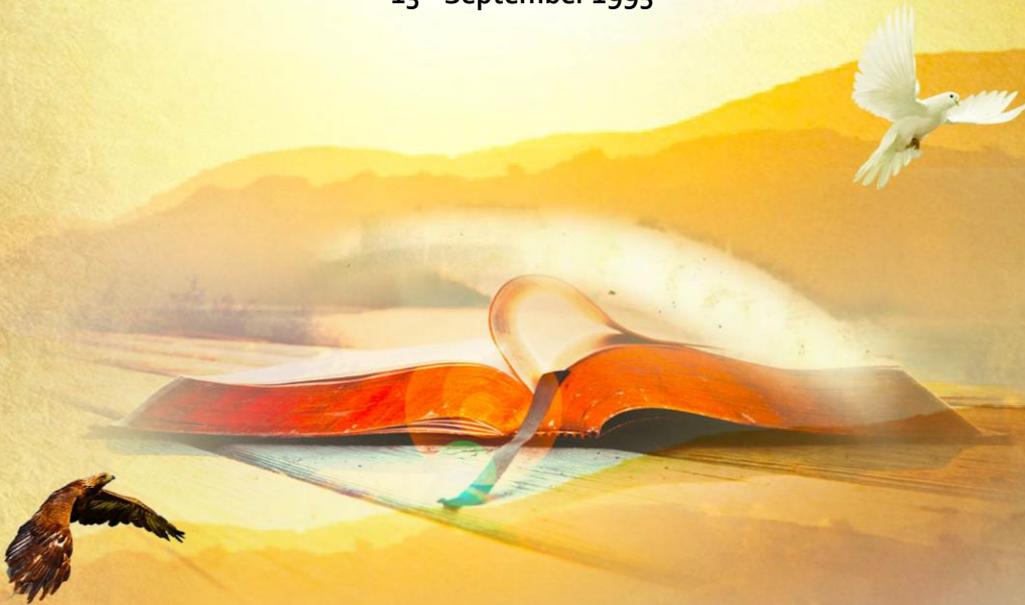

Third Exodus Assembly

Stewardship

Pt.3

We are Unprofitable Servants

13th September 1995



Vin A. Dayal

Third Exodus Assembly

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TRINIDAD

Bro. Vin A. Dayal

Excerpt:

He said, "After you've plowed in the field and you've fed the cattle, don't go and sit down to eat. Don't serve yourself before you are sure that there are no further commands of your Master." Your service for your Master must always be given priority above your service to yourself.

It has nothing to do with how tired you feel, how sick you feel or what; you belong to Him. If He tells you to do it and He knows you are not feeling well, He wants you to do it not feeling well, to show, you are not serving Him for eye service; to show that His will is more important than your life, and to give Him the respect, and to acknowledge His rights of ownership by virtue of the suffering and death and the finished work that He did on your behalf, so you could be free today, and you count it a privilege to become His property. He didn't take of His possessions to buy you; He gave His Own Life. And all He's asking of you, sometimes it is time, energy, a little service here, a little service there, and we are so taken up with self. 'Self' is a deep thing. 'Self' is not an ordinary thing. [Page 27-28]

Stewardship Pt. 3

13th September 1995

STEWARDSHIP PT.3

We Are Unprofitable Servants

TRINIDAD

WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 1995

BRO. VIN A. DAYAL

[#188 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Oh, just look full in His wonderful face tonight.
Hallelujah. Let everything else be shut out, tonight;
face to face.

*And the things of this earth
will grow strangely dim,*

Oh yes, it will now.

In the light of His Glory and grace.

Oh, sing it again. Let us really turn our eyes with
faith now.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Oh, just look full in His wonderful face;

...in His wonderful face;

And the things of this earth...

And the things of this earth

will grow strangely dim,

In the light of His Glory and grace.

O soul, are you weary and troubled?

O soul, are you weary and troubled?

Oh, no light in the darkness you see?

...in the darkness you see?

Oh, but there is light for a look at the Saviour,

There is light for a look at the Saviour,

Oh, look away to Jesus, tonight.

And Life, more abundant and free!

That is what we have come to receive tonight. That
is what He wants to impart unto us.

...abundant and free!

Let's sing: Through death into Life everlasting...

Through death into Life everlasting,

Oh, would you follow Him tonight?

He passed, and we follow Him there;

... and we follow Him there;

Over us sin no more hath dominion,

Over us...

Oh, what a place to stand.

...no more hath dominion,

Everyone, every son of God, He wants you to stand there tonight.

For more than conquerors we are!

Oh, let us just turn our eyes upon Him tonight.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Oh, take a real steadfast look tonight.

Look full in His wonderful face;

And the things of this earth

will grow strangely dim,

In the light, oh, of His Glory and grace.

...Glory and grace.

His Word shall not fail you. Tie your souls to It tonight; It shall not fail you. That is His promise tonight, His unfailing Words of promise.

Believe Him tonight; purpose in your heart.

Believe Him and all...

Oh, cast away your doubts. Put your foot upon the neck of unbelief tonight.

Then go to a world that is dying,

His perfect salvation to tell!

His perfect salvation to tell!

Oh, just turn your eyes upon Him; look full in that wonderful face tonight. Hallelujah. You shall see face to face. You shall know as you were known. His open

Word tonight, that is revealing Him, that is unveiling Him before us. Thank You, Lord.

*And the things of this earth
will grow strangely dim,
Oh, in the light of His Glory and grace.*

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Oh, we've come to draw near unto Him tonight, to go right up into His Presence, to be overshadowed by that Cloud of His Glory. Hallelujah. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Hallelujah. Thank You, Jesus. If you will draw nigh unto Me, I will draw nigh unto You.

Where could I go but to my Lord: let us just sing that little song. *Living below in this old sinful world, hardly a comfort can afford; striving alone to face temptations sore, but where could I go but to the Lord?* Amen. Sing and worship Him tonight. Let us offer a real sacrifice of praise. Let us serve God with joyful lips. Amen. Let us be real priests here unto God tonight.

[#309 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*Oh, striving alone to face temptations sore,
Where could I go tonight?*

Oh, where could I go...

*Where could I go, where could I go,
Seeking a refuge for my soul?*

Oh, in this dry and thirsty land; in this hot, weary land. Think of it.

*Oh, to help me in the end,
Where could I go but to the Lord?*

*Oh, neighbors are kind,
Oh, I love them every one,
We get along in sweet accord;
Oh, but when my soul
needs Manna from Above.*

Amen.

Where could I go but to the Lord?

Oh, sing the song now. Clap your hands and sing.
*Oh, where could I go,
 Seeking a refuge for my soul?
 Needing a friend to help me in the end,
 Where could I go but to the Lord?*

*Life here is grand,
 oh, with friends I love so dear,
 Comfort I get from God's Own Word;
 Oh, yet when I face
 the chilling hand of death,
 Where could I go but to the Lord?*

Oh, where could I go tonight?
*Where could I go, O where could I go,
 Seeking a refuge for my soul?
 Oh, to help me in the end,
 Where could I go but to the Lord?*

Oh, where could I go...
*Where could I go, O where could I go?
 Seeking a refuge for my soul.
 Needing a friend to help me in the end,
 Where could I go but to the Lord.*

Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus. Hallelujah! Glory be to God in the highest. Thank You, Jesus. God bless you. You may have your seat. Amen. Praise His wonderful Name.

Is Sis. Alice around? Amen. Something Keeps Holding Me, let's just ask them to come and sing that little song and may the ushers pick up the offering at this time. We certainly want to receive all that God has for us. Just settle in tonight by God's grace. Praise His wonderful Name. Amen.

[Saints sing #213 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Hallelujah. Amen. He's a reality. How many know He is a reality tonight? He keeps holding you, friend. May we all stand to our feet. Let us just bow our heads for prayer as we look to our precious Lord Jesus, tonight.

Gracious God, we take this blessed opportunity to honor You with our substance; to have this privilege, Lord, that we can acknowledge. In this generation, Lord, when people are so covetous, their hearts are so fixed on material things, they glorify themselves in their own human ability, dear God, You have opened our eyes to see that all that we have and all that we give back to You is what really belongs to You, and whatever we have, we have received it, and there is One Who has given it unto us.

So, tonight coming into Your house with our tithings and our offerings, offering it back up unto You, dear God, the portion that You have required and, Lord, the grace that You have given unto us to give back, with an interest, dear God, in Your Kingdom, Lord Jesus, knowing that this Gospel must first be preached into all the world and then will the end come. And You have given us a part in this great service in this End Time.

I pray that You would bless each and everyone tonight, that freely and cheerfully gave, Father, to the cause of Christ; to the work of the Lord. May You bless them. May You supply their every need. May they not be lacking in anything. But even as You promised, You will open the windows of Heaven and pour out a great blessing. May they see the reality of You confirming Your Word in their lives. Continue to give them faith to believe You and obey You in all things, and may You supply their every need, Father.

Now, as we look to You to speak to us, break Thou the Bread of Life, dear Lord. Feed our hungry hearts; we have come to eat at Your table. And may each one receive nourishment ministered to them out of Your Word, to give faith, faith sufficient for this Hour, that

we might live overcoming lives, displaying the victory of Calvary.

Bless each and everyone that is gathered in Your Presence. We appreciate Your grace to us to give us another opportunity to come and worship You together like this. May we benefit truly tonight, that when we leave this place, we leave rejoicing, for we ask it in Jesus' precious Name, amen.

Let us turn in our Bibles tonight. We would like to turn to Luke, Chapter 17. I have been speaking a little about **"STEWARDSHIP"**, and I'm going to drop in a little message here tonight, seeing the time has about almost run out. And it is one of these little, short ones. Amen. Luke 17 and 1st Corinthians 6.

I was speaking out of Luke 16, in the last two services and I haven't really finished, but I just want to put this alongside with it and we are going to look at these things for a while. And I trust it will really stimulate a real desire in our hearts for more dedicated service to our Lord Jesus, give us courage in the face of all adversity to stand and serve Him, that we will not shirk our responsibility; we truly would bring glory to His Name and be a witness to this generation by the way that we would live.

St. Luke, Chapter 17, verse 7:

⁷ But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to [eat]?

⁸ And will not rather say unto him, Make ready [that which] I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

⁹ Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I [think] not.

10 So [you also], when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

I trust you understand the reading. Let me read it over again.

7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to [eat]?

8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready [that which] I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? [I think not or] I trow not [is I think not].

10 So [you also], when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty [to do].

Amen. 1st Corinthians 6, verse 19:

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [who] is in you, [whom] ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

And verse 23, Chapter 7:

23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

And one more verse out of Acts 20, verse 28. It says:

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, [of] which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the

*church of God, which he hath purchased
with his own blood.*

May the Lord add the blessing to the reading of His Word! You may have your seats.

I want to take for a little title tonight, **“We Are Unprofitable Servants.”** *We Are Unprofitable Servants.* And I’m taking that out of this inspiration here. Jesus was teaching His disciples something about service and the attitude in which they should serve their Master. And this parable He was telling, is that we might be able to discover what kind of servants we ought to be; how we ought to be wholly devoted to our Lord’s service and to constantly be attendant upon Him at all times.

Now the thing about Jesus, was that when He came and He was calling a people, He was calling them and His very Word that He was preaching and the life that He was living before them, was revealing to them this great, invisible God. He was teaching them and making this God real to them.

The Bible says, “He Who was in the bosom of the Father, hath declared Him unto us.” He thoroughly made Him known by words. By His preaching, He was unveiling this God to them. And by His life, He was demonstrating and displaying the Life of that God to them because He said, “The Father Who dwelleth in Me, is Who doeth the works. When you see Me, you see the Father.”

So, that revelation was taking them away from the Pharisees’ idea of God, from the Sadducees’ idea of God; from their own private idea of God. That Word was bringing them into a relationship with that very God whose purpose was to come and live in them as He was living in Jesus.

God is doing the same thing in this Hour. This Message that has called us, is not so much to teach us a few little doctrines and to tell us “Denomination is wrong,” and to tell us, “God is going to destroy the

world,” and we should really get scared and don’t go in the world otherwise God will kill us. We better serve God and try to make it to Heaven and live right. It’s not that.

This Message has unveiled that same God again. In that day the Son of Man shall be revealed. The mighty God has been unveiled before us. He has come into plain view to us, that we have looked and we have seen Him, we know who He is now, we know how He walks, we know His nature; how He works. We know He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. We know He does not change. We know He cannot add to His knowledge. We know that even in this Day, He proved that He is still the same, as great as He ever was. He has been brought into plain view to us.

He has filtered our thinking, taken us away from denominational ideas of God; taken us away from our little Sunday school ideas and growing up with what our mammy told us God was like. Even the Prophet says, “Heaven is not the Place my mother used to tell me about.” He said, “When the Seven Seals have opened, we begin to realize that Heaven is a real Place; a Place where we are going to live and work and do things. We are going to eat and enjoy. There is going to be a Kingdom There. There is going to be a Civilization far higher than this civilization.”

God, by revelation, in opening the Seven Seals began to take us back into the Bible and bring out the very Truth that was hidden, that was sealed in the Word; that Reformers in denominational Ages probed at but could not bring out to show Heaven, to show this Civilization, to show where we are going, to show what kind of Life is in us; to show this great Eternal Life.

God came in this Day and has unveiled that, and is making that so real to the believer, and that is what Raptures them, that is what places them; that is what brings them into a relationship with God to worship

this God because they are understanding this God. And God has brought them so close they are seeing this God in their very own lives. Because “In that day you will know I in you and you in Me. I will dwell in them and walk in them, saith the Almighty. I will be their God and they shall be My people”; that now we are beholding this very God and we are knowing that He is in us just like Jesus knew God was in Him, just like the Prophet knew God was in him; just like Paul knew God was in him.

He said, “Not the Lord say, but I say unto you.” He knew his place. He knew the authority that was given unto him. He knew his word was vindicated. He knew he was chosen and predestinated to be an apostle, to be a prophet, to be a messenger for that Age. He knew he had caught the mystery. He knew he was caught up into Heaven and saw things that are not even lawful to speak. He knew that dispensation of the grace of God was given unto him. Glory.

To think that men can walk in the Presence of God, men can meet Jesus Christ, men can meet this Pillar of Fire, men can meet this God and come into that kind of relationship and live with that kind of influence upon their life; to think that that is what God is interested in doing for you and for me in this Hour.

That gives value to our Christianity. That puts us in a realm beyond Churchianity. That puts us in a realm beyond being proselyted and indoctrinated and influenced by some church or some man or something. That puts us to be attributes of God expressed in flesh in our designated season, manifesting the Word of God promised for this Hour. That brings us to know that there is an Eternal quality about us. Glory be to God.

When a man and a woman realize that, it produces a faith, a faith that is beyond a denominational faith. It produces the faith of the Son of God. Like Paul said, “The life I live now in this flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God Who gave Himself for me. And it is not I

that live, but it is Christ Who lives in me. And I can do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth me.”

Here was a man walking in a place, in union with God, in holy union, in an invisible union, under the Headship of Jesus Christ, until he called himself ‘Paul, the slave, the prisoner, the servant of Jesus Christ’. He knew he was not living after his own ambitions. He knew he was not being influenced by some Pharisee religion. He knew he wasn’t crazy. They said, “Paul, you have gone mad.” See? But he knew he wasn’t mad; he was sane. He had the Mind of Jesus Christ.

God so loved the world, friends, that God gave this, that we can be partakers of this, that we can receive this Quickening; we can receive this ‘raising up into a Heavenly Place’ where, as we begin to ascend and ascend, being raised up, as we begin to climb higher and higher, we begin to see more and more of this great, glorious position – the thoughts of God concerning us. A channel opens where our lives are anointed, not just with a feeling, but with an intelligence, with a revelation of God’s will, (amen, hallelujah!) with a clear path of what He requires of us in the Day that we are living in; what service He wants done through us, where we see the leadership of God in our lives.

“As many as are led by the Spirit of God.” [Romans 8:14 – Ed.] The Spirit of God is here. The Spirit of God is leading sons right now. The Spirit of God is revealing His program out of the Word. The Spirit of God is leading sons to anoint and quicken the promises and see them come to life. The Spirit of God is moving, leading sons whom He has quickened and called in this Age and they know it is the Spirit inside of them leading them.

Do you know it tonight as a believer? Amen. Is that the experience you desire, that when you walk, you walk in that world of Perfect Faith? You don’t talk about it; it is a reality to you. Amen. Because a Door

has been opened and the invitation has been extended, and the hand of God has taken ahold of you and brought you into this Place, and your life is controlled by a Heavenly Power now, and you've sold out completely to that Power. Amen. Glory! You've sold out to it! You've let go.

Satan realizes... Satan leaves you with the things of the world. He doesn't bring the things of the world to influence you anymore. If he is bringing that to you, he feels he can still get you to take it because you have a taste for it. But the real believer, he knows he cannot bring that to them anymore because when he brings it, the way they spit it out and expose what that is and who is behind it, he knows that his scheme has been uncovered to them. He knows they are not bluffing that. He knows by revelation they know how he is working with that and he finds the shield of faith able to quench his fiery darts.

So he knows he must change his tactics (amen!) because he knows that this is not a hybrid plant, this here is not any hothouse plant; this is original. These are people whose amnesia has left them. These are people who wave in the Mirror and see their reflection wave back. These are people who've come into an experience with God that is real in their hearts. Their affections are set on things Above.

What confuses him is that he looks at them and sees that they could do with a new pair of shoes, he sees that they could do with a little more meat on their plate, but yet he can't understand that attitude. Amen! That is because they have broken through those barriers. They know meat for the belly and belly for the meat, it goes out in the draught, but build your hopes on things Eternal and hold to God's unchanging hand. Amen.

"My meat [desire -Ed.] is to do the will of Him that sent Me and to finish His work." I have Meat that he doesn't know of, amen - spiritual Meat that Elijah received

when he went into a secret place and it was ministered to him. He had it by ravens but we have it by Angels today. How far greater it is by angels, ministering this Hidden Food! Glory.

Today we see so many people who profess to be Christians but are unwilling to serve and labor for the Lord. See? They try to justify themselves. Many times, when God demands service out of them, they find that God is inconsiderate. "That's unreasonable." They say, "That is too hard. Not now." They are seeing that God should be mindful: "What happened, the Lord can't see what I am doing? But the Lord can't see that I have some things to fix here. It is not that I don't believe in Him. I will serve Him when I am ready. I would make myself available when He calls me but right now, I am kind of tied up and the Lord should understand that." You hear some people say, "Well, the Lord will understand." That is their own carnal reasoning. That is what I am here to show to you tonight.

Jesus was teaching His disciples and He was telling them about, He said, "Which of you having a servant, plowed all day in the field, fed the cattle all day and in the evening time when the shadows fall, when the sun has set in the West, he comes in the house now, "Oh, I'm tired." He said, "Which one of you having a servant, says, 'Hey, you look really tired. It's like you've worked hard all day. Sit and eat.' He said, "No. But instead of doing that, he says, 'Look, go now... Now that you did all those things out there, I'm ready to have my supper. Go and get my supper. And you don't even think about eating or drinking; wait until I have finished eating and drinking. And after when I am finished, then you go and see about yourself afterwards.'"

He was teaching them how the service of a servant for his master must always be before his service for himself. He was teaching them about service in the field and service in the house. And He said, "Doth he

turn around and thank the servant after he does all this, and says, "You are a really faithful servant; thank you very much"? He said, "I think not." He doesn't thank him. Is he ungrateful for not thanking him? He said, "So you also, when you do all that is commanded you and you are finished, don't even look for any reward; don't even expect anything. Sit down and say, 'We are unprofitable servants, and we have done that which was our duty to do.'" It's difficult for people to abase themselves like that.

Now since we know God is love and He is the all-wise God, there is a key to it. And the key to it is, He is not talking about a hired servant. He is not talking about a hired servant, who, there is an agreement between the master and the servant to do a certain work. You know, they made a contract and then they expect so much wages and they work so many hours. He was not talking about that kind of servant.

The word 'servant' there is '*a slave; one who is the purchased possession of the master*'. The master bought him with his own money. He belongs to the master, 'lock, stock, and barrel'. [Totally; all of him -Ed.] His time, his energy, his talents, his ability, all that he is, is his master's because the master purchased him with a price. He has no will of his own; his will must be completely taken up in the will of his master.

So when Jesus was looking at the apostles who He was teaching this to, He wasn't saying, "Peter, James, John, you fellows, I want to make a contract with you all to serve Me in this Age." No, no, no. He is not looking at you and me and saying, "You all come and serve Me," like if we are going to help be a profit for Him.

Sometimes because we fail to understand our position and His claims upon us, because we don't clearly understand the value of His redemptive work, because we don't understand how lost we were and we don't understand what it took to redeem us, and only

He alone could have paid the price... Because the whole human race was lost but He purchased them. And a seal is a sign of ownership and when we say 'ownership' or 'a finished work' or 'security', many times we use the word just like terminology. But because He owns it... "You are not your own," Paul said, "you were bought with a price." You belong to an Owner. He purchased the Church with His Own Blood.

That word that is translated 'servant', in the Greek it is '*doulos*'. It was the most degraded servile term that could be used to describe a slave because it designated one who was born a slave; one who was bound to his master in chains so strong, that it was only death that could separate them.

You see, back in those days, if you read the Old Testament, the children of Israel would go to war and they took slaves in war or they bought slaves with their own money. Like Abraham bought slaves. Eliezer, all of them, he bought them. They belonged to him.

So, when you look and you see that it was a type, that we, who were in the slave market, born a slave to sin and could not come out of the slave market, but there was One Who came and paid a purchase price and we became the property; we become the purchased possession of the Buyer – the One Who had the money to take us out of that prison house; that slave market.

It means '*one whose will is swallowed up in the will of his master*'. His will was entirely given up to his master. He had no will of his own. It comes from another word '*deo*' which means, '*to bind or fasten with chains; to be in binds*'. Think of it.

So Jesus, in His mind, was speaking about a master and his purchased possession; the master who had rights of ownership by virtue of the price that he paid to become the legal owner. And because he became the legal owner and because they belonged to him, then he could make any requirements he wants from them. If

he wants them up at two o'clock in the morning, he says, "Get up at two o'clock in the morning and do this and that."

Jesus was showing the apostles, His relationship with them wasn't just like a little contract, that they would serve Him when it was convenient; that they would see about their own things first, and then they would find time, if they could find some, to give a little attention to God afterwards, and then feel satisfied about that kind of behavior, and then think, "Well, God should be pleased." Because after all, if they didn't go, who would have gone?

You see, if you can do something for God to gain by it, then God becomes a debtor to you. That is why John said, "God is able to raise up stones to be Abraham's seed." God doesn't need us; we need God. The claims that we have upon Him are claims that He has given to us by grace, because no man could even come in His Presence; he would drop down dead without Blood. He could be a prophet, priest, king, whoever he was, he needed Blood to come in God's Presence. The very first perfect man couldn't even stand in God's Presence when he sinned.

So here, Jesus was teaching something about service. And I believe that that is why many times we fail to advance with God – because of our concept, the way we see God; what we think God deserves.

We heard the Prophet many times, he said, "If I had a thousand lives, I will give them all to Jesus." He said, "I laid down on my bed that morning and said, Billy Branham, you didn't do anything for the Lord as yet." He looked at himself and saw that he didn't do anything for the Lord as yet, and there were millions in Heaven already, who had gone There by his effort. And he said, "Billy, you are getting old. You better do something quick; your time is going to run out one day on you." And then the Voice told him, "Keep pressing

the battle. If only you knew what was laying at the end of the road.”

In *Standing In The Gap* [1963-0623M -Ed.], when he built a complex, God rebuked him and sent him back. He said, “You let the sick lay there sick.” It was a shame when he was rattng on the job. God said, “You are rattng on My job!” God was making demands on His servant.

He, himself preached *A Prisoner* [1963-0717 - Paul, A Prisoner Of Jesus Christ -Ed.], a love slave of Jesus Christ, bound with the chains of the Word. It wasn’t a thought. He knew the demands God had upon his life. He knew the rights of ownership God had. He said, “Had it not been for the grace of God, I would have been a murderer; I would have been a quitter. I am only what I am by the grace of God.” He said, “By grace, let me call you brother and sister.”

He didn’t say that to be humble. He said that with understanding and revelation. That was why he could stand up and pray for eight nights, just drinking coffee, day and night, trying to pray for the sick without sleeping, trying to keep himself awake. And when he stood, mowing the yard, he saw a plane fly over there, he began to hear them, “Only believe, only believe.” He began to see those prayer lines; he would pack his bags and go again. He went out there and witch-doctors and everything were waiting to challenge him from the time he got off that plane.

Though he was here in the earthly realm, his soul was caught up into a place where he loved Jesus Christ. He loved Jesus Christ. He loved Him so much that to bring shame on the Name of the Lord when they were even pulling for money so he could stay on the field, he wouldn’t even do it. He tried to walk in such a way that he would not become a stumblingblock to other people. He tried to live such an example and make the way so clear that people would want to follow Christ because his whole

thoughts, his whole his affections, his whole will was taken up solely in the interests of his Master.

When opportunities in life came that he could make himself wealthy and famous, and they said, “Bro. Branham, you could write a Bible yourself with all the things that God has done in your life,” and they said, “maybe to build a school and do something like Oral Roberts and them out there; these men’s ministry came off of yours,” the Holy Spirit said, “I am your portion.”

There was Something that moved them. There was something that God looked inside of him and God knew where his affection was, God knew where his interest was, God knew what kind of influence Calvary had upon his life, God knew what kind of sincerity was inside of him that he was so sincere, and yet we hear him pray, “Lord, help my insincerity.”

I read a quote today that really struck me. A message called *Jehovah Jireh* [1955-0817 - para. 28 -Ed.], he was praying, 1955, in Germany.

He said: *But, Father, we pray that You'll just pour out Your Spirit and heal the heart trouble, the cancer, TB, and all the cripples, the lame, the blind. O dear God, come, won't You? Stretch out Your arms over the tent tonight. Drive away all unbelief, and let Your lovely Son, Jesus, come into every heart. We ask this in Your glory in Jesus Name.*

He said: *And now, Father, I am Your humble unworthy servant. Oh, You took me from the sheep cote, a little old boy, no education, and give me the privilege to come, talk to Your people. And with Your gift that You gave to Your unprofitable servant, I am ashamed, Father, if I haven't done no more than what I have. [He said:] But dear Father, forgive me and help me to show Thy love to the people, and make me a better servant in my feeble efforts.*

After all that he did, he said, “Lord, I am so unprofitable. I am ashamed that I couldn’t do better.” I

want to show you that that is a revelation. That is a revelation that comes out of seeing who He is, what He has done for us, the value of it, and how by rights of ownership, you will realize that one life, the life that you have, if you live twenty-four hours a day, if not one evil thought comes in your mind after you are saved, from the day you are born—if you were saved from your mother’s womb and got the Holy Ghost until you go back to the grave, one life will never be sufficient to give unto Jesus Christ His due. And that when you think that God should be satisfied: “I prayed all week” or “I did so and so. What is the matter? Does God want more than that?” It shows that you haven’t even started yet.

Let’s watch it. Let us look at it. Let us try to see if we can draw some of that into our hearts tonight. Would you like some of that?

On *Proving His Word* [1964-0816 - para. 253-254 -Ed.], he said: *Look in the audience. See? Now, you out there...*

He was in discernment there.

...you don’t have to be here; you just touch His garment. You just speak, say, “Lord Jesus, I believe You.” Now you say, “I believe that. And I believe that You can reveal to Brother Branham...

Now, not because it’s Brother Branham, he’s just an ordinary man. And probably if the rapture come [today]... You think about the rapture. If the rapture come [today], I say this in humility, there’s no doubt that half of this congregation, if we went according to degrees, according to where we should be, half of you’d go before me. That’s right.

Do you see how he saw himself with all the gifts, with all the Spoken Word, with all the angels; with all the hundreds of thousands of visions?

Listen. He said: *If the rapture [would] come [today], I say this in humility, there’s no doubt that half of this congregation, if we went according to degrees, according to where we should be...*

The opportunities that God gave us, the energy God gave us, the health, the time, the sanity of mind, the blessings, the services He let us sit in, the food He gave us to eat, the clothes He gave us to wear, sufficient to get us day by day, being faithful in meeting our need, if we had even trusted Him by that, we could have been where we ought to be. But we have that and we still want more.

We know God is going to meet the need tomorrow, but we want to make sure He will meet it because we still have more in the bank. See? And we still have that put over there, and we have that put over there, so we have to keep doing that and we have to keep cutting off, cutting off, cutting off, cutting off, cutting off from God all the time because God doesn't need anything. God has everything; God doesn't need anything.

Watch. He said: ... *Look at the responsibility I got, and how loosely I carry it. I'm an unprofitable servant to Christ to know what I know about Him and then live the way I do; [he said] not immoral, not unclean, nothing like that, God knows that's true. See? I try to live right, but I just look like I can't get the thing to go over. Maybe it'd been somebody else, maybe [more] highly educated or something, they could've got it to the people. But then [come] to think, it's not all the people's going to get it, anyhow. See, see? He knows what He's going to do. So I just commit myself to Him and say, "Lord, I'm in your hands, do with me as You see fit." Now, if Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and forever...*

So he said, "Think of what I know about it, think of how He revealed Himself to me, think of how many gifts He gave to me, think of the opportunity He gave to me, think of the doors He opened for me to go and preach this to this generation," he said, "I still can't get the thing to go over." He wasn't taken up with self and people seeing "Bro. Branham is great," you know. And he wasn't being satisfied that a million and a half had

already gone to Glory through his ministry, and found that God should be satisfied with the amount of labor.

What is it that makes us think that way? See? What is it that makes us think... Like Jesus was telling them here: "Don't think that because you plowed all day and fed cattle all day that you've come in, at least now you are supposed to get a chance to sit down and eat something." And your master is making more demands on you and saying, "Okay, you carried out my will in the field, now attend to me in the house."

And the servant said, "Let somebody else do it. You are a great master; you could get more servants. What happened, can't you run your business good?" See? He should be saying, from the time he comes into the house, "Lord, is there something that you would like now. Now that I have finished everything in the field that you require, is there something else that you would like your servant to do for you? Your wish is my command, lord. My whole will is swallowed up in your will. Let me do all that you require, lord, before I sit down. I don't even want to think about sitting down and seeing about myself and attending to my business until after I know that you are satisfied that all you require of me is done."

If we recognize His rights of ownership and if we recognize that it is by virtue of the price He paid, and we realize we couldn't pay the price and nobody else could pay the price, and so we really and truly, wholly, body, spirit and soul belong to Him, and if that strikes us, then we should realize that it would be a sin, we'll be violating His rights by trying to seek our interests first; that when He said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God" that He is not making an unreasonable demand.

It is something in our attitude sometimes that sometimes God needs to filter our thinking a little bit. And I trust that He will do it for all of us tonight, all the way from the pulpit to the backbench, that it will cause us to see...

You see, it is an Age of selfishness and everybody is interested in themselves and their interests and their achievements and their ambitions and their goals and their career and all the different things in life that attracts them and they want to serve God too and give God His due: “Maybe, I’ll give Him a little thing on Wednesday” or “I’ll give Him something on Sunday morning,” and that is the way they relate to God. And they are thinking like, “If we didn’t come in this Message, these benches would be empty, so at least God should be thankful. We did a great work for God.” And you know how people see ‘we do this great work for God.’

We didn’t do anything for Him, friends. The honest truth is, up till this day, we didn’t do anything. Because anything we do that amounts to anything, it is His Spirit in us that does it. It is not him that willeth or him that runneth; it is not by might nor by power, it is by God’s Spirit. And that is where the Devil holds people by blocking off from them what Christ really has done and what He really deserves, and that when He makes demands on us, it is not unreasonable; He is only exercising His legal right over us, as the Owner over us.

That attitude, do you know where it comes from? It is the effects of the last Day spirit. That attitude is the effect of a spirit that we were warned by the Prophet to guard against.

Let me read it for you, *The Thyatirean Church Age*, page 221, *The Seven Church Ages* book [Cpt. 6 - para. 221-224 -Ed.]:

“I know thy works, and love, and service, and [thy] faith, and thy patience, and thy works...”

He was talking to that church Age.

...and the last to be more than the first.”

Here again, we find the same introductory remarks, “I know thy works.” [See?] The Son of God, Himself,

said, *“Believe Me for the very works’ sake.”* [See?] *He puts an emphasis on His own works while [here] on earth. The works that He did were ordained of God to inspire faith in Him.*

See? And then he goes on... Let us drop down to save a little time

Now works will never take the place of faith in God for our salvation. But works will show forth our faith [is] already placed in Him. Good works won’t save you, but they will come forth out of a saved life as fruit unto the Lord. I believe in good works. ... In that evil day those true believers shone like a light in a dark place as they continually did good; for they returned cursing with blessing, and did the truth to honor God even though many died for it.

In this verse He is commending His children because they were living changed lives. Their works testified to a new Spirit within. Men saw their good works and glorified God. Yes sir, if you are a Christian you are going to do what is right. Your works will show that your heart is right. And it won’t be something that you put on, for you will do His will when no one [else] but God sees you, and you will do His will even if it costs you your life.

He said: ... *I want to give a warning right here.*

He said [para. 222 -Ed.]: *“I know your [works,] love, service, faith and patience.” You will note that their love is placed between ‘works’ and ‘service.’ And that is the right place for it, because without love our works are not accepted before God and neither is our service.*

You know, sometimes people just do ‘works’ and they are not interested in whether it is accepted or not. They feel content: *“I did it.”* But remember, God told Cain, *“I don’t respect that. I’m not going to receive it.”* Jesus told those Pharisees, *“In vain do you do that.”*

A person, when they are doing something for somebody, they want to see their approval, that they are satisfied; they receive it and it is done and it is

done out of love. It is done in a spirit of humility and service. Let us see if our works are being done in the right spirit. Let us see if the right spirit is motivating us and let us see if we are interested in seeing if He is pleased and if He approves our works.

He said: ... *I want to give a warning right here. It says concerning the last days that because of abounding iniquity the love of many will wax cold. In the Laodicean or last age, self love, and love for material things will take the place of the true love of God. We need to guard against the power of sin in these last days. [We need to guard against the power of sin in these last days.] So many are getting so hard because they haven't realized the effect of this last day spirit. [So many are getting so hard because they haven't realized the effect of this last Day spirit.]*

“You have to take this just like this. I am not doing it over.” It is not a spirit of service. It is not service with love. It is not service with humility. It is not service interested in ministering to please the one you are doing this service unto. It is someone trying to find self-justification in, “Well, I did it. You told me to do it and I did it. What do you want again? Do you want blood?” See?

Jesus was teaching here about service. He said, “Do you think he will thank the servant?” He said, “I think not.” The servant is not due any thanks because the servant is only doing his duty. The Master has that claim on him. If he is doing it to get a reward, then he is not a servant, then he is not owned by the Master, then he is an individual; then he could have saved himself.

Salvation is not a thing: “I put up my hand and accept Jesus Christ one night somebody preached to me” and after that “I became independent and do my own thing and what God gets, He is satisfied.” No! Every day, every moment; every hour.

When we begin to realize how lost we were and the quality of grace that came to us to take us from where we were, we realize that one life cannot give Him what He deserves. One tongue cannot even... If you said, "Hallelujah, praise the Lord," like a seraphim: "Holy, holy, holy," day and night for the last twenty or thirty years and you live for fifty or sixty more, it still would not be sufficient.

But we don't even think about it. We don't even think about trying to improve on our service. We don't think when we are finished doing something, we should still be ashamed and realize, we could have done better. There was a way we could have done it better, and be ashamed that we are what we are, that we were able to do it better because He deserved more than what we did. That was our best we could offer.

But some people say, "Well, I did my best." Yeah, but He deserves more than your best. He is not going to turn away your best, but He was talking about the attitude in your heart after you do your best. That is what He was saying. He said, "The servant, after he does all that he commanded..." And there is not one of us who ever does all that He has commanded. No human being that ever lived upon the face of the earth, outside of Jesus Christ, ever did all that God commanded. He was the only One that did all that God commanded. "All have sinned and come short." [Romans 3:23 -Ed.]

So after we have done all that He has commanded, if we could do it, we still say, "We are unprofitable servants." We still feel ashamed of ourselves. And Jesus was teaching that to the apostles to let them see if they want to be in His service and the place that He has given them and how they ought to serve; that their lives were even to be an example to people in that generation that should see their good works to glorify that God Whom they represented, then what about us tonight, friends?

Are you my brother, are you my sister, are you satisfied? Do you think you gave God enough? Do you think God should be satisfied with what you gave? Do you feel that God is unreasonable to make more demands on you? Do you feel that God is very inconsiderate; that look at all what you have already gone through for Him and He wants more from you?

If those thoughts come in our minds, if we feel that in our spirits sometimes, we should be ashamed and we should ask His forgiveness. And we should ask Him to not raise us up out of the dust from where we belong; that we should grovel on our knees. That is why, even when they got their crowns in Revelation 4, they threw their crowns back at His feet. They knew they didn't deserve that. Do you think the Lord deserved that? Do you think He is that lovely? Let's go on a little more.

We need to guard against the power of sin in these last days. So many are getting so hard because they haven't realized the effect of this last day spirit. It is time to draw nigh to God and let him fill our lives with His love, or we will feel the coldness of the last day church and reject the truth of God which alone is able to help us.

He said: ... "I know your service." Jesus said, "He that is greatest of all is servant to all."

... He became a servant in order that God could elevate Him to the highest heights. And one day in the judgment of the saints we are going to hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful SERVANT, enter thou into the joy of the Lord." It is hard to be always a servant. But those who spend and are spent for others will one day be seated with Him in His throne. It will be worth it all, then. "Let us labor for the Master, from the dawn till setting sun, Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care, And when all of life is over and our work on earth is done, And the roll is called up yonder I'll be there."

He said: "I know your faith."

And he goes on and says here: *Now he does not say here as He did to the church in Pergamos, "you hold MY faith". He is not talking about His faith now, but He is commending them for their faithfulness.*

See, in Pergamos, He said, "You hold My faith." But now He said, "*I know your faith.*" In trials, in persecution, they were faithful and they would not turn that Word loose even though It was costing them their lives.

... Patient as lambs led to the slaughter, lovingly, faithfully they served God. That is all they wanted out of life, just service to their Lord, How great was to be their reward.

Now notice, God promised that not even a cup of cold water will go unrewarded, but that's a reward not of debt, that's a reward of grace. It is not that God became indebted to us and because we did those things, He has to come around and give back to us. Uh-uh. [Meaning, No, no. -Ed.] It is out of grace He is giving that reward.

Isn't it strange He gave you the New Birth, He put Eternal Life in you, He chose you, you didn't choose Him and then He comes and gives you a reward for it in the end? And yet we still find He is unreasonable at times, we still find He is too demanding at times, we still find God is too hard, we still find the Message wants too much out of our lives; we still find, "After all, let me live my life a little bit. Let me live my life first and then I will serve God afterwards." Or we still feel a sense of self-justification: "Well, I really couldn't come, brother; I had this to do or I had that to do. Oh, my children here. Oh, my farm. Oh, this over here. I had my ox to prove. I had my wife to marry. I had my piece of land I just bought." And we still find a sense of self-justification and feel good about it.

He said, "After you've plowed in the field and you've fed the cattle, don't go and sit down to eat. Don't serve yourself before you are sure that there are no further

commands of your Master.” Your service for your Master must always be given priority above your service to yourself.

It has nothing to do with how tired you feel, how sick you feel or what; you belong to Him. If He tells you to do it and He knows you are not feeling well, He wants you to do it not feeling well, to show, you are not serving Him for eye service; to show that His will is more important than your life, and to give Him the respect, and to acknowledge His rights of ownership by virtue of the suffering and death and the finished work that He did on your behalf, so you could be free today, and you count it a privilege to become His property.

He didn't take of His possessions to buy you; He gave His Own Life. And all He's asking of you, sometimes it is time, energy, a little service here, a little service there, and we are so taken up with self. 'Self' is a deep thing. 'Self' is not an ordinary thing.

“I know thy works; and the last to be more than the first.”

This is certainly remarkable. As the darkness of the age increased; as the honor roll of the martyrs grew lengthier day by day, they worked all the harder, they served all the more, and their faith increased.

That is people who had less Word than us and who lived in an easier Day than us. Though they had to give their lives, it was still an easier Day. And we have received a greater Word and we are put in a greater Age – the Age that men and women and prophets and sages longed and desired for. By sovereign grace, by election, God gave us this privilege, and yet we sometimes still complain.

How tragic it was that in the Ephesian Age love waned.

God said, “You left your first love,” in the Ephesian Age – the first Age. This was the fourth Age here.

And truly nothing is said of the increased labor of love in the other ages...

Could you imagine that? In the other six Ages nothing is said of the increased labor of love; only in that Age. They labored, they served, they honored Him as their Owner. He paid the price. They were the purchased possession waiting for the Day of Redemption. The effects of Calvary and His redemptive work wrapped them up. They were bound in chains. It had such an influence upon them, they counted their lives—they were willing to offer it up; sealed their testimonies with their own blood. Love made them do it.

He said:

“I know thy works...

And truly nothing is said of the increased labor of love in the other ages; but in this age, in the darkest of all ages, they served Him even more. [He said:] What a lesson that is. There is no ceasing of this gracious service of love unto the Lord, but rather an increasing of it. That is the secret. Let the enemy attempt to thwart our service to the Lord--our reply is increased service.

Let the enemy attempt to thwart our service for the Lord. What is our reply? Increased service. How many could lift their hands and say, “Lord, I pledge increased service tonight”?

When the faint are crying in fear, that is the time to shout the victory.

So here was the Prophet, friend, after he did all those great works... Think of it. When you could do everything Your Lord requires you to do, we still must think that we deserve nothing from Him. But we should say, “Lord, we are Thine: our lives are Yours, our time is Yours, our strength is Yours, our talents, our abilities, our gifts are Yours, Lord; our service is Yours. Lord, all that we have and all we are is Yours. The children I have, You gave them to me. The time I have, You gave it to me. The health I have, You gave it to me. The food I eat, You gave it to me. The clothes that I wear, You gave it to me. The shelter I have, You

gave it to me. Lord, You let me have these things in life.”

We truly deserve to be blamed rather than to be commended, because the opportunities we let bypass us, far outweigh the opportunities we capitalize upon, because our zeal for God is not very provoked.

When we have done everything – Jesus was teaching that. That was what He was teaching. He was saying, “Do you think he is thanking the servant? The servant doesn’t deserve any thanks.” He said, “So also you.” He was telling the apostles, “So also you.”

He said, “When you are done, you say, “Lord, we are unprofitable servants and we have done that which was our duty to do. Because when You bought us, our lives belong to You. When You gave us the Holy Spirit, all the gifts and talents and abilities, anything that we have special about us, You gave it to us. And when You allotted a time for us on the earth, it is You Who designated our time. You put a boundary to the length of our days here. And when You gave us opportunities in life and You gave us victories and things people compliment us for, we shouldn’t even take the praise for ourselves; we should say, ‘Give the glory unto the Lord.’”

Do you see what a servant is, friends? Do you see what kind of servants we ought to be? Do you see what Jesus was teaching us about service; to teach them what manner of servants they ought to be; to awaken in us the true consciousness of our duty?

Sometimes we think we are going along alright. We think people should be complimenting us. No. We feel embarrassed that we are not spoken of more and people don’t praise us more. Sometimes we feel bad that maybe we are not too appreciated, and we worry little about whether the Lord’s Name is glorified. We are hardly even hurt sometimes whether His Name is brought to shame. Sometimes we think of our own name and our own reputation more than His. Yet we

say, "We belong to Him." Yet we say, "He is our Master." Yet we say, "Yes, thank God for the Blood." See?

He was showing us how we ought to carry out our service for Him, acceptable service; service that is approved of God. Did not the Bible say, "Jesus Christ, a Man approved of God among you; He Who was in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God but came in the form of a servant"? He came so low. He went down where the shortest man looked down upon Him; went down to the lowest city. He went down even to Hell, died a sinner; a criminal's death. No wonder He could be exalted so high. But before He could be exalted so high, He became a servant. We want exaltation many times but we don't even want humility and we don't want to become a servant, but we want exaltation. Think of it.

We are talking about, not what I think or what you think but what God deserves; what God Himself says what He deserves, what He Himself says how we ought to see ourselves when we are employed in His service and what we should think about the measure and the quality of service that we give, more than taken up with 'reward' and 'complement' and 'thanks' that we should get for what we are doing. We should be more taken up with the quality and the measure and the completeness of His service.

Did not Saul say, "I did everything the Lord commanded."

Samuel said, "What?" He said, "As far as God said, I think you went after reward. You kept the fat sheep and you kept the fat lambs and you are trying to use it in a religious way and say you are going to offer it to God." He said, "What is that I hear bleating there?"

Did not Elijah tell the woman, "Bake me a cake first."

She said, "Oh God, but it only has for my son and I. This is our last meal that we have. Do you mean you

are going to take that too? I gave you my water already.”

No, but after you have done what you are supposed to do, make sure that whatever demand your Master has on you is going to be to your own profit. It is not to take away from you; it ensures and secures what you are going to get. But it takes faith to believe it. It takes confidence in the character of the God that you serve. And that gives value to your service because it becomes now, a service of faith, a service of trust, a service out of love; a service out of recognition of the One you are serving and what He is deserving of. And when you serve with that kind of attitude, and that kind of revelation governs your service and influences your life in serving, it gives value to your service. That is beyond ordinary service.

That is why God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice, and God could testify of Abel's gifts, and God could identify with that kind of confession and testimony. But God could not have any respect to Cain's own, though Cain looked like he worked harder. Abel was honoring God as Creator, as Judge: having a right to judge man for sin, and man is a sinner before this great God, and the holiness of God he gave witness to, that he was not even worthy to stand there without Blood; he needed something to cover him to be in the Presence of this holy God. It showed all of that was inside and influencing the service of Abel and had value before God.

That is why when you come, you don't just have lip service: "Hallelujah." You can't even raise your hand. Think of what that is to what I am saying here tonight. Think of even that reluctance, to what I am saying here tonight. Do you know what I am saying tonight, what it makes some of our Christianity? It makes us question whether we really are a Christian; whether we really and truly are serving God. This is Jesus' Own

teaching. If you have a red-letter Bible, it is in red in your Book. Think of it.

I am not saying this in a way that I am self-righteous, I am saying this together with you: He deserves this. I am saying, I am ashamed to have taken away from that – what He deserves. That was His right. He has all rights and privileges to exercise over us and we have no thought coming. We belong to Him. If He chooses us to send us to Hell... No wonder the Prophet said, “I will say, Father, I thank You. If You did that, that is a wise decision because You cannot make a wrong decision. As much as it might hurt me, you cannot make a wrong decision. I accept that. I am better off there.”

Let me tell you, you know what that takes, friends? That is when God starts to become clear to you, who He is. See? We become disappointed sometimes. See? We behave as though God is unfair and unjust sometimes. We feel that maybe no consideration is given to the sacrifices we have made or things that we might have achieved for God, like it is treated too lightly. Boy, our names should go down in Heaven, engraved in gold or something for the achievements we have done. God should be so proud to know that if it wasn't for us, His Kingdom couldn't be where it is today.

You know, sometimes people work for a person and they figure, “You are really privileged to have me in your service, you know.” They didn't realize the mere fact He gave attention to them and the position that they really deserved. They are more taken up, you know, like if they could give something, and don't realize they are a recipient. They are not a giver. They have nothing to give; they are a recipient. The little you give back to which you were given, you say like you gave something.

Like some people say, “Do you know how much money I give to God? Do you know how much I put in

this? Do you know how much I did in that?” And right away we get trapped and we get into self-righteousness and all our power is grounded off. Our appreciation, our gratitude, our love, our humility, our service becomes disqualified; becomes tainted.

Jesus was teaching the rights of ownership. Let me tell you, when you say, “Lord, You called me? Lord, You are giving me a place in Your Kingdom, unworthy me; unprofitable me? Lord, You have so many better people than me. Help me, Lord; let me try my best. Lord, let me never fail You,” then our service could amount to something.

That is why when Peter saw Jesus washing their feet, that was too much for him. It looked like bad behavior but the thing is, he was understanding maybe more than all the rest there, who He was and what He was doing. And he was seeing himself unworthy that God stooped so low for him.

You might say the rest were obedient: they didn't say anything and they didn't act a certain way and they didn't get 'buff' [scolded -Ed.] but it shows maybe some of them thought, “Yeah, I am worthy.” They might have said, “Lord, just by that toe, that big toe, there is something there; see if You could wash that out.” See? Think of it, friends.

I trust tonight that God could take this Word and affect all of us, that if this could produce a little more service out of us where we could make progress and start us into a new realm of seeing Him, of relating to Him, of serving Him, of how to be responsible and accountable to the opportunities and don't see ourselves underprivileged and, “Life is hard for me and look at what I am going through; I am unfortunate,” and this and that. But you say, “Lord, when You made me a Christian, I became a millionaire. I became a billionaire, a trillionaire, the day You reached down Your hand for me, Lord, unworthy me; the day You settled my account.” See?

That is the way we should be. When we are that way, you don't have to beg for healing, you don't have to struggle and struggle to get a refilling of the Holy Ghost; to see the Word open up to you. No, no. You just ask because the heart is right, everything you want from God is to use back for Him, is to use back to His honor, to use back for His glory; not to take and decorate ourselves to try to pull admiration from people to see us: "We are spiritual, we are deep, we are special; we are a little better off than them."

It shows how deep-rooted carnality is still in many of us, when we could take something godly, something purchased by Blood, something ministered by the Holy Spirit and then turn it into that type of thing for something for self-exaltation. It is handling it with deceitful hands. It's trying to take a spiritual thing and make a carnal thing out of it, when we should be so full of love.

Let me close.

Jesus asked the question, He said, "Does he thank the servant?" He answered it Himself: "I think not." Why? Because the master is not a gainer. Not because the servant did that, the master has gained something from the servant. The servant only did that which was his duty; what he was obligated to do. And had he not done it, that master had the right to cast him into outer darkness; cast him into Hell and just get rid of him completely because the master had paid the price for him.

When we think, who could truly deserve to be lord and in whose service would you rather be in? Because we are slaves one way or the other! Paul said, "I was a slave to sin, born in sin, but when I became a Christian, I became a slave to Jesus Christ. I just changed owners, that is all I did. I was still a slave. I yielded my members to unrighteousness, but now I yield my members to righteousness. I just changed owners. I was ruled by a law of sin, now the law of the

Spirit of Life has made me free and I delight after the law in the inward man but I am still His prisoner.” Don’t you want to be that tonight?

Look at the Prophet, he so understood that. He said, “Lord, I am ashamed that I have not used what You have given me, maybe to do more. And when I looked and I saw maybe only a million and a half people in the Kingdom, with this gift, with this vindication, with these things, maybe if I had gone to a few more cities, maybe the times that I complained, maybe if I had prayed a little more and gave myself more over to You; maybe the time when I took the vacation and I thought of my own self or something, if I had used those times even with a thought that something could be accomplished for You and say: Lord, what else do You want? there might have been more.” He said, “So Lord, I realize maybe I am not putting it over the way it ought to be. Maybe somebody else with better education might be better able to do it.” [Tape skips -Ed.]

...his eyes were not on the million and a half, his eyes were not on, “I gave up that money. I never drank or I never smoked; I am really sanctified. It is a holy vessel you are watching here. Do you think I lived in a mess and different things?” He wasn’t taken up with that. That was like no achievement to him. He was taken up in the lack of the service that he had failed to give, and seeing the God he was serving had deserved so much more, until he said, “I am just a pebble on the beach.”

Some of us become islands. We are the rock of Gibraltar. We are indispensable; without us nothing can go on, and we wish nothing goes on if we are not there. Ah! Whoo! Brother!

After you have done all that He commanded, say, “We are unprofitable servants; we have only done that which is our duty to do.” Lord, that is my cry tonight. I am an unprofitable servant. All that we have done that we tried to take glory for, all that we have done that we

try to think amounts to something, Lord, we took that glory wrongfully. It was never ours to begin with. Every sense of pride we felt; every time we felt that we blessed somebody, or You used us to do this or You used us to do that, and the people started to see us 'deep' and they respect us now and different things, oh God, have mercy on our souls. We should be seeing that we are to be ashamed; we could have done better. God, You deserved more.

Maybe when I raised my voice... I should have been a little more humble. I should have been a little more sweeter. I should have talked about You a little more. I shouldn't even inject myself there. When I go to give a testimony, maybe I should use somebody else and talk about it; maybe I am putting myself inside there. That is the way we want to be tonight, by God's grace.

Let us stand to our feet. When we have done all, we must still see a cause to be ashamed that we didn't do better, knowing that one life, friend, isn't sufficient to give Him what His just due is. Praise His Wonderful Name. *Take my life, Lord, and let it be, tonight consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

We want to be real stewards. We want to be accountable. We want to be responsible. We want to recognize His rights of ownership; that His demands are not unreasonable, He is not inconsiderate; He is not asking things that He shouldn't be asking. All that we have, all that we are, we don't want to withhold anything. We don't want to think, "Well, that is for me; I deserve that." We don't deserve anything; He deserves everything. We are just dissatisfied that we only have one life. That is why it is not how long you live; it is the quality of life you live in the time that God has given unto you.

[#112 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Take my life...

Offer it up tonight, every one of us.

...and let,

Oh, just see the Holy Spirit in sincerity, with deepness of feeling.

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Find that place down in your heart where you can let go. All the time we've wasted; we kept it to ourselves and we wasted it. If we would have given it to Him, He could have used it to advance His Kingdom. Let us redeem the time, friend.

Take my moments...

Oh, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands tonight, use them in Your service, Lord. Let them wrought good works. Let them help my brother and my sister.

... let them move,

Oh, at the impulse of Thy Love.

... impulse of...

Take my feet, Jesus. Don't let me walk in the counsel of the ungodly.

... they will be,

Swift and beautiful for Thee.

... and beautiful...

Take my voice...

Don't let me be caught in gossip. Don't let it be raised in anger.

... and let me sing,

Always only for my King.

Always only...

Hallelujah

Take my lips, oh, and let them be,

... let them be,

Oh, *filled with messages from Thee*, Lord.

Let us speak to edification. Let us provoke one another to love and good works.

Oh, *take my silver and my gold,*

It is not mine, Lord, it is Yours. All the silver and the gold, all the cattle on a thousand hills; the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. You just made us a steward over it.

Not a mite will I withhold.

... a mite will I withhold.

Oh, take my intellect and use,

Thank God for a sane mind tonight.

...my intellect and use,

Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Let us lift our hands: Take my will and make it Thine. Thank You, Jesus. We want to be true prisoners, true stewards, taken up wholly in the will of our Master.

It shall be no longer mine.

... be...

Not my will but Thy will be done.

Take my heart; it is Thine Own,

Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus.

... it is Thine Own

It shall be Thy royal Throne.

Oh, come into our hearts, come into our hearts in a greater way tonight, Lord.

Thy royal...

Take my love, Lord...

Let's love with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul; all our strength. Let us give Him everything without reservation.

... my Lord, I pour,

Pour it out as a drink offering tonight.

At Thy feet its treasure store.

... feet its treasure store.

Take myself and I will be. Yes!

...and I...

Ever, only, all for Thee.

If we had a million lives, we would give them all to Him; every one of them; every one of them, every moment of the day.

As we bow our heads and close our eyes, let us just hum it, reverently, sweetly unto Him. [Bro. Vin and congregation hum -Ed.] Hallelujah.

Jesus, unworthy as we are tonight, oh God, unprofitable, we feel so ashamed as we look into Your Word and we see what we could have been and what we could have done and how we could have done it down through these years. Truly Lord, we have failed Thee. Truly Lord, we are ashamed that we wasted so many opportunities that came our way.

So many of our services were wrought in self or not wholeheartedly, but You have been so gracious to show to us our mistakes, our wrongs, and even opened up a channel where we could enter in a little deeper to give a greater quality to our service, to truly acknowledge You as Owner, Lord, You Who shed Your Blood for us; that we are not our own, we are bought with a price.

Sometimes we give honor to men, sometimes we try to please men; to find favor in the eyes of men. Sometimes for promotion on the job, sometimes to get favor, sometimes to receive something from someone that we see they have something that they might give to us, we try to play up to them and try to be admired by them; try to get them to set their affection upon us. What a shame and a disgrace, Lord.

We are not the servants of men; we should never be. We are the servants of Christ. We were bought with a price. Our bodies are the temple of the Living God. Oh God, it is the dwelling place for Your Holy Spirit. Our service should be to exalt Your Name, to further Your Kingdom, Lord; Lord God, to advance Your cause. It should be so taken up, wholly and completely in pleasing You, Lord, and our entire will, should be swallowed up in Your will.

Oh gracious God, may tonight, Father, as we stand here before You, guilty of failure: miserable, wretched failures, Lord, yet thankful in our hearts that You can deal with us in grace and show to us Your Word, Lord, that we can see more of who You are, more of what You are to us, more of what You deserve; a better way how to please You, Lord, and how to honor You better with our living, and how to serve You that truly we can represent You the right way, Lord, to be an attraction that others could come to love You and know You and recognize You and see You, Lord, Who You really are. Surely that will give value to our living, that will give a greater quality to our service; that will make it more meaningful.

How far greater it is tonight than our service, Lord, where we spent so much energy and time and effort and so much ability, oh God, and put so much substance into, to get something for selfish gain; to get something to satisfy our ego and achieve our personal ambition, something that is temporal and vain and will cease when this world ceases, but Lord, to know we can do something that has an Eternal quality, that is for everlasting; that will endure while the Eternal Ages roll. Oh God, knowing only what is done for You will last, Father.

We want to rededicate our lives, tonight, Father. Lord, we want to give ourselves over again, this time doing it the right way, Lord, this time doing it a little more consciously; this time doing it, Lord, better than how we did it before, Father. God, for we realize that if You get the opportunity to take the pre-eminences and the oversight and the leading and the control over our lives, You can use it in a far better and meaningful way. But if we try to hold the reins, and we try to control things, and we try to regulate things by our own planning and our own wisdom, we try to order things, surely oh God, Your way will far outweigh what we can do.

We feel that we have received greater faith tonight from Your Word – faith, Lord, to trust in You; faith, Lord, to believe You. Take our lives tonight, let it be consecrated, Lord, to You. Take all that we have, all that we are: our time, our talents, our energy, our strength, Lord; whatever is comely in us, whatever we have, dear God, may You mold us and shape us in such a way that You will be able to get more service out of our lives. If it takes breaking us down in certain places and remolding us, oh God, Father, do what You see needs to be done, oh God, because there is only one life we have, Father, there is only one time we pass this way, dear God; there is only one time we have this opportunity, oh God. May we make the most out of it, tonight, Lord.

May oh God, we look away from what we want to do for ourselves and be more taken up and give priority to Your service, above service for ourselves, oh God. And may, whether Your will is to serve in the field and then to come and serve in the house, whatever it is, oh God, Father, Lord God, may through the grace that You give to us and the opportunity, Father, and the opening that You give to us, and the inspiration and the faith, oh God, and the courage and the strength and the leadership that we can do something for You, and something for Your people, and something for Your Kingdom, and something for Your Name, oh God, (hallelujah,) Lord, let us not miss that opportunity, oh God, by trying to have affection with some earthly, selfish thing, but let us grasp it, oh God, and let us be taken up more in Your will first than our own will, Father, that truly, oh God, at the end, when we have done what You commanded us and made the opportunity for us to do, we could say, “We have done what You commanded us. It was our duty and we are unprofitable servants.”

May oh God, that grace be in each heart tonight, that we all could say that with revelation and with

depth, Lord; something deep down from the heart, on the inside; not in the realm of the emotion, Lord. Let it go deeper than that tonight, that right here where we stand, You will change us; right here where we stand we will walk away different after being affected by Your Holy Spirit.

Oh God, and what we see tonight and what is moving in our hearts and what is influencing us, may it never grow dim before our eyes, may it not be blocked out, the vision of it, but may it grow greater; may it become more distinct, may it be more defined, clearly defined, and may it be engraved within our souls that it will govern and control and influence and regulate our very lives and our very thinking, oh God, and every movement we make would reflect, oh God, the love of God, (hallelujah,) emanating, radiating out of us, Lord. Jesus, may You grant it, Father. May You grant it tonight.

Go with each and every one of us when we leave this place. And may You help us as You deal with us in this Hour, as You have been speaking to us about this claiming work, about this possession time; about fighting to take that place. Here we are seeing more of that place tonight. Here we are seeing more of the attitude of how to serve in that place. Here we are seeing, oh God, Father, the kind of servants we ought to be and the conscientiousness and the completeness with which we ought to carry out our service.

Lord, like that woman, that widow of Zarephath, she came in subjection to the Word of God coming through the mouth of that prophet. She laid her own ambition, she laid her own desires, she brought it subject, oh God, when he said, "Bake me a cake first." She came in full surrender to all the will of God. She carried it out completely, and oh God, she put herself last after she had served.

We don't want to be like Saul, we don't want to be like Balaam, oh God, we don't want to be like Gehazi,

Lord, using up Your substance for their own personal gain. Like You spoke about those people in the Book of Haggai, Lord, how they lived in panel houses and all these things and were leaving the work of God undone. No wonder You said, oh God, "All that you labor for, it blows to the wind." They put it like in a bag with holes because they didn't put You first, Father.

So dear God tonight, You Who said the firstfruit is Yours that comes out of the womb, that comes out of the land, that comes out of the animal kingdom, out of botany life, out of human life, belongs to You and they had to offer it to You and they had to honor You, oh God, You Who so loved that You gave, not of Your substance, not of Your possessions but of Your Ownself, teaching us oh God, revealing to us, unveiling Yourself that we might see You, and beholding You, we can be changed into Your image and become more like You, knowing we are predestinated to be conformed into that image. May we not lose sight of it, oh God, tonight but may we be changed and become more like You Jesus, until we see face to face, until we know as we were known; until we become the very expressed image of the invisible God tonight. Grant it, Father.

We commit each and every one into Your hands. Keep us wrapped up in Your Love. Keep us under the control and influence of Your Holy Spirit. Keep us humble, Lord. Make us more sincere. May You grant it tonight, Jesus. May You grant it tonight, Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ.

May we, Your unprofitable servants, oh God, truly rise up to be what You want us to be, to live the way You want us to live, to give, even though it brings heartache and pain, oh God; not to be taken up in self, but to look away from self, Lord, and to see You. Oh may You grant it, tonight. Grant it tonight, Father.

I am going to live the way He wants me to live.

[#350 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

I am going to live the way

He wants me to live.

Oh, do you see a way to walk closer tonight? Do you see a depth, a deeper depth that you want to enter into? Just let go, let the Holy Spirit take your soul right in that place. Watch more of His Power, watch more of His grace fill your life.

I am going to love,

Let us give Him His due. Let us be taken up in His will. Let us realize that our life is to honor and fulfil His purpose, and that and that alone.

... ever out love my Lord.

Every one of us, let us raise our hands and say: I am going to live tonight. Live like the Scripture. Let the Scripture live in us, Lord, that we read tonight. We are not our own; we are bought with a price. You exercise the rights of Your ownership, Lord, just the way You feel. Whatever Your wish is, let it be our command.

God bless you.



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