

THE FLOCK AND THE KINGDOM

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth 1968 July-November)

Part 1:

I believe God has something to say to and teach us from this verse. Luke 12:32: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Please read this verse very carefully. These words are meant only for those who have become part of that *Little Flock*. It says, "Fear not, little Flock." Only those will be able to enjoy the message of this verse.

God's people are called by different names in the Bible. In John 1: 12, they are called the "Sons of God", whether men or women. "As many as believe to them He gave the power to become the sons of God." We are also called the *Flock of the Lord Jesus Christ*. Acts 20: 28; also in 1 Pet.5 : 2.4; the *Flock of God*. In order to enjoy the meaning and promise in Luke 12:32, we must become part of the flock of the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 10: 4, 7, 11, 14,15,26,27, the Lord Jesus Christ calls us *sheep*. The Lord is saying, My sheep! My sheep! To, those who are not His, He says plainly that they are not His. The Lord is saying to many of us even now, "Ye are My sheep", but to others He says, "You are not My sheep". Some are called by His name and have done something or other for Him, and claim to be His yet it is possible that to them He says, "You are not My sheep!" The Lord says very clearly in the same chapter v.4, "When He putteth forth His own sheep. He goes before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice, and a stranger they will not follow, but will flee away from him, for they know not the voice of strangers" v.5. "I am the Good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." v.14. Do you know Him by experience? Are you hearing His voice? Are you able to follow Him? Only then are you worthy to be called His sheep. "Fear not little flock"! You have to become part of His flock if you want to know the meaning of the next part of the verse: "For it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom".

How can a man become part of the flock of the Lord Jesus Christ? According to Isa.53: 6. "All we like sheep have gone astray". As sinners we are called lost sheep. If we want to call any man a fool we call him a donkey. When a man is stubborn we call him a buffalo. It is with a purpose that a lost sinner is called a lost sheep. He is not called a donkey or a buffalo, but a lost sheep. If the Bible had been written by man we sinners would have been called lost donkeys or buffaloes. Every

word in God's Book has a deep meaning. Why does God compare us to lost sheep? It is because the sheep is the most helpless of all animals. When a sheep loses its way, though it may be only a short distance from home or the fold, it cannot find its way back by itself. On the other hand when animals like dogs, buffaloes and cows lose their way even a long distance from home, they are able to come back. A shepherd has to go in search of a sheep when it is lost. Thus God's Word shows us clearly that a sinner cannot find his way back to God by himself. Men have tried to find their way back to God but they have never succeeded in doing so. They take the wrong way as God has said: "They have all gone astray". As they do not know how to find their way to God they depend upon their own wisdom or virtues, and therefore cannot find their way to Him. The Lord says: "I am come to seek and save sinners". He Himself is going about to seek and save sinners, and sends His disciples, co-workers and servants here and there for the same purpose.

Our Lord gave His command, "Go ye out into all the world" just before He ascended. At that time there were only eleven disciples, who had neither money nor property; moreover all the forces of darkness were against them. But they believed that command, and now the gospel is being preached in more than a thousand languages, and sinners everywhere are being given a chance to repent and become the sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though a sinner may be rejected and hated by his fellow men, yet he remains precious in the sight of God. These are God's words to us, and He is saying; "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings and not one of them is forgotten before God? Even the very hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6, 7. Before God we are very precious. It does not matter how defiled we may be, God says even the hairs on our heads are numbered. Ask your father or mother, husband or wife or friends to tell you the number of hairs you have on your head. They will not be able to give you the correct answer, however much they love you. You may be almost bald; still they will not be able to give the number! God is telling us, "If you want to know the extent of my love and to prove it, you ask me this question and I will tell you how many hairs you have on your head." Men may know the number of your teeth but not of your hairs but God knows. Why is God talking about your hair which you throw away when it falls? He takes account of every hair, which only goes to show how precious we are to Him. See Matt. 16:26. "What is a man profited, if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul. . ." That means the whole world counts as nothing when weighed against your soul and mine.

Suppose a man were to gather all the wealth in the world, all the gold ,silver and precious stones, God is still saying that it is nothing when compared to his soul. It is only when our souls are redeemed that they become useful, and the Lord Jesus Christ emptied Himself of all His glory and gave all that He had to redeem and save us and to make us not into worldly treasure, but into His sheep.

Have you seen a shepherd with his sheep? In Palestine or other parts of the world where men keep large flocks of sheep, the shepherd spends more time with his sheep than with his wife. In the early days my father used to keep a lot of sheep in the fields and often the shepherds went home only after three months: they spent only a few hours with their families but months with the sheep. They would keep awake whole nights for their sheep, but not for their wives. It is a peculiar love that shepherds have for their sheep. They are far happier to be with their sheep than to be with human beings though they have to spend their time far away in the wilderness. They are even willing to give their lives for the sheep. They take their sheep from pasture to pasture and field to field. This is a wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is far happier with His sheep than with the angels. Why? It is because He left His heavenly throne and the angels to redeem you and me, human beings. His love for us is so great, and it is only by becoming His sheep that we learn to love Him. Our Lord said in John 10:10, "I have come that they might have life more abundantly", "I am the Good Shepherd". Are you willing to become the sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ or do you still want to remain a lost sheep? You do not even know where you are going. You do not know why God has made you or why you are here. You only know how to eat and how much to eat and how to go to sleep; and when you do not get what you want you begin to murmur. You have no concern for the purpose of God has for your life.

The Lord gives us a simple test in John 10:3: "The sheep hear His voice". This test will prove whether you are His sheep or not. Shepherds keep their sheep in common sheep-folds. During the nights they watch them turn by turn. When the morning comes the first shepherd starts whistling. Every shepherd has a distinctive whistle of his own whether they whistle through their fingers or use a metal or some other kind of whistle. When the first shepherd whistles then all his sheep will go out of the fold to him. There is no need for him to push or to pull at them; the mere sound of his whistle will bring them out. Then the second shepherd will whistle and his sheep will follow him out. In some things sheep are so foolish and stupid and yet

in others they are so wise. In this thing they are very wise: they know the voice of their shepherd and follow him.

Have you had that experience? This is a simple question, is it not? Do you hear the voice of your Shepherd every day, and does it give you a thrill and a joy to go after Him? Or are you like a donkey that needs to be pushed and beaten to make him go outside? Have you become a sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, you must know His voice also. The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name. He knows you by name and what you want. When one says that they know So-and-so, they infer that they know his troubles, problems and everything else. The Lord says: "I know the troubles, problems and everything else that concerns My sheep." When the Lord says: "I know your name," it means that He knows all about you, where exactly you have pain, and what kind of suffering you have, Isa. 40:11.

These shepherds know every lamb and sheep of any age, and when any sheep gets hurt or sick they know how to treat it and make it well. Some of the shepherds are bone setters, and sometimes where clever doctors fail they succeed. My father once broke his arm many years ago, when he fell from his horse. Many doctors came to see him but they all failed to set it right. One day one of our shepherds came to our home. His name was Putti. He was a very simple fellow, but a good shepherd. He told my father that he would do something about his arm. He brought some sheep milk and something else and bandaged his arm. Within two days the arm was set. What doctors could not do Putti did so quickly and well.

The Lord is telling you and me, "If you have become My sheep, I know all about you and where your bones are broken. I know all about your troubles and problems .I know your tears also". If the Lord knows the number of your hairs then He can also count your tears. Friends can wipe your tears but the Lord knows how to count them. The Lord counts every drop of my tears and so I have no fear. He carries me in His bosom and there is no need for me to go to anybody else. I kneel down and roll my burdens on Him day by day. He heals me and takes away my burdens. He comforts me, strengthens me and feeds me.

We require different kinds of food for breakfast, lunch and supper. Some want idli sambar or dosai in the morning, rice and curry at noon, tea in the after noon, and something else at night. The sheep always need different food at different times (John 10: 4, 9). A donkey may be satisfied with the same kind of food the whole day. But sheep need different kinds of food and that is why the shepherd leads them

to different pastures during different parts of the day. Just as the shepherd gives different food at different times, so also I find my Lord gives me different kinds of food at different times. What He gives me in the early hours of the morning is not the same as what He gives me late at night or during the day. It is a peculiar kind of presence that I feel when He speaks to me from His word in the morning. He gives a different message in the day, and still a different one at night. He keeps giving me different kinds of spiritual food throughout the day and night. Ps. 23:2. Because He is my shepherd and I am His sheep, and I know His voice and follow Him, He leads me to His green pastures and keeps me healthy. We want you to be sure whether you have become His sheep or not, for it is only then that you will have the assurance that you are well protected by your Shepherd from every kind of danger by day and night. The sheep are not frightened in the night even though they can hear the wolves howling outside. There is a peculiar sense of peace and quietness in their hearts because their shepherd is watching over them.

In 1 Kings 20:27. we read how the Syrians came up against the Israelites with a large army and weapons of war. There were more than a lakh of them, backed by thirty-two kings. The Lord was with His people, however, though they were but few in number. They were like a little flock while the Syrians were a large army. Compared with the Syrian hosts the children of Israel were few. The Syrians had a hundred thousand foot-men alone, yet the Lord was with the Israelites, and the Syrians were completely defeated. All of them were killed, not one was left alive. If we take numbers into account we are but few. The ungodly are in great majority: they are cleverer than we are and have more worldly advantages than we have. In their sight we are a small minority, but we have the assurance that no weapon of the enemy shall prosper against us. Isa. 54:17; Job 5:19-24. We are a little flock, no doubt, but with the assurance of victory over all the enemy devices. At the time of famine or earth-quake, or any calamity we can prove these promises. The Lord tells us: "I want you to be a small flock; I do not want you to become mighty in the worldly sense". Our strength is not in worldly goods, or position or possessions. Our Lord is our Shepherd and He is our protection. In Him we are safe. Even though we may be hated and despised by many, yet like the Israelites against the Syrians we are more than conquerors.

Will you not become the sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His little flock? Then you will know what He will give you in His kingdom. He will take away every fear, for He is saying: "Fear not, little flock". Whatever fear may be in your heart,

God will take away, whether it be fear of death, fear of famine, fear of danger, or fear of the enemy. Only become His sheep and hear His voice, and follow Him, and then you will see the kingdom He is preparing for you.

Part 2:

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to seek and save His Flock and become the Good Shepherd. Though they are in the minority and are weak in the sight of the world yet they are exalted by Him. Matt. 23: 12; Isaiah 60:22: "A little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation". When we are sought and saved by our Lord, we may remain small in the sight of the world, but as we grow spiritually we become a strong nation, and finally far stronger and greater than all the nations.

From God's Word we can see that from the beginning He wanted to give man dominion, power and authority. Gen 1:28. It was with such a purpose in view that God made man, and straight away gave him power, dominion and authority over all creation; over fowls of the heaven, fishes of the sea and beasts of the earth. When man commanded fish, bird or beast they immediately obeyed him. He was the king over all the earth and there was nobody to question him. It is only when man disobeyed God that he lost that authority. But God is eternal, He cannot change, His great purposes must come to pass. Even though evil powers tried to interfere with His plans, God's purposes had to be fulfilled. As we see in Psalm 148:6. God's decree shall not pass away, but what He has purposed and planned must be accomplished. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, that what Adam lost by disobedience might be recovered by His obedience. We find this thought also in the prophecies.

Daniel was made to see a vision (Dan. 14:9.) 500 years before the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, and was able to see the Lord Jesus Christ as a great King. In Chap.14 he foresees Christ's kingdom as far above other kingdoms. In Daniel 7: 18 it is said that the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. The word "saints" in the Bible is used for every believer who is born again. 1 Cor. 1:2. They are "called to be saints," or sanctified ones; sanctified by the Lord Jesus Christ and by His blood.

There is wrong teaching among the Roman Catholics that those who have led exceptionally good lives are called "saints" some years after they die; but the very second we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and claim His blood for our cleansing, we are saints in God's sight. Here in Daniel 7 the glorious kingdom is to be possessed by the saints, (v.22 last part and v. 27). The kingdom is an everlasting

kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him. Our Lord is already the King of Kings as in Rev.19: 16. On His vesture and on His thigh is a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He sits as a great King in heaven, far above all heavenly powers and dominions and principalities. He is a heavenly and eternal king and He wants to give His kingdom to you. He does not want it for Himself. Earthly kings want to conquer kingdoms for themselves and so they fight; but the Lord Jesus Christ is already a heavenly King, a King of Kings and His kingdom is everlasting. When the Devil found that God wanted to give the kingdom to man he became jealous and brought about the downfall of man. He pulled man from the position that God had meant for him.

When children are playing they try to pull each other down, either in fun or out of jealousy. The devil has been trying to pull man down because the Lord had long ago revealed to the angels His high purpose for man. (Jude 14, 15). God had a purpose in giving man dominion power and authority, and power to rule the nations.

Imagine the Lord gathering the angels before Him one day and telling them about the coming glorious new creation: "Now angels I have a secret to tell you. This New Creation is not going to be governed by you angels". The angels would be surprised and say, "Lord! What is this? If we are not worthy to govern the new Creation, then who will do so? We are your mighty angels and we always do your will". Ps 103: 20. Then the Lord would reply "The ruler will be man," and they would exclaim, "Oh Lord: What is man that thou art mindful of him"? But it was God's eternal plan to give to man, power, dominion and authority far above and far greater than any kingdom or power on earth. Of course the devil became jealous and ever since he has been trying to put man down and not let him go higher. He uses the weakness latent in every human being, of jealousy between two friends, brothers and sisters, parents or relations even among preachers. If I find a brother exalted and brought forward above me my heart says, "Pull him down, pull him down", and when somebody talks nicely about him, I am not happy and my heart is full of jealousy. There is so much strife and unhappiness. But God is eternal; He will never allow the enemy to defeat us. His thoughts for man will never change. He intends to give man that kingdom and the same message was confirmed and reconfirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have so many assurances in God's word that God is going to establish that kingdom in and through us. Even though we are weak and foolish, corrupt and

defiled yet God will keep His Word. There is no other book in the whole world that tells us about the inward condition of man's heart. Other books tell us there must be some good in man. But the Bible is the only book that tells us there is no good thing in man. Before God we are filthy and dirty faded leaves, yet we can become unto God something so precious.

That very same thought becomes very clear and plain in the whole book of Daniel and you find it a very helpful study to study the book of Daniel if you want to understand about that kingdom. Daniel was the first prophet who spoke clearly about the great earthly kingdoms at a time before those kingdoms were brought into existence. He also began to prophesy very clearly about God's eternal kingdom. God wanted to show even then how the 'little Flock' would become a big flock.

We read in the book of Daniel about Daniel and his friends, and how they became captives in Babylon. Before the captivity began, Jeremiah prophesied again and again, that Israel as a nation was to go into captivity for 70 years in Babylon. Among the captives there were many young men who were very clever, but out of so many God chose only four (Dan. 1:4). Here was a 'little Flock' in the great world kingdom of Babylon. All the young men were given liberty to enjoy anything in the whole palace. In those days, before food was served to the king, it was offered first to idols, so Daniel and his friends refused to eat that food. They were quite happy to eat dhal and drink water, yet these men were found fatter and fairer than all others in the kingdom. The 'little Flock' refuses to be defiled by worldly defilement, whether by worldly books or novels, or strong drink.

Where is the true king in Dan.2:46. The same king who was haughty and proud said: "My Kingdom, my majesty and my power," and who was indeed a very great king, fell upon his face and bowed to Daniel. He bowed because he began to see God's kingdom in Daniel; and all nations will also fall down before you and me, when they see God's kingdom fully established in us.

There were many wise men in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. Dan.2:2. The king had forgotten his dream and was much troubled in spirit, so all the astrologers, magicians and the wise men in the king's palace, who were highly paid from the king's treasures, were commanded to interpret the dream. At the king's command they were brought together, and the king told them how he had had a dream which troubled him, and that he was full of fear and could not eat or drink or be happy. So he asked these men to help him. Then these astrologers, magicians, soothsayers and

wise men said to the king; "Tell us the dream, and we will tell you the meaning and the king said "I cannot remember the dream. I don't know what I saw. But what I saw troubled me. I am in great torment. Help me for I am in agony." They started trembling, because the king said, "If you don't tell me the dream and the meaning you will all be killed." They were all full of fear and also all others in the palace. They had such great fear that they lost all desire to eat or drink, for fear takes away all appetite for food, and disturbs your sleep. The heart starts beating loudly and the mind is full of confusion.

Presently, the whole kingdom was full of fear. "What is going to happen?" they asked. When the wise men reached home the whole family and children and everybody started weeping, full of fear as to what was going to happen. The king and the people were full of fear. But the "Little Flock" had perfect peace, and continued having four meals a day, though they also did not know the dream or its meaning, and though the king had sent a command that all the wise men, including Daniel, should be slain (Dan 2: 17). Even that news did not bring fear, for the Little Flock with faith had begun to pray, v. 17 & 19, and therefore had no fear. When trouble came, they went on their knees in faith, with out fear or schemes of their own. They were not making an appeal as one makes in a court. There was no need for any worldly scheme or plan: They knew where to go and what to do. They knew whom to ask. They believed they would not be disappointed because they were the Little Flock.

Can you say that? Are you full of fear? There are so many people full of fear—fear of the future, fear of neighbours, fear of relations, fear of an enemy, fear of a mother-in-law—so many fears. They may see something on their body and wonder if it could be T. B. or cancer. What are they to do? News comes that rice costs Rs 2/- per kilo and they begin to worry as to how they are going to feed the children. The whole day and night is full of fear. If you are so fearful how can you say you are of the little Flock? Be honest and become part of the little Flock. Such are safe from fear because they are the children of the Lord Jesus Christ, and can go to our Lord any time and any where with any need or problem and know He will answer prayer and will solve every problem and will give strength to bear every burden, and will protect from every danger. Those trembling wise men never knew at that time that the very same king would fall at Daniel's feet. Yes, that great king came and fell at his feet, and began to worship him, because the Lord had chosen them for His new

kingdom. In the very same dream He showed how the worldly kingdom would pass away and only His kingdom will be eternal.

Now whatever Daniel prophesied, it came to pass. In the dream the king had seen a huge image. "This image's head was of gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay" (Dan. 2: 32,33). Then there came a stone cut without hands - no sound and no instrument. In a very quiet way, it fell upon the feet. A small stone, not a big one. It came in a quiet way and struck the feet and legs of the body. Then the head of gold, silver, brass and iron became as chaff and the wind blew it away. Gold, silver, brass and iron were all blown away, and disappeared, and the small stone began to increase, and went on increasing, till it covered the whole of the earth. In that dream there were many secrets and through it God was foretelling how He would establish His kingdom in you and me, and that His kingdom would be far more glorious than all the other kingdoms put together. Howsoever foolish and weak we may be, yet we can come into that kingdom and see great kings falling upon their faces. Not only hereafter but on the earth also we will be greatly honoured.

Many years ago while I was going in the train to Allahabad, a man with a long white beard spoke to me. When I gave him my testimony he said to me "Why did you become a Christian? Why did you leave your Sikh religion?" I said: "I found true peace in the Lord Jesus Christ" He said to me: "I have found as much peace as you have found". Then I said "May God bless you and may He multiply your peace. But my testimony is that my Sikh religion did not give me peace. Though I spent many hours in the temple I did not have peace". He went on abusing me and cursing me for half an hour. I kept quiet and I prayed for him. In the meantime every one began to sleep. I took my Bible to read it on my knees. I was praying. He was restless. After I had finished my prayer, he said to me "I admit I have no peace!" I took my Bible and spoke to him and showed him from John 14:27 how to obtain true peace. The old man fell at my feet. I pushed him back. I said: "I cannot give you peace".

I found the same again and again. In Delhi a very wealthy man was travelling with me. I gave my testimony, and suddenly he stood up and fell at my feet and said. "I want that peace". When he got out of the train I saw a car outside, and many men came and fell at his feet for favour, and some touched him, but that man had "no peace". In tears he had come and fallen at my feet. So when you go to

heaven, provided you belong to the little Flock, you will find great kings falling down and kissing your feet.

As did these four young men, the Lord invites you also to refuse to defile yourself with the world, and, then you can be a glorious witness for Him. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes into you, He Himself will become your sanctification. Only He can keep you clean and pure. You cannot do it of yourself.

Are you willing for Him to come into you? He will make you part of His Flock and will take away all your fears, and fill you with His Kingdom.

Part 3:

"Fear not, little Flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." Let us pray that these wonderful words be engraved on our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Ask Him: "Lord, I want Luke 12:32 to become my experience" Do we really believe that it is God's desire to give us His kingdom? Not only does He forgive our sins, but He wants also to give us His whole kingdom.

Many people when they are travelling are satisfied to have a small corner in the train. Some are willing to stand by the latrine or even to go into it. Some will crawl under the bench. And some people even think of salvation in these terms. They think that God wants just to forgive their sins and then give them a small corner in heaven. But what is God's word to us? The answer is in Luke 12:32. It is true we must first of all have all our sins forgiven. Only thus do we become part of the little flock, and only then we are able to say: "My Father, my heavenly Father!" Thus we become qualified to receive that kingdom.

Every Christian can call God, "his Father". God's Word is so clear on this point in John 1: 12. In other words it is only those who receive eternal life by faith who can call God, Father! Many beggars may call us "Father!" in order to get some money. This is very common in many parts of India. The beggar may call us "Father" but we will never call him or her, son or daughter! Many are like these beggars and call God their Father when they want something from Him, but they have not become the members of the Heavenly Family by a personal experience, and have not received by faith the gift of eternal life.

In certain place a man of God who had been the pastor of a congregation for many years was praying for the message to be given on the Lord's Day. On that particular day he did not receive any message. The congregation sang a hymn, but

the pastor still had no message: they sang another hymn and still he had no message: they sang a third hymn, then a fourth, and he was still without message. Then he got up and prayed, "My Father, my Father, why hast thou forsaken me?" With these words he sat down. Then he told the elders of the congregation, "I am not going to be the pastor here any more. I have had no message for you to day and this means that I must go away from here". The elders replied, "Sir, you have given us many messages in the past and we have been much benefited by your ministry. Just because you had no message for us this one day, does it mean that you have to leave us." But the pastor was firm. He replied, "No! No! I am dry; I must go away from here". So he went away to a distant place. After some years the thought came to him to visit his old congregation to see how they were. He went to the house of a very faithful lady who used to attend the meetings regularly, and knocked at the door. The old lady's daughter opened the door, and told him that the old lady had died. When he heard this he expressed his sympathy. The daughter said, "Sir, I shall never forget your last message!" "How can that be" he asked, "when I had no message to give that day? How could you have been benefitted by some thing I did not have to give?" She replied, "It was that very day that I was born again. The way that you cried, 'My Father, my Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?' was so real and so poignant that it went home to my heart. If I had been in some difficulty I would not have been in a position to call Him my Father, but could only address Him as God. Now I have come to know Him as my own Father!' Yes, it is only those who know him by experience that can call Him. 'Father, my heavenly Father, my own Father!'

Our Lord Jesus gave the same message to Mary on Easter morning, the very first message given on that day. John 20:17. 'Go and tell my brethren, say unto them, I ascended unto my Father and your Father: and to my God and your God.'" For three years they had lived with Him and seen His miracles, and had forsaken every thing and followed Him, but till the day the Lord met them their inward defilement was not cleansed, their sins were not forgiven. Cleansing is only by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every sin we commit by word, thought or deed leaves a mark. And this guilty stain or mark will not go away by any human effort or tears, by prayers or Bible knowledge. According to Jer. 17:1, it is a very deep mark. A diamond is used to cut very hard things which cannot be cut by any other means and the marks of a diamond cannot easily be removed. The marks of sin will not go away by our own efforts. That is why many are troubled by a guilty conscience before their

death. Roman Catholics make much money at such times by making masses and saying prayers, so that people with a guilty conscience can be relieved. For this they demand money. But none of these things can take away the guilty stains of sin. The mark of sin is very deep and only the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ can take it away.

Our Lord told Mary, "Touch me not". But in Matt. 28: 9, 19, the other women came and touched His feet. To them He did not say, 'Touch me not', but He said it to Mary though she was full of love, devotion and sacrifice. Why did He say to her: Touch Me not, I ascend unto My Father and your Father? Why did He ascend to heaven? You find the answer in Heb. 9:12. As our everlasting High Priest, He entered once for all into the most holy place with His own blood. According to Psalm 16: 10, His body did not see corruption. However strong and healthy a man may be, when he dies he starts stinking, and that is why ice is used to keep a body from corruption, when for any reason it must be preserved for a day or two. Our Lord's body saw no corruption. They scourged Him, they crucified Him with a crown of thorns upon His head, and blood was flowing from His head, hands, feet and side. He rose again with a glorified body and the nail prints could be seen in His hands and feet, and the sword-print in His side, from which that blood had flowed. In Heb. 9:12, we read that our Lord as the Everlasting High Priest not "by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood entered in once into the Holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." I have seen a man whose whole body was paralyzed and yet his heart was beating and as long as the heart goes on beating a man can live, for the life of a man is in the blood. But the blood of the Lord Jesus brings to us everlasting life. He did no sin and knew no sin, and therefore the efficacy of His blood cannot be exhausted, it is eternal.

That is why the Lord said to Mary, 'Touch me not'. The work of redemption was completed when He entered the Holy place, and Mary and the disciples had to be cleansed inwardly before they touched Him. It was only after He ascended to the Father on the Easter morning that they were able to touch Him. He told the women, "Go and tell My disciples that I ascend to My Father and your Father".

Now the blood is very efficacious by prayer and faith but some use it like magic repeating "Jesus blood!" there is no value however, in repeating the phrase like a parrot. The life of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be received like that. It can only be received into us by faith. First of all we must humble ourselves, repent of our

sins, and confess them and believe from the heart that the Lord is *my* Saviour and *my* Creator who loved me and died for my sins and rose again for my justification. We must say this from the heart and thank Him for dying for us. Then claim by faith the blood for inward cleansing and purification. Thus we receive the very life of the Lord Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, who will make us conscious of the presence of the Almighty God within; and thus we become the children of the Most high and have the liberty to call Him, 'My Father, my heavenly Father!', just as children say, My daddy my own daddy!

What about your own experience? When you go upon your own knees and begin to pray do you feel by experience that He is your heavenly Father? Can you say that you have been chosen by him for His kingdom as in Luke 12:32? "Fear not, Little Flock". It is only by being part of His Little Flock that we can be free from fear.

In English the word 'flock' is only used for sheep. Isa. 53:6, Luke 15:6. We have been sought by Christ and He has found us. "Rejoice with Me for I have found the sheep which was lost" Luke 15:6-7. How do I know that I have become the sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ? By two things. There is great joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents v. 10 and there is joy in our hearts; the joy that first begins in heaven; a heavenly joy; a joy unspeakable and full of glory; a joy for ever more; the joy of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The very second that we repent from our hearts and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Scripture says that the Lord gathers all the heavenly angels and commands them "Come along My angels, hurry up don't delay. Bring all your heavenly music and rejoice with Me", and there is great joy in His presence. The angels ask Him, "Lord! What has happened? Why are you so happy?" and He replies, "So and so has repented in Hyderabad". The angels might say, "O Lord, that man! he is no good at all! He is the worst man in Musheerabad! Nobody likes him. When he passes by they whisper that he is a thief and warn people to be careful. Are you rejoicing for such a man, Lord?" But the Lord would reply, "My angels, now he is My child! I have forgiven him and washed him and he is My son; so rejoice with Me." Then they all start rejoicing and the whole heaven is full of joy. O! What a salvation! And that joy from heaven comes into the man's heart, as he realizes how a sinner becomes very precious to the Lord.

Let us look at the letter to Philemon, verses 10 and 15. Paul was used by God to bring Philemon, his wife and son to the Lord. Apphia was the wife of Philemon and his son was Archippus. Paul used to come and stay in their house, and the Lord

established a church there. Onesimus was a slave in their house, but he was a thief. After some time Paul became a prisoner in Rome. In the meantime Onesimus had robbed his master and had run away to Rome. There he spent his ill gotten money and then lived like a beggar. At last he remembered Paul and went to him. Though Paul knew that he was a thief, yet he loved him and gave him the gospel and he was converted, and wonderfully transformed. At that time Paul was writing the epistle to the Colossians, an epistle which contains many truths about the church. Paul sent Onesimus to Philemon for two reasons. First of all, that he should seek forgiveness from him for robbing him. Secondly, to hand over Paul's letters to him. Paul wrote to Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive himself, assuring him that he was not the old Onesimus but a new one. "To me he is very precious; I have been comforted and strengthened by him. He is very dear to me; receive him as myself. He will teach you the full meaning of the epistle that I have written to you at Colossi." Let us imagine the return of Onesimus to the house of Philemon. As he enters the compound, Philemon's son Archippus might have caught sight of him and exclaimed: "Daddy, look who is coming into the compound. It looks like Onesimus, but he looks so different. His face is shining. He is so changed." When he comes near they ask, "Who are you?" He tells them that he is Onesimus. Still surprised they ask him if he is the same Onesimus who was once their slave. 'Yes' he says, and he gives them the letter. In the letter Paul asked Philemon to receive him as himself. So Philemon hugs him. What joy! What a change. Once a great thief, and unprofitable and wanted by nobody. Now he has become profitable and useful and dear as well, and is given the welcome due to an apostle. Why? Because God's kingdom has come into his heart and he has become a child of God and a sheep of the Little Flock. The Lord is choosing such people everywhere. 1 Cor. 1:27. We see it happening in every part of the world. Men and women who a little while ago were like filthy rags are changed in a minute when they repent of their sins. Man's natural desire is to occupy a very high position in the world and when a man seeks to fulfill this desire the Government makes sure that he is, well qualified to do so, by making him to take stiff examinations. But the mystery is that our Lord is not after the great men of the world. He is calling the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. He chooses the weak and the despised, and through these worthless vessels the Lord works out His purposes throughout the world and finally makes them priests and kings in His heavenly kingdom. If you want to become part of the flock, you must first become His sheep, and also a member of the heavenly family. Then only you will be able to

say. "My Father my heavenly Father". Some prayers are so sweet and inspiring when those who pray say; 'My Father my Nana my Pitha.'" By this we know how much they love Him and the Lord wants you also to love him in this way.

We saw how the Lord showed His desire to give everything to man. He gave Adam power and dominion and authority over the whole creation, even the birds of the air, the beasts of the fields and the fishes of the sea. There was no need for Adam to take a gun and shoot a bird: He had only to command and the animal would obey. All this was before sin came into the world. Now we receive much more from our Lord Jesus than Adam ever received. We have power dominion and authority over the coming new creation because we are members of the heavenly family. We are called Priests and kings by our Lord Himself. Rev: 1:6. In the Old Testament only the priest had privilege to go in to the holy place and bring God's message to God's people. On behalf of the people he would go to God, and on behalf of God he would come to the people, because of themselves they could not go to God. When we are born again, and our sins are forgiven and we receive life we also become members of the little Flock, and the heavenly family. Then we can go to Him at any time for anything, on any body's behalf, for those who are Ill, or for those who are in trouble and difficulties, and we can get the answer on their behalf. It is a privilege given to believers. Alas! Most believers do not exercise this privilege, though given by our Lord Himself. We can go to Him at any time in faith and ask: "O Lord, have mercy upon them. Forgive them, heal them, and lead them". Then we shall be able to assure friends: "Don't be afraid, He is a Living Saviour who will forgive you and bless you and heal you."

In this way He is preparing His people to be kings. We are being prepared upon this earth and in heaven we shall reign with Him. This is God's will for each one of us. Rev. 20:4. "And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years". As kings we should act as kings even now. All the present trials and difficulties are preparations to make us worthy of being kings for our Lord Jesus. Let us then rejoice in our sufferings and trials.

Students who are going to colleges for their university education don't cry when they leave home to go to college but go for their studies with great expectations. But little children who have to go to the K G. class will cry day after day because they do not want to leave their mother and go school. It is the same as we progress in the spiritual life. In the beginning we say, 'How long is this to go on. I

cannot bear my burden". Such are only K. G. believers, weeping at having to learn the first lesson in the spiritual school and not able to realize our rights and privileges. We are called to a high and heavenly calling. Any believer can be a king provided he or she is prepared to be led, governed and controlled by God. This lesson is taught to us from the book of Daniel. We are saved to be kings but the process takes many years.

First He appeals to you to become a sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't remain any longer as a lost sheep. Come to the heavenly Family. Don't be a child of the devil any more. The Lord loves you and invites you and He is willing to forgive you and wash you and make you a king. You may be worse than Onesimus, yet like him you can become God's partner and co-worker. Come unto Him and say in simple faith, "Lord forgive me and receive me. Make me your sheep, make me a king". Then believe from your heart that He loves you and died for you, and has come to live in you. Say, "Come Lord Jesus. Come right now. Come in and forgive me." Then He will tell you how you can be prepared for His Kingdom.

Part 4:

With great joy our Heavenly Father is freely offering you and me His whole kingdom and all that He has, (1 Cor. 21-end), including His own life. Our part is to receive it by faith. Many come to the meetings, time and again, but it takes them many years to receive what they could receive in a short time. They know the verse Luke 12: 32, but they do not live in the enjoyment of it. In many homes people have Bible verses on their walls, but they do not enjoy them by experience. I have found one motto in many homes. "Christ is the Head of this house". But when you stay with those people you will find out immediately who the head of the house is, whether it is the Lord Jesus Christ or the wife. Most times it is evident that the wife is the head of that house. Some wives say they are not the head where as in reality they are the neck, and as the neck moves the head moves! In theory they maintain that Christ is the Head. The motto which declares it is upon the wall, but they do not enjoy Christ's Headship in truth.

These very simple words, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom", mean only that with joy our heavenly Father is offering us His Kingdom. Alas! We are deceived by worldly glitter and worldly pleasures. There is a snake in the Himalayan mountains that eats birds. It has very bright and shining eyes, and has a clever way of getting the birds. It raises its head and sits perfectly still with

wide open eyes. The bird can only see the bright and glittering eyes and is attracted by them. The bird will come hopping nearer and nearer towards the eyes and all the while the snake remains motionless as the least movement will frighten the bird away. Then when the bird comes within reach, the snake will with one swift stroke, coil itself round the bird and crush it to death. In the same way many believers are being deceived by the bright glitter of worldly pleasure and attraction. In this way they are robbed of their share of their heavenly inheritance. The Lord of love won't force you. The gift of life cannot be forced on anybody: it has to be received with a thankful heart. So now the God of love offers us the kingdom. Don't think these are words that are being preached to you for the sake of preaching. It is that we are being constrained by the Holy Spirit to bring them before you again and again either through songs, prayer or the messages. So we beseech you once more. Don't let the devil deprive you of your legitimate share in the kingdom.

We feel so sorry for those who are blinded by the god of this world. We also feel sorry for all those who in spite of hearing so many messages have not yet received their share of the kingdom. What are you going to answer to those who question you when you go back to your homes? They will ask, what did you gain by going to Hebron? Is your answer going to be "We have learned all these new songs; we met so and so; we enjoyed the sambar and rasam. The new building Antioch is wonderful! If your answer is going to be like that we feel still more sorry for you. God has much more to give you than this. In God's kingdom you have far better music than what we have in Hebron.

When we have God's kingdom in us we will find heavenly songs coming out of us day and night. I cannot sing a single note. It is something that I can not do. I have tried to, but can't! I cannot sing any song however much I like it, but in my spirit I sing the whole day and night. I find a heavenly song coming out of me all the time: a song of praise and a Hallelujah! Some shout Hallelujah in the meetings but there is no Hallelujah in the home. God knows you much better than we do. Ps. 40:3 declares "He has put a new song in my mouth". —a new song, a heavenly song; a song of spiritual experience; a practical expression of heavenly joy. There is joy, pleasure and happiness in doing God's will all the time. It is only by doing God's will that we can understand God's kingdom and God's glory.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said in John 4:34, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work". When he came to the well at Samaria, he was

hungry, thirsty and tired. But without having eaten or drunk, he became full of joy. There was a song of joy in his heart because of the work of salvation that was wrought in the heart of the woman. When our Lord went to the cross he said: "Nevertheless, not my will but Thy will be done." If you receive the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart you will find that longing again and again; "Lord, not my way but Thy way. Not my desire but Thy desire" You will find the words going out of your heart day and night, when you have been qualified by Him to possess that Kingdom.

We read in Daniel 7:22-27 that all these powers are going to be brought under these, who receive his kingdom. These are true words and they are God's words, and what He says He will do. We see these words again and again in the Bible. *God said! God said!* Again we are reminded in Zec. 3:6 "I am the Lord, I change not". That is why He is now seeking you. It is not only to make you a sheep of His flock but a king, and a priest, and a co-worker, and a partner. In the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, God has summed up all the future history of many centuries to come. The main message there is that howsoever great an earthly kingdom may be, it will come to an end suddenly, and all the glory of the earthly king and their kingdoms will disappear like smoke.

Nebuchadnezzar was a great king. But his spirit was troubled; his sleep was taken away from him. He can be regarded as the greatest king up to that time. He had conquered many other kingdoms too, and had built many great cities. Mark his words in Dan. 4: 29-30, and Dan. 2:27-30. According to all the requirements he was a great king and whatever he did could destroy his greatness. He had many wise men, astrologers and magicians. In those days all kings used to keep many such men for their guidance Even now if you go to Delhi, you will be surprised, to see how many of the Cabinet ministers are consulting magicians and astrologers. Before they go out on tour they go secretly at night to consult them and ask on what day they should set out. Thus they depend upon these men to guide them. This is the reason for so much corruption and bribery among the higher authorities. King Nebuchadnezzar had many such astrologers and magicians to guide him. One day he had a dream which he had forgotten but which still troubled him. It was a strange dream and he became restless. The Scripture says that his spirit troubled him. He was like a man that was being tortured by pain. I have seen some men suffer like that. They can neither sit, stand nor lie down. This was the condition of the great king of Babylon at that time. No wise man or astrologer was able to help him at that

time. The king was willing to give any reward to those that were able to tell his dream, he was in such misery.

This will be your condition also if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. You will be restless and in agony and torment. You will have no desire for sleep or for food. There was a great politician in France. He was the greatest orator in all Europe and he used to make fun of God and mock him for many years. He rebuked and made fun of the believers also. When he was about to die many times he would cry out in agony, full of fear. His condition of fear was so awful and he made such terrible faces that no nurse would dare to stay with him. God is telling us by Nebuchadnezzar's dream, "O foolish man, no matter how great you are, how wealthy or powerful, all this is not going to give you peace. You will remain like Nebuchadnezzar, restless and troubled in spirit". What is your position before God? See Jer. 9:23, 24. This was the message of the dream. Whatever you possess in a worldly sense will pass away. You cannot take it with you.

You have heard about the famous king, Alexander. In the same dream God showed some of things concerning other great kings also. Nebuchadnezzar saw a very big image with a head of gold, arms of silver, body of brass, legs of iron, and feet partly of iron and partly of clay. It was a huge image, and at the sight the king was troubled. Then he saw a stone not cut by any tool, and it fell upon the feet of the image, and broke in pieces the iron and the clay; in fact the whole image was broken. It was a comparatively small stone but it broke the clay, the iron, the brass, the silver and the gold. Not only was the image broken but it became as chaff. The scriptures say all was blown away in a second. The stone began to increase in size and it became a great mountain, so huge that it filled the whole earth. So God showed Daniel the dream and the meaning, and through it God was saying to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar even though you are so mighty, and so exalted, and so wealthy, a day is coming when you and your kingdom will be broken into pieces and made as chaff'. As God said it happened.

God also told the King that after his kingdom there would be a second kingdom for a certain time. This was fulfilled when the Medes and the Persians came into power. They were so famous that they had twenty four provinces. At that time Daniel became the president of the provinces. Even that kingdom came to a sudden end. Then came the kingdom of Greece. Even though the Medes and Persians were very great, King Alexander conquered them before he was thirty. Like a whirlwind he

went everywhere and came also to India. And before he was thirty his kingdom also came to an end. Before he died his mother came to him and said, "My son, what is your last wish?" He replied; "My mother, after I am dead, put my body in the coffin but leave my hands outside the coffin. Then take the body in a procession with a man going before it, announcing in a loud voice like trumpet, 'Here goes King Alexander' Look at his empty hands: he came into the world with empty hands and is leaving it with empty hands". He took nothing with him. All that he conquered he had to leave behind.

We are also often deceived. We can not take our buildings with us, neither our cars. Some believers save money and build houses and buy a nice car and a nice farm. Now they find no time for family prayers or fellow ship. They say, "Look at my building, my car, and my farm." These things won't go with them when they die. They came with empty hands and will go with empty hands. But what we receive from the Lord Jesus Christ alone will never leave us. In fact, after death we will receive much more than we can imagine.

After the downfall of Greece came the fourth kingdom, the Roman Empire, which is represented by the two legs of iron. The Roman Empire became a very big empire. They built many roads and bridges, and had many weapons of war. They had a very well-organized army, and well-disciplined soldiers. They thought their kingdom would last for ever and ever. But this kingdom also came to an end. God told all this to Daniel long before all these things happened. God is still saying to man. "O foolish man, don't take pride in your strength, might or wealth."

After the Roman Empire came ten European kingdoms, represented by the ten toes and the two feet, just as had been prophesied. They were like the feet and toes made partly of clay and partly of iron. From that day to this they have been fighting with each other. There has never been any real union at any time between these kingdoms like France, Germany, and Spain. Many great emperors tried to combine them into great Empires. Two of them were Napoleon and Frederick the Great. Napoleon thought that he could defeat the others and be the emperor of the whole of Europe. He succeeded for a time, but in the end he was made a prisoner in the island of St. Helena. Then he started to read the Bible and before he died he said these words: "There have been many kings and kingdoms, but they have all disappeared. Many were foolish like me. They thought they could become great just as I myself had thought. They are no more, nor are their kingdoms. But Jesus, the

Carpenter has established a kingdom that shall never pass away. This Carpenter has won my heart.” With these words the well-known king Napoleon died. When he was at the height of his power all the European kings trembled at his name, he was such a terror. One day, some of his soldiers murmured and wanted to rebel against him. This news reached Napoleon and he said he would deal with the situation. He sat in a place and asked the captain to bring the soldiers before him one by one. So the soldiers were sent in to him, one by one. He looked at the first soldier sternly and shook his finger at him. He did the same to all of them. From that day there was never any more talk of rebellion or complaint. The king had not said a single word, but his mere look was enough. Yet the man with such power said, at last “The Carpenter of Galilee has established an empire that shall never pass away and He has won my heart”.

This same Lord Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart to establish an everlasting kingdom within your heart. Other kingdoms will pass away. We saw how the stone fell on the image and broke it into pieces, and became a huge mountain. The Lord Jesus will come into your heart like the small stone and will break all your gold, silver, brass, iron and clay images, and all things of shame will go away from you. But He will give you something that will not go away. He will fill you with His fullness. Do you want such a kingdom to come into you? It does not matter how great your sins are, or how shameful they may be, you can be changed completely and transformed.

Some years ago I saw a magician performing a trick. He took a watch from some one and put it under a vessel and then took a hammer and smashed it. Then he took the broken pieces and put them into the vessel, when he took the watch out again, instead of the broken pieces it was a brand new watch. This was only a trick, but my point is that you are like the broken watch. Your sins have completely ruined you. You have become worthless and useless. Now let the Lord Jesus Christ touch you and heal you. Say unto him “Lord receive me and make me your child and a king”. He will change you now and make you an immortal king one day. You are useless now but in the future you will be a heavenly king and be used of Him and will reign with Him. All the gold, silver, brass and iron in you will disappear. By faith receive him and say by faith: “Please establish a kingdom within me, and become the King of my heart, and my life, and my home. Make me an ever lasting king and priest.” He will give you the kingdom right now.

Part 5:

One thing is clear. Today the God of peace and love is offering a kingdom to you. To enjoy this kingdom you must become a sheep of God's flock and a member of His kingdom. In God's Word, as sinners, we are compared to lost sheep. A lost sheep is very helpless. By itself it can not find its way, though it may be only a short distance from the fold. It is not like a donkey or a dog which can find its way back when it gets lost. Many times I have seen how even when the cart driver is fast asleep, the bullocks will find their way. A bull can find its way, but not a sheep. The birds and ants can find their way, but not sheep. The shepherd Himself has to go and search for it and find it even though it may be quite close by. That is why our Lord said that He is the Good Shepherd. Have you become a sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ? If not then do so now. Your loving Saviour, your Good Shepherd is seeking to find you. At the same time He tells us that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

As we have seen already, all human being cannot call God their Father. It is only when we receive eternal life that we have the right to call Him our Father. Have you the right to call God your Father? If not, then confess your sins anew and ask Him to become your heavenly Father. Once you become His sheep and a member of His family then you must believe that God wants to give you His kingdom. He not only wants to forgive your sins but wants to give you much more beside. Many of us take months and years to believe what God says even though the God of love has given us so many promises.

When God appeared to Jacob in Gen. 28: 13, 14 He gave him a very great promise. But see how Jacob vows in Ch. 28:20; "If God be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give bread to eat, and raiment to put on, . . . I will surely give the tenth unto thee." v. 21,23. God is offering so much but Jacob is only thinking in terms of food and raiment. That is why many fail to enjoy the promises of God and why they live a life of defeat, failure and barrenness, even though they know the love of God for them.

In the beginning, God gave man power, dominion and authority. This shows us what was in God's heart for man. But because of sin and disobedience man failed to receive the promise. This is man's fault. God never changes as we see in Mal. 3:6, "I am the Lord, I change not". We may change but God never changes. What God has purposed must be fully accomplished. The same power of God was made

clear to Daniel, the prophet. Generally speaking, we human beings are attracted by name and fame, by worldly pleasure and honour. Men will make any sacrifice for these things, but for spiritual things they find it difficult to make any sacrifice. In the dream that God gave to Nebuchadnezzar He said clearly and plainly that no matter how great a man is and how wealthy he may be he has to pass away one day.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar that dream because he had become very great and had built many cities and done great things, but, had also become proud saying "*My City, my Babylon, my kingdom my wealth.*" But his kingdom came to an end. God also gave him a second dream and in that dream he showed him how he would be driven away by his people and would eat grass for seven years, and, it happened as God said. In Dan 4: 29-35 the great king is saying so proudly, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built?" As he said these words a Voice came from heaven, "O Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: the kingdom is departed from thee." So he was driven out and lived with the beasts for seven full years. His nails became like a bird's claws, his hair like eagles' feathers, and he could only eat grass. This story is recorded for a purpose. We are blind like Nebuchadnezzar. We glory in our fame and in our cars. When you earned Rs. 75/-you read your Bible regularly, and prayed on your knees. But when you are earning Rs. 300 and your wife Rs.350, with Rs. 650 in hand you say you cannot pray on your knees because they ache! You want a chair to sit on in the meeting. At Rs. 75/-you could kneel down but at Rs. 650/-you cannot. You think of your position, your wealth, and so on. God is saying in a very simple way that the flowers and grass fade away. Isa. 40: 6-8. Like this, earthly things will also fade away. God said the same thing to Nebuchadnezzar "Now you have become very great, but like the image you too will pass away. Your honour and your glory will not go with you?" Today God offers you His everlasting Kingdom; which will never pass away.

King Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream a very big image. It was more than sixty feet high. Its head was of gold the breast and arms were of silver; the belly and thighs of brass; its legs were iron and its feet were partly iron and partly clay. Then he saw a small stone, cut without hands fall on the feet and break them and the rest of the image. Then the gold, the silver, the brass and the iron became like chaff and the wind blew it away. The small stone went on increasing and became a huge mountain. Thus God was saying to Daniel that there were going to be great kingdoms in the world in years to come. They are compared to gold, silver, brass and iron. But in spite of everything they will be broken and pass away. At the same

time God showed him a kingdom that will never pass away; the kingdom that the saints of God will possess. This kingdom is not for angels but for God's people. Please don't take pride in your gold or silver your brass or iron. None of these can give joy or peace, yet men love them. *Gold* speaks of vanity. Why do people love gold watches, chains, bangles and other ornaments? Because they want to look beautiful and to be told how beautiful they are. This is vanity.

In South India, when a young man's parents come to look at a girl for their son to marry, the parents of the girl borrow many jewels from others and load her with them. They don't say that the jewels are borrowed and thus the boy's parents are deceived. They may look at the jewels and say, "It doesn't matter if the girl is black. She is rich." Then after the marriage the girl goes to the mother-in-law's house and, when questioned, admits the jewels were borrowed. Then there is a big quarrel and the girl is sent back to her parents' home. Love of gold is vanity and in trying to give a false impression of wealth many homes are ruined.

Similarly, *silver* speaks of money, as we see in Tim. 6: 10, 2 Tim. 4: 10, 1 Pet. 5:2. Just as Nebuchadnezzar was glorying in his kingdom, the kings of the Medes and the Persian were glorying in their wealth and merchandise. In the olden days, the kings of Persia were great traders. To day the love of money is evident everywhere. Even some preachers love money. Many pastors and preachers make big schemes and send reports. Some preachers know the pay day of doctors and nurses, and visit them on pay day; nor do they go away unless they put something in their pockets. Men love money. If you go to the railway station and ask for a ticket to Delhi, at first the clerk will tell you that there are no vacancies, but if you put five rupees in his hand he will say, "Let us see", and then somehow, manage to get a seat. By loving the wealth of this world, men lose the wealth of God's kingdom. That is why the rich young man came very near to following our Lord, but went away without doing so when the Lord said: (Luke 18: 11.) "Thou shalt have treasure in heaven, come and follow me."

When you die earthly treasures will not go with you. The Lord says He will give us treasure in heaven far greater than the earthly treasure which will pass away. This he said to the rich young ruler, but he went away sorrowfully. Love for money has blinded many people spiritually.

Thirdly *brass* speaks of wisdom. The head of gold stood for Babylon. God prophesied through Daniel that after the second kingdom of the Medes and Persians

the third great kingdom was that of the Greeks. That came into power in 300 B.C. The people of Greece were noted for their knowledge, wisdom and learning. Many people used to go there for their higher education. The Scriptures say in 1 Cor. 1: 22: "The Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom." The Greeks were after worldly wisdom. They had no wisdom at all for heavenly things. When Paul the apostle went to Greece they began to make fun of him. Acts 17:21. They were very proud of their worldly knowledge, and yet they worshipped the "Unknown God". They had no light of God but had only worldly wisdom. No amount of worldly wisdom can help any body in this world. King Nebuchadnezzar had many wise men in his kingdom, but when he had that dream not a single one could help him to get peace. The wise men were trembling for all their wisdom. They could not solve the king's problem.

I met a man in Canada a very wealthy man. He had written, thirty-two books and had been round the world seven times. He had a very wealthy home but all the time a very unhappy one. When I questioned him, "Mr. Watson, have you found peace?", tears came to his eyes. Worldly wisdom can neither solve your problems nor give you peace. There was a man called Walter Scott, who read many books. When he was dying he called his nephew and asked him to bring the Book. The nephew asked him, "Which book?" Scott answered him, "There is only one Book, and it is the Bible. It is wisdom, other books have no wisdom". You may be foolish in the worldly sense, but you can become spiritually wise. Many today are carried away by worldly wisdom. Some pass university exams and get many degrees. They have letter heads printed with all their degrees, in order to show that they are not ordinary people. In one meeting we made an appeal to the people who wanted to be saved to show their hands or to stand up. After the meeting one man said to me, "We like the message but we don't like to stand up." There are many educated people such as Head-masters, Bank managers, Doctors and such like. They think: "What would others think of us if we were to stand up. No doubt we are sinners, but we want to own this secretly." I replied to the man "As far as I know there is only one hell and it is for every one. There are no separate hells for head-masters, doctors and the rest, only the same hell and the same heaven for all." Don't let your worldly wisdom deprive you of your share in God's kingdom.

After the fall of the third kingdom the fourth kingdom came in to power, that of the Romans. They were proud because they had a mighty army, and many weapons for warfare. They were experts in war. We all have a fighting nature and we

like to fight. There are some ladies who like to fight every day. If they can not fight either with their husbands or the mother-in-law then they will fight with the dhobi! God said to Nebuchadnezzar "O foolish man, don't glory in your gold, silver, brass or iron," and He is saying the same to us. "All this cannot bring you true peace or give you a heavenly inheritance, but He can give you both." The stone cut without hands speaks of our Lord Jesus Christ, Isaiah 53:2. He came in to the world as a babe and not as a king. Now like a small stone He wants to come into you. Our human nature can be compared to clay, and this body of clay will one day become dust. One day it will die. The Lord is saying to us; "O man, you are nothing but dust, and to dust you will return". *Iron* speaks of man's *stubborn will*. By nature we are very stubborn, and it takes many many years for God to break our will. It is very hard to break a man's will. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes into the human heart He comes in like a small stone and breaks our sinful nature, and this helps us to die to our old nature. Secondly, the more He breaks our stubborn will, the freer are we of the gold, silver, and brass in our nature.

Before my conversion I loved to put on a hat in the most fashionable style, and in a correct suit I used to walk the streets of London for hours just to buy one tie! I used to have my hair cut like a cinema star and put on my hat at a rakish angle. I was full of vanity and the love of money went on increasing in me. I used to think up plans as to how to make pots of money as an engineer. I was so proud of my worldly knowledge and proud of fighting. But when the Lord Jesus Christ came into my heart, He automatically took away all my love for gold, silver and other things. It all disappeared with no effort on my part. The Lord took away all my desire for perishing things and made me a partaker of His heavenly glory. He took away my love for money, and assured me that He would provide all my needs. It is true that from that day to his day He has supplied all my needs. He also took away all my pride in worldly wisdom, and has become my Heavenly Wisdom. He has taught me to find His will day by day. His will is my will. He gave me wisdom to know his will in the smallest thing. O what a privilege it is to have divine wisdom to find His divine will! He has become my strength and there is no need for me to fight now. I only pray and the Lord works on my behalf. He fights my battles. 1 Sam. 17:21. We do not have to take any revenge. Let others do what they like with us. Let them say what they like. God assures that no weapon that is formed against us shall prosper. Isa. 54:17.

Finally, this very same stone will become a great mountain. It will qualify us to possess His kingdom. But first of all, the gold, silver, brass, iron and clay must become chaff and be blown away by the breath of God. By coming under the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ you will reign with Him, in His heavenly kingdom. You will be filled with His heavenly fullness. In heaven you will be given a glorified body, and be with Him as His bride, and you will enjoy His whole kingdom. It is to such a kingdom that you are being invited. It is to such a people that the Lord is saying, "Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom". Don't let the enemy keep you from your inheritance. Don't be like a beggar in the street. Become a king, and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved you and died for you.