his angel to roll the stone. Jesus knew that Mary Magdalene could not roll the stone. So, as she got closer to where Jesus was, her problems changed. The angels had rolled the stone for her. Beloved, deliverance in your life begins when you begin to draw close to Jesus. Do you struggle in your life? Come closer to Jesus!! He will send his angel and deliver you.

6. Early in the morning she went to the tomb (Luke 24:11)

When the Sabbath was over, they went and bought some perfume. The day before, she had seen where Jesus was laid in the tomb. Knowing that they would not be allowed to do any work on the Sabbath, she went and bought fragrances as soon as the Sabbath was over. That night instead of sleeping, they left in the dark to see their loved one. How soon must they have departed if they were to reach the tomb before sunrise?

She had no other thought. No doubts about whether the guards would let her inside or not. There is no fear that someone will hurt her. She had no idea what their neighbors will say. There is no fear that she will be blamed for the riots there. She overcame all these obstacles and came near the tomb.

7. She asks for the body of Jesus (John 20:15)

Here is how to think about a woman's mood. She overcame all obstacles and came near the tomb. The body that was placed there before Sabbath was not there when she looked down at the grave. Jesus first appeared to Mary, who was waiting for him, when she

was weeping with great sorrow. Jesus appeared to Mary, who was coming to anoint his body with fragrant spices. Jesus first appeared on the third day to Mary, who had given all her love for him. Before showing his resurrected body to others, Jesus appeared to Mary who loved him extremely.

Beloved, this proves the verse that everything goes well for those who love him. She had the opportunity to see Jesus before all believers around the world and to witness to him. Because she loved Jesus more than anything else, she had the privilege that no one else had. Mary was the first witness of the gospel.

There are many things we need to learn from the life of Mary. Those who are delivered must follow him without leaving him. We have to spend for the service of the Lord with the wealth we have. Like a shadow, you have to break down obstacles and move forward. Circumstances will make pull you back. Obstacles may not be easy. We should run to witnesses the gospel, just as Mary saw Jesus and ran and told Jesus' disciples. Let us lead many people closer to Jesus. May the Lord help you.

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The generation that destroys the future

J. B. Vennikulam



Susan (fictional name) came to Bangalore to study engineering. It was very easy to find friends for Susan, who was very friendly with everyone. She was smart in her studies so her studies were easy. She was very happy. She never missed a worship service or Sunday school when she was in her hometown. Her family is a very spiritual family.

Susan has more male friends than female friends. But she never crossed her limits. College started. She got a nice room to stay. Got some friends too. One day she got a friend request on Facebook. He is a good-looking young guy. She accepted it. Conversations started. She later found out that he was a tutor working at her college. She met him. The two began to go out and eat. She forgot all the restrictions that existed until yesterday and started flying. Their friendship turned into love. She went behind in her studies due to love. At the teacher's urging, she left the hostel and took a room next to the teacher's house. Their intimacy was getting closer. He was always in her room because he was unmarried. Her classmates did not notice this either.

One day he invited Susan to his room. She went there without thinking of anything. He also prepared good food and waited. She went. They were unaware of the time. She drank some alcohol because of his compulsion. She was intoxicated. She does not remember what happened next. That night she slept there. He did everything he set out to do.

Only a few days later did she realize that she was pregnant. Both became bitter to each other. She hated him so much. Because of the fear she had, she dropped out of college and boarded a train to return to her hometown. She locked inside the room without saying anything to anyone.

There are many incidents like this. This is very common in metro cities. You can see many people living there ruining their lives. Many sell their body for money. They are perishing in the crowd of the ungodly generation.

Generations that grew up with discipline also jump, like a bird out of the nest, not knowing what to do when they are free. There is no one to control them. They have no respect for their parents. They only show affection to parents only for the pocket money they send. Instead of focusing on their studies and creating a better future, they are losing at their young age. Who is harmed here? Is it the parents? Is it the teachers? Is it the church that disciplined them in their spiritual life? Who can answer?

Today's generations do not like preaching. They hate those who preach. They have forgotten those who taught good lessons. There is no reading of the Scripture. Rarely they go to worship meetings.

Think of the parents who sent you to study with anticipation. The things happening are not actually what you think. It's beyond what you can dream. Do you pray for your children? Do you have time to talk with them? If you think my child is a good child he/she will never do mistakes then it is not correct. Do not forget that predatory eagles are all around them. Be careful. Your children belong to the Lord. They are not the ones who fall.

Living Way Missionary Ministries

"In that day many nations will be joined to the Lord and my people." (Zachariah 2:11).

We welcome all the Living way magazine readers into our Mission fields. Your prayers and help over the past days have been very helpful to us in many ways. As part of this ministry, the Lord has been helping us to carry out the missionary ministry that has been going on among the tribes in Rajasthan since 2008.

The Lord helped us to provide free tailoring training to the women there through social service. It was starting as a six-month training class where 70 sisters learned in six batches, and many of them accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. The 7th batch could not start last year due to COVID. However, we are going to break down the barriers and start the next batch. Many people want to learn this free tailoring classes. This requires your fervent prayers and support.

The Lord is also blessing our ministry in the districts of Thane and Raigad in Maharashtra. The Lord is fulfilling his

ministry in those areas through Pastor Daniel and Pastor Rajesh respectively. The Lord has helped us to start a new ministry in the district of Jalna where Pastor Melvin Pawar is doing the ministry of the Lord. The Lord is also blessing the ministry in Brahmanamangalam in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu through Pastor Johnson Zachariah.

Our goal

1. Establishment of at least one church in all the 36 districts of Maharashtra.
2. Selecting illiterate places and starting schools there.
3. To further enhance the social service work being done among the tribes in Rajasthan.
4. Providing free sewing machines to the best two learners.
5. Organizing an evangelistic meeting there, at the end of each batch.

Not only this, but we want to do many more good things. We ask for your prayers and support for the Lord to bless and enlarge these ministries, and God's help to lead many people towards him. May the Lord bless you all.

**Then the word of the LORD
came unto me, saying,
Before I formed thee in the
belly I knew thee; and
before thou camest forth
out of the womb I sanctified
thee, and I ordained thee a
prophet unto the nations.
(JEREMIAH 1:4,5)**

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