

# SUVISESHA DHWANI

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## JESUS THROUGH SAMARIA

A great difference can be observed between the third and fourth chapters of John's gospel. In the third chapter, Jesus is talking to Nicodemus and in the fourth chapter, He is talking to a Samaritan woman. Nicodemus was a respectful, rich and an old religious leader in the Jewish society. As he was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council, he used to go and meet Jesus during the night time. But the Samaritan woman met Jesus accidentally during noon time in a public place. Even though she was not in a high position in the society or in a high financial status, she was very young. When she was attending to her basic requirements she met Jesus who was judged as a Jew in the first observation itself.

Since it was written that He had to go through Samaria, it is important to consider why there is a need for Him to travel through that region.

We should understand that the need that we usually think was not the exact thought that compelled Jesus.

**1. He didn't go there to shatter the religious aspects of Jewish society.**

As He was not welcomed by the people in Judea and Jerusalem, He didn't go to Samaria to show that there are people who are willing to accept Him. Because of this same reason many evangelists move from one assembly to another or from one denomination to another. It is not ornamental for anyone who said proudly that he is following the dear Lord who despised the shame and endured the cross to act with the aim of shattering others emotions.

**2. He went there without expecting any favour or gain.**

When a person came and told Jesus that he wants to follow him, He who discouraged him by replying 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head' went work against His word. Where are you heading who once turned to the way of sacrifice by hearing the voice from the Lord 'Take your Cross and follow me'. **If your**

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## ALTOGETHER LOVELY

What a moments that must have been for those men, when "He showed them His hands" (Lk. 24:40; Jn. 20:20). What solemn silence must have filled that room and stilled their wondering, restless hearts. Yes they were the same familiar hands that they had seen so often. But they now bore the print of the nails. Wounded hands, and the disciples must have gazed in awe at those evidences of His sufferings; memorials of Calvary, and the measure of His love. Oh, that He might again, as we meditate, show to us too, those blessed hand.

*They were powerful hand.* They were the hands of the Son of God. All things were made by Him, and the Psalmist says, "The heavens are the work of thine hands" (Ps. 102:25). Isaiah also writes of the unlimited power of those hand, and says, "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span" (Isa. 40:12)

Such was the power of those Creator hands that uses the figure of a mother & child, and says of the earth that He wrapped it in swaddling bands (Job 38:9). Adam, the First man, knew it too, when he was set over the works of those hands (Ps. 8:6). Powerful hands indeed that had formed and fashioned the earth and the heavens.

*They were princely hands.* Into those hands all things had been committed by the father. "Jesus knowing that the father had given all things into his hands..." (Jn 13:3). Into those hands which were soon to wash the disciples' feet; that were soon to handle the cup; into those hand all rights to all things has been committed. How reminiscent it is of that delightful story of genesis 24. Having given evidence of the greatness of Abraham his master, the servant then said of Isaac, "unto him hath he given all that hath". All that the father had, had been inherited by Isaac the son. And so it is with Christ. He is established heir of all things (Heb 1:20)

*They were pierced hands.* Alas, that those powerful and princely hand

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## IS THE CHURCH GOVERNED BY A LOCAL TRUST?

Though many may not agree with the view that the Brethren Assemblies are under the powerful grip of the various organisations. But that is the truth. Many of the preachers preach that our local assemblies should have a trust, a committee etc. But church of God has a trust. There is no human ..... The Church was a mystery which was revealed in the New Testament period through Apostle Paul. It is not invented or designed by the Apostles or Prophets. Patriarchs like Noah, Abraham enjoyed the grace of God. But when we think of those period we know that the grace of God was enjoyed only by a selected group. In that group the gentiles were not included. But God has made a provision for the gentiles through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:4) But this was not revealed to the people of the Old Testament period. (Eph. 3:5) Those prophets who prophesied about it understood that they have nothing to do with it. The rule of the church is not according to the law. The election is quite different.

How can we understand it. As the Israelites were passing through the desert the tabernacle was in there mist xxx the Lord God was in centre. After their entering to cavaan the Lord asked the set the tabernacle at Siloh, we may wonder why the lord has selected Siloh (Joh 18: 1,2) All the Israilites has to come there. Why did the Lord choose Ephraim. When we turn attention to 1 Chronicles 5:1,2 we see that Joseph got the birthright of Rueben. And When Jacob blessed the children of Joseph his right hand was on Ephraim's head. (Gen. 48:14) God kept his promise by choosing Joshua to lead Israel after the death of Moses. He belonged the tribe of Ephraim. (num 13:8) God gave one more chance to Ephraim after the death of king David. King Solomon was not able to please as his father pleased Him. So the nation was divided into two after Solomon. Jeroboam who became the King as so belonged to Ephraim tribe. This Ephraim became ruler twice on the basis of birthright king Saul also became the king in this consideration. But the Lord God forsook Siloh because of their sin. then Jerusalem was chosen as the city of the king (Ps. 78:68,69) But because of the sin of Judah Jerusalem too was forsaken (Mt. 23:37, Lk. 13:34; 19:41)

With the rule of king Zedekiah the rule of monarchy came to end. Then see the rule of prest hood.

Church is the body of Christ. The members of the church are redeemed by the blood of Christ. Jesus Christ gave us eternal life from eternal condemnation.

This is by His will, He begat us with His word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures (James 1:18). He promised "I will never leave you or forsake you". (Heb. 13:5), (Jn 6:37). With all these guarantee he established the New Testamental church. There is no human leadership in the church. Christ is the head. There is no suggestion of trust for Church. God had set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, governments etc. (1 cor 12:28), He appoints prophets, apostles etc.... Ep 4:11.

In Acts 20:28 we see that we are purchased with his own blood and Holy Spirit made us overseers. This is the trust revealed by God. That means a total control by God himself. But the members of the church are human beings. So God appointed men to feed them. Our Lord's words to Apostle Peter is very important. The good shepherd told Peter "feed my lambs, feed my sheep" feed my sheep. This is the real appointment. There is no evidence in the Bible for election and voting. But now a days many trust bodies are formed. In many places only family members are elected. The shepherds are very less. The trust members are satisfied by annual conventions. The sheep get food only once in a year. Is it as per the word? The elders and teachers are doing the apostolic ministry according to the scripture. How many local assemblies are preaching this? Jacob told Laban that shepherds are with sheep (Gen 31:39, 40).

The proclamation of the birth of Jesus was done by the angels to the shepherds who were with the sheep. Apostle Paul says "three years day and night with tears I taught you" (Acts 20:31) (2 Cor 6:3-10) (to be meditated with prayer). Is the shepherded with the sheep? Many elders are seen only for marriages, farewell meetings or at funeral services. The elder should love everybody. But where is love? Where is care? Men should be controlled by God not by man. The elder should be able to control his family. Otherwise he can not feed the church. He should take care like a mother. Apostle Paul says he was ready to sacrifice his life (1 This 2:8). This is the true church leadership. This type of governing will not happen by human leadership. So the trust should be appointed by God only.

This is church age. Apostolic age is over. In nominal churches priests and pastors are ordained. This will create a confusion in the minds of many

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## IS YOUR THINKING ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

An English writer, O. Henry in his short story. 'Last leaf' has narrated about a patient in the hospital who was counting his last days. At the hospital bed he used to look at a plant through the window which was dropping its leaves every day one by one. He assumed that, when the last leaf falls down he will breath the last. This sight increased his disappointment. But one of his friends, who was an artist, drew a beautiful green leaf and hunged in front of this dying patient. This leaf was without any change. When he looked at this leaf the patient regained good courage, health and he left the hospital. Even though this is a story we see that one leaf was decaying and the other was permanent. They had similarity in appearance but difference in nature, which influenced the human thinking.

In the Bible we can see similar events. Moses was a prophet, priest, lawmaker and good leader of Israelites. God testified about Moses that there is none in the earth meek like him. But when God told him to command to the rock, he smote the rock. And when God told Saul to destroy all Amalekites and their belongings (1 sam 15:3) but saul spared king Agagh and best of sheep, the oxen and the lambs and all that was good. And would not utterly destroy them. Our Lord told Simon Peter to launch out in to the deep and let down your nets' for a draughts. But Simon, he let down his net only (Luk 5:4,5). We may see some resemblance in the act. But there is not cent percent obedience.

(Jesus through Samaria... contd fm page 1)

**aim is to earn money , high positions and want to see your children in great positions by any means, it is meaningless to say that you are imitating Jesus.** So let us examine ourselves of our inner motives. There is doubt that many works and services that are taking place today are in the right direction. Shall we examine ourselves of the hidden aim behind our church visits, gospel journeys and gulf visits.

**3. He didn't consider it as a chance to protest against the Jewish society.** Since the Jews do not associate with the Samaritans, He was not protesting against the bad relation between Jews and Samaritans. Many a brethren visit assemblies on their own and sometimes it can cause problems in the assemblies. Moreover it can increase the difference of opinion between nearby assemblies also. So it is better to abstain from visits if we cannot have Christ's mind.

Now let us consider the reasons for Christ's visit to Samaria which is hated and despised by the Jewish community.

**a) To erase the wrong rituals and practices.**

Geographically Samaria is situated in the north south part of Judea and to the south of it situates Galilea. But when a Jew travels from Judea to Galilea and from Galilea to Judea, he used to go through the eastern part of Jordan without crossing Samaria. It was due to the racism that prevailed in their society. Jesus who loves everyone is not a follower of racism. Through the work of Jesus we are asked to love one another

by breaking all the barriers of caste-colour, rich-poor. Due to this many downtrodden and uncivilized people were redeemed by the effort put forward by the people of east and west. Because of this many old age homes, orphanages, hospitals and schools where everyone can enter without any caste difference were established. Gradually racism was eradicated completely. All this was done through His teachings and life. People accepted Him as a role model. But still there is not a change in the difference between negro and white and in the mentality of rich and poor. There is no need for us to be compelled by communists and naxalites. Just as Nicodemus went to Jesus, be you may wish that people may come you to attend the bible classes that you take. Let us go out, out into the field constrained by the love of Christ and with a heavy burden of lost souls. Instead of being proud of organizations which receives large amount of money on false statement from America, let us accept the model of Christ and go near the people who hates this religion. (I Peter 2:21).

**b) To reveal God's will, He passed through Samaria.** Jesus revealed the God's will which is His desire that no one should perish and all should attain eternal life. God's will cannot be revealed without sacrifice. Jesus reached the well in Samaria by removing some of the difficult hours and said 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work' after completing a

great ministry. Are we portraying the God's will through our deeds? Those who obey and follow God's spirit can only reveal His will.

**b) To reveal Jesus as Messiah.** There was no difficulty for the Samaritan woman to identify Jesus as a Jew in the first sight. The conversation of Jesus helps her to understand more about Him. She understood Him step by step. She respected Jesus to that level that she called Him prophet. Does the impression that the others have on us increase or decrease when they come to know us intimately? **Does the others have the same impression about us when they saw us on the platform and during the marriage proposal of our children? Do we wish to hear repeatedly the speech that occurs during a property dispute?** If you cannot keep your testimony in your house and place, then why you want to become a missionary in a foreign place? It was heard that there was a time when believers are allowed to go excise chowk without any checking. But today are these corruptions still in our box and house? Today our words cannot influence anyone. We need a great change. Even though the outward appearance and conversation helped her to identify Jesus as a prophet, there was a need of revelation to understand Him as the Messiah. Jesus himself revealed before her. Many who consider Jesus as religious leader and as a model person and who did not believe Jesus cannot able to accept Him as Son of God and become his children.

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We see that Moses was not able to enter the promised land Canan. Forty years he laboured for God sincerely but he died before he reached Canan. Saul kept some of the best things for God without obeying God. So he lost his crown. Simon's net broke and he called others for help. (Luke 5:6)

Now a days we do a lot of work for the spiritual enrichment of others. We use a lot of ultra modern methods for the same. We may think that these are according to the word of God and New Testamental pattern. But it is not so. The outcome of these type of work commonly direct us to determine that these are as per the word of God. Even though Moses smote the rock, Israelites got plenty of water to drink. This was only because God is faithful and unchanging. Many of our ministries are fruitful because our God is righteous towards His promises. The aftermath of Moses action was fearful. (Det 3:27). He was not allowed to cross Jordan.

Dear children of God, we may think that our works and activities are acceptable to God. But when we examine it as per the word of God, we will find the drawbacks. Let us turn back to the perfect word of God. Let the word of God be the criteria of our life and ministry. May God bless us.

Jose Philip

(Altogether lovely..... contd fm page 1)

should be so cruelly wounded. "They pierced My hands" (Ps 22 :16). In grace he had yielded himself to them for the piercing of His hands and feet. It is well to remember that the nails with which they affixed him to the tree were not finely finished, manufactured nails such as we are familiar with today. Those nails were pikes! They rough, cruel, coarsed, iron spikes. With such they pierced the hands of Healer who had been among them. Gentle, kind hands they were, whose soothing touch had been felt by so many; now pierced hands. all this for me, for you.

*They are protecting hands.* His hands are has gold rings. The word here translated "ring" carries the thought of "folding". So indeed is it translated in 1 Kings 6:34, in describing the following doors of the temple. In his lovely hands there is divine enfolding, for they are as "gold" rings. I am safely enfolded in the protecting hands of Christ who will never let me go. His hands are round me in the protection. I am held safe in the hands of both father and son. "No man is able to pluck them out of my father's hand... Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand's (Jn. 10:28-29).

The word "rings" is Galilee in "Galilee". As the ring of land surrounds or enfolds the lake, so the hand of the Be-

loved enfold me, and I am eternally secure. The hand of gold are set with the beryl. The beryl of the High Priest's breastplate (Ex. 28:20); the beryl of the heavenly vision of Ezekiel and of Daniel (Ezek. 1:16; Dan. 10:6); the beryl of the holy city (Rev. 21:20). All the preciousness and beauty of High Priestly ministry, the glory of heaven itself, and the assurance of a city were all are safe within the jasper wall; all of this ensures my eternal security in the protecting hands that enfold me.

They are priestly hands. And if it be argued by some that our Lord was not a Priest on earth, yet it must be conceded by all that he was ever engaged in a ministry that was priestly in character. See those priestly hands bestowing blessing in the synoptic Gospel. "Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray;..... and he laid his hands on them" (Mt. 19:13).

Mark 8:22. The scene is at Bethsaida. "And they bring a blind man unto Him and besought Him to touch him. And He put His hands upon him..... and he was restored."

Luke 5:13. The beloved physician Luke says of this poor man that he was "fulfilled of leprosy". And He put forth His hand and touched him."

(obliged)

**The English Edition of Suvisheshadhvani is a humble attempt from the editorial board. We know of the short comings but kindly bear with us and continue to pray for this ministry.**

**We extend our gratitude to those who helped us in the translation.**

**All glory to the Lord.**

Chief Editor

# LATEST NEWS IN OUR MIDST

## YMEF News

The YMEF General Camp will be held on September 13 - 19th of 2008 at Kumali Holiday Home. The main speakers are Varghese Kurian, Dr. Joseph Madhuran, Chandapilal Philip, K. Biju, Sajeev Varghese, Jose Mngudi. Kindly encourage and send all the brothers and especially our youths. We solicit your prayers for this wonderful ministry.

Sabu Mathew (Secretary)

## SBS News

### SBS General Prayer

The prayer meeting that used to take place every month under the auspices of the Suvisheshakan Balasangham General, God willing, will be held on June 28 at 6 p.m. in the residence of late Prof. Cherian Mathew, Thomikattil Bethesda, Puthencavu. We welcome all brothers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C.M. Chacko

### Prayer meeting for Evangelists

**Pathanapuram:** The monthly Prayer meeting of the evangelists will be held on 2008 July 1, Saturday 10 a.m. at Brethren Gospel Hall, Kottarakkara. We request the presence of all evangelists t.

Evg. K.V. John

### SODHARI SAMAJAM

**Kottarakkara Centre:** God willing, next meeting of Sodhari Samajam of Kottarakkara centre will be held on 2008 July 12<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 10 a.m. at the Brethren Assembly Hall, Kallada. Bible Quiz: James 1-5 chapters. Therefore all sisters are requested to come for the meeting at the right time.

Chinnamma Varghese, 2454181

### GOSPEL WORKS

**Uttar Pradesh:** Evangelists in Uttar Pradesh decided to conduct a gospel outreach at Jonpur. But the outreach which was to take place in the month of April was abandoned due to the protest of the religious fanatics. (This news was reported earlier) God willing, we wish to continue the outreach meetings. A family conference of the evangelists will be conducted in October. We expect your valuable prayer and support.

Evg. Varghese Abraham

**Kozhikode:** The gospel works in Kodencherry is going on by the Grace of God. On 1-6-08, Sunday, Lord enabled to conduct the baptism of 3 members who came from different backgrounds. Here there is a need of an assembly hall for the believers to worship the lord. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who prayed and supported the works in Kodencherry. Please do continue to remember in your prayers.

Evg. K.S. Mathew

**Aayakudi:** By the grace of God, the ministry work in Aayakudi is continuing. On April 14<sup>th</sup> 2 sisters and 1 brother got baptized. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

Evg. K. Yohannan

**Kottarakkara:** For the last 30 years, there is a gathering in a place called Ambalapuram in Kottarakkara. We wish to build a new assembly hall as the existing one is very old and have less place. Please pray and support us regarding this matter.

K.Y. Chacko, A.O. Thomas

### PRAY FOR OUR DEAR BRETHREN.....

**Kuriyanoor:** Bro. John Joseph, member of Pullad Anthariman brethren church and a Lord's servant in Mallapally Madukolly church is now at home after the treatment from Thiruvalla Medical Mission Hospital. We request your valuable prayers for the complete recovery and relief of this brother who is suffering from asthma.

**Hyderabad:** Bro. Krishnamurthy, who is a Lord's servant in Hyderabad Bethesda brethren Assembly is suffering from heart problem. Doctors have advised a bypass surgery. Please pray.

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kavadiyaar church member, Bro. A.J. Joseph (44) is suffering from blood cancer. Please pray.

**Punalur:** Bro. Georgekutty, a member of Chemmanthoor assembly is suffering from heart problem. Bypass surgery is required. Please pray.

**Kallisserry:** Parayil P.T. Abraham's wife is suffering from heart problem. God willing the bypass surgery will be on July 7, 2008. Please pray.

**Gujarat:** A member of Vapi Brethren assembly, Bro. Julias. M.D' Zousa fell from the roof of his house and his hip joint has broken. He underwent a surgery and is in the hospital. Please pray.

**Doha :** Bobby Abraham Parayil met with a car accident while he was travelling with his family. They are in the hospital. Kindly pray for them.

### WITH CHRIST

**Thanjavoor:** Bro. John Das, who was in Lord's ministry in Thanjavoor entered in God's glory on 7.6.2008. The funeral service took place in the presence many saints. Please pray for the sorrowing family.

**Kodungalloor :** Mrs. Mariamma Varadappen (82) wife of late Bro. Varadappen went to be with the Lord on 3.6.08. Funeral service took place on 5.6.08 at Irinjalakuda Brethren Cemetery under the auspices of Brethren assembly, Kodungalloor, in the presence of many saints. Let us pray for the bereaved family.

**Vizhakatnam :** Evg. Narayan Paul (74) went to be with the Lord on 12.6.08. Funeral service of the dear brother took place on 14.6.08. The dear brother was working among the tribals in AP. Let us pray for the bereaved family.

### (A Biblical Perspective on Divorce, contd... fm page 4)

commiteth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery" (Mark 10: 10-12).

7. After describing the marital responsibilities of wife and husband, Paul says in Ephesians "this is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:32). Since no one can separate Christ and the Church, God does not permit anyone to separate husband and wife.

8. Permission for the divorce and remarriage after divorce are not given even in the epistles. Paul's words are very clear and emphatic: "A wife must not leave her husband. But if she is separated from him, let her remain single or else go back to him. And the husband must not divorce his wife" (1 Cor. 7: 10,11). Even if the life partner is an unbeliever and willing to stay with the other partner who is a believer, the believer should not divorce him/her (1 Cor. 7:12,13). It is not the believer, but the unbeliever who takes the decision concerning the divorce (1 Cor. 7:15). We should not blame a believer when his/her partner who is an unbeliever leaves him/her because of the faith of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 7:15). In that case the believer is not permitted to marry. Bible does not permit a remarriage after the divorce. But after the death of the unbelieving separated partner, the believer is permitted to remarry a believer (Romans 7:2,3; 1 Cor. 7:11,39).

#### B. The Responsibility of the Believers

##### 1. Conduct Awareness Programmes

It is the responsibility of the Assembly to teach the believers that divorce and remarriage after the divorce are unbiblical. The Assembly can perform this responsibility through Bible Classes, Word-ministry, Sunday School, Youth Meeting, etc.

##### 2. Understand the Responsibility Involved in Marital Life

The understanding one usually receives from low-standard books and various media is perverted. The Bible is the only book that helps us to understand the things related to marriage and its various responsibilities. It is essential for us to fulfill these responsibilities for a successful married life.

**a. Mutual faithfulness:** Marital unfaithfulness is one of the reasons for broken families. God wants the husbands and the wives to be faithful to each other in their public and private lives. Both should be faithful in things related to finance, sexual affairs and marital responsibilities. "Let the husband

render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband" (1 Cor. 7:3 cf. Mal. 2: 14-16).

**b. Mutual respect:** Mutual respect is demanded from both the husband and the wife. Bible teaches that wives should respect the husbands (Eph. 5:33); it also demands the same from the husbands (1 Pet. 3:7). The habit of publicly pointing the faults of one's life partner in front of the friends and the family members may result in family problems.

**c. Mutual love:** Often we hear about the love of husbands to the wives. Husband should love his wife as Christ loved the Church (Eph. 5:25). A husband ought to have the *agape* love which is the unconditional love of Christ.

The Bible also mentions about a wife's love to her husband. Young women should love their husbands (Titus 2:4). Paul makes it clear that a wife should love her own husband. A loving wife should demonstrate her love to her husband through her submission (Eph. 5:22,24), reverence (Eph. 5: 33), and obedience (1 Peter 3:6).

##### 3. Arrange Pre-marital Counseling

It is a good practice to give pre-marital counseling. The Elders, Evangelists and the Bible Teachers should take the responsibility to counsel the bridegroom and the elder sisters could do the same for the bride. Giving a special counseling for both the bride and the groom by the minister who performs the marriage solemnization is also advisable.

##### 4. Conduct Family Conference

Special conferences that are frequently arranged abroad for the families helped them very much. I learned that the family conference that was arranged as part of Kumbanad Convention (2002-03) brought happiness to several families. The Bible studies, discussions and testimonies that are presented in such conferences would definitely give an opportunity for self examination.

##### 5. Take Disciplinary Actions

The Assembly should excommunicate those who go for divorce and remarriage after the divorce. All believers who are directly or indirectly involved in these should be disciplined. Not only that, the minister who performs the unbiblical remarriage (after divorce) should also be disciplined by his local Assembly. Other Assemblies should not receive such excommunicated believers to their fellowship. Definitely this would create a fear in the hearts of the people to keep them away from divorce and remarriage after divorce.

## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE

Dr. K.C. Johnson, Mavelikara

Till very recently there used to be a custom among the brethren during the marriage ceremony. The minister who solemnizes the marriage used to read from Matt. 19:2-6 and make the newly married couple to say Amen for the statement, "what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (V.6). But now-a-days, some of the ministers read Matt. 19:2-9 without giving any explanations; this tends to create a sense that Bible teaches divorce.

A growing tendency of divorce is seen even among the believers today. Much effort is given to prove that divorce is biblical. However, Bible does not teach this. Let us examine a few evidences.

### A. Divorce and Remarriage is not Biblical

1. God is the one who unites a man and a woman in marriage. Therefore, man has no authority to separate what God has joined together (Matt. 19:6). God views the marital relationship as inseparable from the very inception of marriage. This is clearly expressed in several passages (Gen. 1:27; 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6).  
2. Adam and Eve became sinners after God had established the marriage. Though Adam and Eve were cursed by God as a result of their sin, God did not separate Adam from Eve who had led him to sin.

3. Deuteronomy 24: 1,2 states the permission Moses had given to divorce a wife after giving a bill of divorcement. However, Jesus Christ made it clear that

Moses gave that permission because of the hard-heartedness of the children of Israel (Matt. 19:6-8; Mark 10:3-5). Divorce is not the programme of God (Mark 10:9-12).

4. Many of our brethren teach that Old Testament permits divorce. They take their support from Jeremiah 3:8 where it is stated that Jehovah had put away the adulterous Israel and given her the bill of divorce. But verses 12 and 13 make it clear that God did not cast away the nation of Israel forever. He earnestly desired for their restoration. This truth is clearly expressed in the first few verses of Hosea 14.

Though Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity, God had brought her back under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. Old Testament emphatically states that God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16)

5. Divorce and remarriage after divorce are not permitted by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Luke 16:18; Mark 10:6-12).

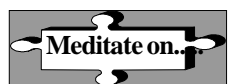
6. Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 are quoted by some to teach that divorce is allowed where adultery is involved.

Gospel according to Matthew was written for the Jewish people. Any interpretation of this gospel should be based on the principle of contextual interpretation. Among the Jews the marriage proposals are brought and fixed by the parents. This engagement was known as betrothal. After the betrothal

they are known as the husband and wife; but they don't live together for the next one year (Matt. 1:18,20). They would stay in their respective homes. The purity of the virgin is examined during the year. If the virgin is not pure, it will be known by every one. Upon the completion of one year period of separation, the bridegroom goes to the house of the bride and in a procession takes her to his own home. Here Lord teaches that during this period of separation a husband can put his wife away due to fornication. One should note that the cause is 'fornication' and not 'adultery.' This is evidenced from the Greek New Testament (For a detailed explanation of this please see Issue No. 5 given in this site).

Mark 10 is a parallel passage of Matthew 19. Here you should notice that fornication as a reason for putting away one's wife is not stated. This gospel was aimed at Gentiles. Therefore, we should recognize that the fornication as a cause for putting away one's wife was given in the context of the Jews. This fact is also evidenced from Mark. Jesus said in 10:9 "What therefore God had joined together, let not man put asunder." After this conversation Jesus came to the home. When they were in the house His disciples asked Him again concerning the divorce. What was His reply? "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another,

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## IT IS NOT REVEALED IN THE BIBLE

Today, man in any of his active field, desires to retain not only praise and fame but also his individuality and name. In this competitive race some come out successful and some face failure. In political and religious fields, in scientific world, even in spiritual world man tries to exalt his field and worships heroes by money and human influence at any cost. Such men are unaware of the fact that, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh". This is the era in which those who have exalted or trying to exalt their name are trapped. Today we can see more men toiling with the aim, "Let us make us a name" as in Gen 11:4

Once the social worker Frederik Orburlin, while he was passing through Starsburg lost his way in a heavy snow fall and he was nearing to his death due to the extreme cold. It was a christian believer who found him in this critical stage. This christian believer saved the life of Orburlin even neglecting his own life. Yet he refused to receive any kind of reward from Orburlin who was very rich. At last Orburlin asked the believer, "Can you please tell me your name at least". Then the believer asked, "Can you tell me the name of the good Samaritan in the

Bible". "It is not written in the Bible", replied Orburlin, "Then exempt me also from telling my name", said the believer humbly.

Most of the men living in this modern era desire to establish a name for them. This desire is that of the son of the dawn or Lucifer. The depth of the fall due to this is beyond words can express. This desire was spread towards the garden of Eden and the roots of this desire are spreading towards the human race as a whole. People are being understood that this desire is deeply imprinted in the hearts of the top people who think themselves spiritual, on observing their activities, recently.

Their godliness turns to the means of gain. 'Wealth' means 'heavy' in Hebrews. In fact wealth is ever heavy. Money making is a heavy task. Its attraction is so strong that it causes sleeplessness. So, many are being caught. They submit accounts to Government. If so, what will be our condition when the Almighty God unto His eyes everything are naked and open, examines our accounts. Let us therefore fear the Lord. Abstain from all worldly fame. Our names are written and declared in heaven. As the believer said let us exempt ourselves. May God enable us to humble ourselves.

Those who take His yoke and learn of Him only shall declare these words. **TVS**

## IN TV CHANNELS

### SATGAMAYA TALK SHOW PROGRAMME

In the People's channel of Kairali's News channel on all Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30 - 5.00 p.m.  
On Mondays: 6.00 - 6.30 a.m. in C.TV (Hindi)

### BELIEVER'S RELIEF TRUST GENERAL BODY MEETING

**Pathanamthitta:** If God willing, the General Body Meeting of Believer's Relief Trust will be conducted on 20.6.2008 (Friday) morning 10 a.m. at Tiruvalla Medical Mission Hospital Chapel. All General Body members are requested to attend the same prayerfully.

K.S. John (Secretary) 0468 2362334

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF EVANGELISTS

**Joseph C.**, Gospel Hall, 60-1, SKC Road, Erode 638 009.

**Joseph Rajan J.**, Kripadhana, 6/54, Ramanujam Nagar, B.K.Pudur, Kuniamuthur P.O., Coimbatore.

**Kanakaraj S.**, Paniel Home, Mukkavoor Villa, Muzhukode, Arumana, K.K. Dt. 629 151.

**Kirithi Paul T.**, Bethel Brn. Assly., Minnagar, Suleswaranpatti, Pollachi. 642 006.

**Mathew Paul**, Cherith, 10/89, Rly. Station Garden, No.4, Veerapandy, Coimbatore. 641 019.

**Mathew V.**, 19 Delta Amritavarshini, Mugappair East, Chennai. 600 037.

**Muthaih S.**, Paramakudi Main Rd., Opp. Govt. ITI, Muthukulathur, Ramnad Dist. 623 704.

**Noah E.**, IW, Pudur Rahamadulla Street, Bodinayakanur, Theni Dt. 625 513.

**Paul K.J.**, V.J.P. Nagar East, Valuthareddy, Kandamanadi P.O. Vilupuram 605 401

**Paulose O.V.**, House No. 110, 6th St., Poompuhar Nagar, Kolathur P.O., Chennai 600 099.

**Prasannan P.P.**, Christian Prayer Home, Nagamali, Puthukottai P.O., Madurai. 625 019.

### A CHILD OF THE KING

Poor ? No, of course not ! Why, how could I be,  
When Christ the King is taking care of me?  
Tired ? Sometimes - yes, more than tired; but then,  
I know a place where I can rest again.  
Lonely? Ah, well I know the aching blight;  
But now I've Jesus with me day and night.  
Burdens? I have them; oft they press me sore,  
And then, I lean the harder, trust Him more.  
Worthy? Oh, no! The marvel of it is  
That I should know such boundless love as His!  
And so, I'm rich; with Christ I am 'joint heir,'  
Since He once stooped my poverty to share.

Edith Lillian Young

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