

SUVISESHA DHWANI

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25 July 2009

Sabbath and Some Practical Lessons

Samuel Thomas

Man by nature is greedy and selfish. But the children of God should shine gloriously with the divine qualities like mercy, kindness, humility and compassion. This is the desire of God about us. The Lord is asking all His children to esteem others better than himself and let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also the interest of others. The Israelites the chosen generation of God should lead a life of separation with all the divine qualities. This is the desire of our God of the Old Testament period. If it is so then the desire of our God in New Testament Israel, will be much greater.

The command to observe the Sabbath is one of the ten commandments that the Lord gave to the Israelites. But they have no means to avoid it. Through this day of rest God taught the Israelites many lessons. God gave Mannah to the Israelites in the desert. God has made Sabbath a covenant along with His provision of Mannah (Exo 16). Israelites have to gather an omer of manna for each person every day. They were given the command not to keep it for the next day. But some did gather more and kept for the next day. The manna that was kept for the next day bred worms and stank. God gave them a covenant, the

Sabbath, because of their selfishness and greed. Though the seventh day was given as a day of rest some of them went to gather on the seventh day but found none. How long you will be reluctant to obey my commandments and laws is the confession of God our Lord. The selfishness of man was beyond all limit. The Lord commanded them to set apart all the fields and estate to the poor and pilgrims during annual Sabbath. This was a command to teach them to consider the poor and the sojourners and also to teach them of the importance of a selfishness. What do we have on this earth as

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On that Beautiful Shore

Mundamala: Thomas A Itty who was popularly known as Itty Sir one of the great personalities of the Brethren Community went to be with the Lord on 19.07.09. The mortal remains of the dear brother was buried under the auspices of the Kavungumprayar Brethren Assembly in the cemetery of the said assembly in the midst of the large gathering, saints and people of all walks of life. Kindly



remember the bereaved family in your prayers. He was a Lord's servant who tried to give light to a dark world in which false doctrine and selfishness is on the increase. Once he said like "V S, I know that I cannot draw a mountain from its place and drop it in the sea with a single hair. It is impossible. But I will try my best with it. I do this remember this statement now. I believe that the Lord God enabled him to accomplish it to an extent through his writings. We the Suvishesha Dhvani and Y M E F join in the sorrows of the near and dear ones and also pray for their consolation. If we could follow his example ... it would have been great.

Modern Communication Techniques and Evangelisation

Dr. Noble Abraham

The modern technologies in communication has created an explosion in this field. Along with the progress of time visions and views of people also change. But we haven't discussed much among us about the need and mode of the modern technologies in the field of evangelization.

Evangelisation has taken off from personal evangelism, open air meetings, conventions to crusades and to the mass communication and to the mode of latest means of even cinema. There is no doubt for the fact that we can conduct evangelization through television and cinema. But the expansion of the area will not in any way can be compared with

depth. If we have to understand the depth of this ministry then we have to get the number of new believers who have been added to our fellowship. The technological perfection and the abilities of the person who presents the show may attract the viewers and take them to a world of illusion. But when the presenter moves out of the screen the attraction ends there a real human touch in the midst of all these technological advancements. The tears that fall from the eyes of the actors in the cinemas cannot be equal to the tears of the really hurt. Mass media can be utilized to spread our ideas. But it cannot give any fellowship. Moreover the media of mass

communication cannot build any personal relationship. The presenter is not a familiar face of the viewers. The Bible does not teach such a mode of communication.

The Lord does not deal with the people, of this age of grace, through the sound of the trumpet or through the signs in the sky. Jesus Christ took the form of man and He dealt with man in a humanly way. The perfect plan of God for us is to follow this example and live a life of faith and share gospel. The usual practice of the visual programmers is to borrow the techniques of successful business and use it in the

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Fiba Conference 2009

Dallas: The Fiba conference of 2009 will be held from 30th July to 2nd August at the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas. This is a fellowship of the Brethren who have migrated to Canada and North America. **Brother Ashly Kurian, George Michael, Babu Pimplakar and Babu K Varghese are expected.** For more information **Daniel Johnson 631 645 3745.**

The Ohio Conference Came to a Close

The migration to US took a better step from the 1970's. Those who migrated to the US from the Brethren fold started a conference in the name Indian Brethren Fellowship. It was popularly known as Ohio Conference because it took place in Ohio. This was a meeting meant to enjoy the sweetness of fellowship. The Lord in His mercy allowed us to conduct the 32nd conference from July 2009 to July 5 2009 at Ohio Mount Vernon University. The theme selected was apt for this age Holy Life in his Unholy World. The challenge of the time. Brother Sam Cherian, Keith Kayser, M. Immanuel and Babu Pimplker were used by the Lord in this conference. Many other classes were conducted on various other subjects. Other than the above mentioned many other brethren took part in it. We thank all those who prayer for the blessings of this ministry

Truth is Generated

The death of cinema was prophesied earlier. The numerous innovations like D.V.D, H.D, T.V, Internet, Album, the UTube of the Google etc are all the opponents of 35mm cinema. The perplexities and complexities faced by the studios and theatres are leading this business to ruin and total destruction. This flim industry is facing such a situation when it has a large capital of funds the latest technologies in its command and numerous well known artists. It is in this fatal condition some of our people claim that the best means to communicate the message of Agape is cinema. They have even overtaken the television preachers by surprise. Some of our people are awaiting for a golden chance for it. The idea is expressed through other medias very clearly. But through our medias the clear signals are not yet send out. But vague signals are already given. Doors may be opened for open discussions about the stars and their values and the greatness of arts and artists.

The theory of speed and fastness has gone much ahead than reching, prayer meditation and tolerance and its outfit the personal evangelism. In the universe ... in our life ... in the secrets of creation The time when we lay on the beautiful grass meadows gazing the wonders of the sky is a past story.

Gospel has become immortal and eternal among the various culture and political situations not because of the skill and wisdom of the propagators. It is because it belongs to God and God alone. The gospel went deep in to the hearts of the people of different periods and different nations not through any superficial revolutions. But it reached the hearts through set plan and strategy of God Almighty. ".... It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe". The established means of the Lord may be foolish to the technocarts scholars and the wise.

The first instant of the propagation of this grant message to shepherds was done by the angels in extreme imagination and beauty.

No artist can ever present such a scene on any screen. The Omnipotent and Omniscient God could have used His angels to propagate this great news from horizon to horizon in much better way than all human beings. For that He did not require any human help or service. But God had chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty. How lucky we are ! We have been redeemed from sin and has been awarded this great privilege. This cannot be compared equalled to all the auspicious deeds of the world. The path of the cross is not the path of colours, a dye or spectacular colour shows. It is the path of suffering tortures mocking rejection and pain. Gospel is not for the emotional pleasure and joy to our senses. It touches the heart deeply and transform human lives. The cinema screen is filled with suicides, rapes and molestations, violence drinking, killings and brutal atrocities. Such a scene is not fit for the presentation of this great good news. Can our technocrats satiate the spectators who goes to the theatres to satisfy their senses because they are not satisfied in the entertainment that they get at their homes? What an artist can present the incomparable presence of God and the mighty work of the Holy Spirit through his acting? If some one tries to do it then they are taking His name in vain.

The modern generation is in a deep forest of temptations of modernism. What we see today in the spiritual realm is the product of selfishness and egoism. When wisdom reaches the hands of those who are underserved for it then they misuse it. Those self conceited people can only sow the seeds of poison. It is here that illiteracy seems to be better than literacy and scholarship. Our forefathers were able to pass on this message into the hearts of the people in its simplicity and originality. Then they were able to make the life of the people bright with light because of their redemption from sin. Though we have the back up of technical skill, knowledge and money we are fruitless. Souls are not saved. Contradiction and complexities cannot circle gospel because it has its own strength in to spread in its simplicity to ages to come. True spirituality cannot compromise with the modern techniques and production which has no experience and spirit. If there is no chaff in the law or rule in practice there can be number of loop holes for mistakes. We have to fight and defeat the modernism that tramples truth and spirituality under its feet. If then the word which is the asset and capital should be divided to many by acquiring the strength from the Holy Spirit. Yes word the asset and capital of gospel and it is its warmth and peculiarity ... **Jose Philip**

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ours? Can we claim ownership and anything on this earth? They were taught the great lesson to share what we have been given by Him. Lord wanted us to grow in the divine habit of sharing. Lord has taught us to call God as our Father. It is this lesson that He is teaching us through that prayer. The rich man who was clothed in purple and fine line could have seen the need of the world if he would have opened the windows at his bedside. As an example the Lord has allowed Lazarus to be at his door step. But still he was blind and failed to see the need of the world. He remained quite selfish. He began to think about others only after his great fall in to hades. Even then he was worried but about his brothers. It is almost the same story about the rich foolish man of Chapter 12 of Luke. He too was concerned about himself when he had a

bumper crop. He did not think about God or divine things and matters.

Sabbath teaches the lesson of compassion mercy and kindness. On the day of Sabbath if the master were allowed rest and if their servants and maids and animals were forced to work then the master would have become lazy. They would have preferred easy chair and its comfort. It would have made them proud and haughty. But the command was were strict and clear. They were constrained or compelled to give complete rest to all the servants maid servants and animals.

The commandment reminded them that once they were slaves in Egypt. So it also taught them to show compassion mercy and kindness to all slaves and animals.

Through Sabbath Israelities learnt to conserve nature. We live at a time when nature has lost its equilibrium through the continuous exploitation of nature. But see the commandment of our Lord to the Israelities. And six years thou shalt sow the

land and shalt gather in the fruits there of. But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lies still; that the poor of thy people may eat and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat The God who gives food to all living creatures. The compassionate creator who satiate the thirst and hunger even of the negligible creatures like the crying crow and to the rest God wants us to learn lessons from all these. The inevitable consequences of the disobedience of this commandment is given in Leviticus 26: 34, 35. Then shall the land enjoy her Sabbaths as long as it lieth desolate and yet be in your enemies land even there shall be land rest and enjoy her Sabbaths. As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest because it does not rest in your Sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it."

Another lesson that the Lord wished to teach the Israelities was to give a day of the week to the Lord. Labour for six days and the seventh day in the presence of the Lord. The amassing of wealth by the greedy ignoring this great fact is detestable and detested by the Lord. The believers who go for overtime neglecting the first day of the week do not really understand that even Manna the heavenly

food will also breed worms. There are people who go to jobs regardless of their commitment to the Lord. But they may not think of their condition, when God Almighty give rest to the nation which we never gave. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Let us pray like this along with Moses the man of God. Shall we read Isaiah 58:13-14 and meditate upon it and take a strong decision. "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath from doing thy pleasure on my holy days ... for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it".

He taught the Israelities not only to give time there but also to give their wealth. They had to set apart Sabbath and had to give offering to the temple of God. Not only that when the year of release comes you should not feel bitter. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart saying The seventh year the year of release is at hand and thine eye be evil" They were asked to give to the poor brethren without any ill feeling.

It also taught the Israelities the great lesson of the provision by the

great Provider. They were anxious of their future because of their disbelief and selfishness. What we shall eat in the seventh year was their worry? But the Israelities received the three fold of the yield in the sixth year itself. Thus they understood the provision of God Lev 25:20-21. "And if ye shall say what shall we eat the seventh year? Behold we shall not sow nor gather in our increase. Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year and it shall bring forth for three years. God prepared a widow in Sarefath for Elijah even before the drying of brook and the departure of the crow. The Lord opens a new means and path for His children before closing the old one. Even if the world is under fierce grip of recession He will meet the needs of those who call upon Him genuinely and zealously. Though we the members of the church do not have to observe Sabbath we are expected by God to learn the lessons of Sabbath which were taught to the Israelities. Let us have total surrender of our selves so that the divine nature of God can grow and increase in us. Then we the citizens of heaven can live as His ambassadors manifesting His nature in this world. God had promised the real rest to such people. May His name be glorified

Y M E F News

Kallissery: If it be the will of the Lord the Kallissery Y M E F unit wish to conduct a one day outreach at Puliyoor in co operation with the Puliyoor Brethren Assembly on 1st August 2009. From 9am to 5.30pm. So we request all the brethren to come and participate in it. House visiting open air group prayer meditation of the word are the main programmes on the agenda. For more information **John Thomas 9446918942 Secretary**

SBS News

Pathanamthitta: If it the will of the Lord a one day meeting of the Pathanamthitta Centre SBS will be held on 8th August 2009 in association with the Pariyaram Brethren Assembly in the same premises. Brother K Biju Alady and Binu Samuel will lead the sessions. All the SBS workers are requested to participate in it. For more information Shoji George 9961319231.

In the Vineyard

For Prayer

Kollegal: Brother SunderRaj of Kollegal who was called for His work left for Gulberga according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. An assembly was formed in Gulberga Town. Then he joined hands with the Y M E F (SD) team and another assembly was formed in Islampur. Now he is back to his home town and is actively involved in the work of the local assembly. Kindly uphold him in your prayer. His Address: M Sunder Raj, Peniel Hall, Jaipur Colony, Singanallur P O, Kollegal 571 443, Chamrajnagar, Karnataka.

Bidhar: It is a district on the north Eastern side of Karnataka. He was actively involved in the Y M E F (SD) campaign while the team was campaigning there. He continued in the follow up campaign. The lord gave the fruit and a local assembly in the New Testament patten was formed in the village Sanganahalli. Kindly remember him and his works there. **His address: A D Steevenson, Christian House, Ambalapur, Bidhar, Karnataka.**

Sisters Meeting

Kottarakkara: If it be the will of the Lord the sisters meeting of the Kottarakkara centre will be held on August 28, 2009 from 10am to 1pm at the Thrikkanamangal North Brethren Assembly. All sisters are requested to attend it with prayer. Bible Quiz Rev 20-22. For more information **Chinnamma Varghese 0474 2454181.**

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channel of evangelization. For the propagation of gospel if it is the real gospel then we have to pay the price for it. We should be ready to live and die for it. If it is so then do we have to take lot of trouble to present gospel through the often disgusting dance shows and musical shows.

The motive of the communication of Christian principles should not be in the means to get recognition from others. Our aim should be present gospel so that they can understand it. It is better to reject gospel rather than to accept it through the wrong means and channels. If we think that we can present gospel using the technology of visual media then there are many other things in our views. As far I am concerned I think that the idol of crucified Christ wounded on the Calvary cross that we see in the peak corners of Kerala is a distraction. The churches keep churches to

remind people about their 'god'. We really think that is idol worship. If we oppose that then how can we adopt the same method to present gospel through the visual media. Are we not accepting the same principle?

The best means to teach anything to anyone is to practice it and to show it to others. Visual media cannot compete with that. In the Old Testament period God taught and trained people through the altar and sacrifices. But God Almighty prepared a law which is to be written in the heart of men. That is not any mode of earthly teaching. It is divine and spiritual. It is what is needed. Thus when God intervened altar sacrifices animals for sacrifice and musical instruments were all removed. The Spirit of God began to deal directly to people through a cloud of witnesses.

What the cloud of witnesses can do cannot be done by film actors. Cinema is the manifestation

of personal imagination. When people see Cinema the usual comment from the part of the viewers is it is good acting. Cinema is not life is the common saying that we usually hear. We do create characters to present gospel. It may be because of the fact that we are a total failure in our testimony and witness. The scripture speaks of the cloud of witnesses. But in the future we may have to say a cloud of film actors. The basis of the communication of Christian faith is the intervention of God in the life of the person. It becomes meaningful in the society when I live, what I am practicing what I communicate to the same society. The people around us has to witness it. This is what the Bible teaches and instruct. All the creations have to manifest the presence of God to the society. It is not God has chosen such for that. The presence of God leads humanity to

enjoy fellowship with God and to have fellowship with each other. Another thing that we have to think and ask ourselves is "Can we express or manifest the plan of the Almighty God through cinemas or visual aids? But as it is written "Eye has not seen nor ear heard nor have entered in to the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love (1Cor 2:9). God has given such a great position to His children. But at the same time if we deprive this position to the materialistic state For materialistic and momentary gains it is not at all good.

When the Lord speaks of the Richman and the Lazarus they did not speak of the winning lotteries or going to Gulf and giving good dowry to the daughter. It is not any of those things Lazar is a blissfull state where he is seated in the bosom of Abraham. It was the

heavenly blissful state that the Lord presented through the scripture Lazar died as a poor man in this world. How can we present the joy of salvation and the glorious hope through any visual media? Visual media is good. There is no need to misunderstood about the advantages with the use of this media. But let no one misguide us by propagating that cinema is the best means to present gospel.

Let us say along with apostle Peter "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you you're the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitness of His majesty (2Peter 1:16).

Tamilnadu Campaign by Y M E F (SD)

The gospel campaign in Tamilnadu continues without any problem. Day by day the zeal and commitment for the campaign is increasing among the brethren who are earnestly engaged in this ministry. We have noticed some special things in these days. In many a village we are getting ample opportunity for sharing gospel without any hindrances. When it was very difficult to get Tamil speaking brothers God sent Brother Karunakaran from the Erode assembly to the team. He is with the team everyday. Brother J Babu who is very devoted as much time as he could for the work. Brother Saravanaa graduate of Madhura Bible School is back in the team after

a weeks stay in his home. Brother Bhaskaran of Kollam had to return to Kerala because of inevitable reasons.. Then the Lord arranged Brother Stanly who is in Lord's service at Palani. He has taken the responsibility of driving the vehicle. The responsibility of the discipline of the team is taken by brother C. M. Varghese.

We thank the Lord for those brothers who are in the team for a long period. Bhaskaran is in the team for the longest duration. Like wise we have brother C M Varghese, Kuriakose Prabhakar and Praveen. There may be none in the villages of Tamilnadu who have never heard about

Jesus Christ or Christian. But there are millions who have never heard the gospel. We can feel it and understand it when we go from house to house. The condition of the towns are no better. I wish to narrate a single incident. I can clearly remember an occasion when I shared with an educated young lady of Christian background I could easily understand that her father was a Gideon. I noticed number of boards that had verses from the Bible hanging on the walls of her house. But she did not have the real idea about Jesus Christ the Saviour. What a pathetic condition. No one had ever shared gospel with her. She used to go to church regularly.

Dear saints this is the condition of

Tamilnadu. If the brethren back in Tamilnadu can join the team work selflessly and with total commitment then definitely we will be able to draw many from the burning fire of eternal hell. Let us forget and forgo all divisions and schisms and work together for the extension of the kingdom of the Lord. Those who are inspired by the Lord for financial fellowship may kindly send it to brother George Samuel, Muthattu House, Omalloor P O, Kerala Tele 0468 2350320. For more information Jacob P Mathew 9847000691.

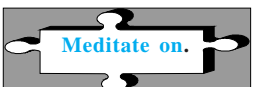
In TV Channels

Sathgamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel
All Fridays (Malayalam) 5.30-6.00 p.m.
Monday 6.00-6.30 a.m. Zee TV (Hindi)

Jeevamritham Television Program

Every Saturday 9 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. in Power vision channel by Evg Chandapilla Philip



We have to Give the Price for True Discipleship

All those who have accepted Christ as the personal savior and Lord are His disciples. Many followed Him when He lived on this earth. But number of people left Him claiming that his words were very rude and hard. But the real disciple followed Him. All were faithful except Jude. Only those who are leading a sacrificial life can be a real disciple of Him. One is eligible for that name only when he is ready to give the price for it and when he is ready to bear the sufferings along with him.

One day a minister of the Lord requested a sister to become a Sunday School teacher. She was efficient and had time for that ministry. But her reply was like this I am not ready to make any commitment or have no plans to bound myself in anything. The minister of the Lord reminded her like this Didn't you announce about your decision to work for the Lord completely in the

last prayer meeting? If you are following Him sincerely are you not ready to share sometime to the one who hang on nails on the cross. When she heard it she understood her mistake. She told him that she understood the real meaning of his statement. She committed herself to the Lord and became a real disciple.

Dear saints we know that all those are saved and all those who obey His commandment are His disciples. True discipleship does not mean the life of a normal Christian. We are the servants of the Lord right from the day of our salvation. In the words of brother M E Cherian we are His slaves. We are supposed to be active in His vineyard right from the first day of our salvation. The Lord is expecting from us a total surrender. There are some who are fruitful to the end. The Master

who has called us to labour in His vineyard will not leave us in the evening empty handed. He will give the wages. Then the first may come in the end and the last may come to the forefront. Today we may not be able to recognize such people. But a true disciple is the one who works according to the will of the Lord with total commitment. Do we have the decision of that Sunday School teacher? Are we committed like it? Or are we not like those who do not deny ourselves? Let us say Here I am the Lords servant or maid servant. I do submit myself to you and surrender myself for your complete will and follow thee according to thy will. If you follow your Masters footstep then you will live accordingly. **TVS**

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