

The Lord be with you. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. It is a joy to welcome you this morning. Some of us I know were here this morning much earlier, but we rejoice that God has given us some rest and has welcomed us back together again.

I have the privilege this morning of introducing our Bible study leader, the Rev. Arun Andrews, who is pastor of the Trinity United Methodist Church in New Cumberland. Rev. Andrews is an ordained member of the South India Regional Conference of the Methodist Church of India. And in India he served first as an assistant pastor in Bangalore, then as pastor of the Cora-Mongola Church from 1997 to 2007. During his ten years in that church, worship attendance grew from eighty to over one thousand. In 2007 until 2014 Rev. Andrews served as an itinerate speaker for Robbie Zacharias International Ministries, and traveled throughout the world, including several times here in the United States, including within the bounds of our annual conference. Over a few years, Arun and his wife, Miriam, after much prayer, heard the call of God to come to the United States. They stepped out in faith and left their home and their family to come to join us in ministry here in the Susquehanna Conference. After many months and much prayer and patient endurance with the immigration process, Arun and Miriam and their beautiful children, Nihal and Nehara, finally arrived. It is with great joy that the congregation in New Cumberland at Trinity Church welcomed them late last fall, and with great joy, that we welcome them here in the Susquehanna Conference. So I would invite to welcome Rev. Andrews and his family this morning.

This morning I want to thank God for the opportunity that Bishop Jeremiah Park has given to me. I know that this is no small honor to be leading in this devotion. Bishop, I want to thank you for the trust you've expressed in my appointment, for the care you took with many details in my transition, for your prompt response in mails and encouragement for someone far away across the Atlantic who was going to leave home and loved ones behind. I want to thank Mrs. Park and you for being with us at our welcome luncheon, and for so warmly commending us to the congregation at Trinity. I want to thank you Bishop. It's meant a lot to Miriam, Nihal, Nehara, and me, and we want to say thanks.

I also bring you greetings from Bishop Dr. -----, the bishop of the South India Annual Conference. When he loaned me to the Robbie Zacharias Ministries some years back, he gave me just one line. He said, "Arun, wherever you go, shine for Jesus, and I'll be a happy bishop." I thought it was a great word from him. This morning let me declare God's goodness in three different languages: In the Indian National language, Hindi, Yesu A------. In the South Indian language of T-----, Yesu ------. And in my mother tongue, -----, Yesu ------. All of them meaning, Jesus is good. You notice I kept it three Indian languages because I am following Bishop Park's model. He declared himself one-third American, one-third Korean, and one-third German. I wanted to keep the tradition.

I want to thank you, Dr. Keller, for your kind words of introduction. It's really been a privilege and pleasure for me to serve under you, to have you as a friend, and for Betsy and you as well for your encouragement. To Dr. Charles Salisbury, the gentleman who recommended me to Bishop Park. To the Cabinet that met in an on-line call across the Atlantic to interview me. To the folk

of the conference office and the district office, who stood through a long, winding visa process that taught a new version of the virtue called patience. To people like Rev. Pat Woolever, I want to thank you for Candi Shaffer, Mr. Gary Smith, I want to say thanks. Rev. Dr. Ken Loyer, if you are here this morning, thanks for letting me preach that summer when Rev. Salisbury came to listen to me preach. That was a test sermon. He came to check me out. And I want to tell you that my fingers were cold then, they retain the same temperature even now. It's a privilege that he could come and share that encouragement.

Many of you may not know that about sixteen years ago, a team of United Methodists came to the city of Bangalore, India, and among them were two ministers from the Central Pennsylvania Conference, Rev. David McCullough, my friend, and also Rev. Mitchell Hescocx. Dave continued after that to keep telling me, Arun, some day you will serve in our conference. Every time he heartily said it, I heartily dismissed it. But this morning, I want to thank you Dave, for believing what I refused to. I am grateful that you were right, and I am wrong.

This morning as we think about the messages from God's heart, I want to take a moment to just say my thanks. You're wondering, is this a sermon or a word of thanks? But I want you to know this morning that I cannot preach in context unless I am grateful for my context. I want to thank so many people who blessed my life. I want to thank the pastors of the West Shore Cluster, my leader, John Shellenberger, Tom Willard. I want to thank Win Green for standing by me, for writing emails to me and encouraging me. And this morning I want to thank Trinity Church; you've been a blessing. You've proved to Miriam, Nihal, Nehara, and me about cultures can divide, Christ can unite. I want to thank Janice ----- and the leadership team for praying for the last two years for Trinity Church, and these nights at eight thirty we stop as a church for five minutes wherever we are, and we unite our hearts in prayer. It's been a blessing to be a church like that. My last thanks is to Rev. Carl Ford Peterson. He served as interim pastor while they were waiting for me. Someone wrote to me and said he is doing a great job like John the Baptist. I said I've got to work very hard to try and be like Jesus.

This morning, the title of this message is "Alive in Christ One Day at a Time."

A professor walked up to his class and asked the students this question. From Philly to New York is about ninety-five miles. New York to Chicago is about 790 miles. Chicago to Atlanta is about 720 miles. How old am I? There was pin-drop silence in the class until one of those students stood up in the back of the class and said, "Well, sir, you must be 44." The professor was stunned. He said that's right, but boy, how did you guess it? The student said, well, sir, that was pretty easy. I've got a brother who is half nuts, and he's 22.

My being here this morning with you in human terms is as illogical as that deduction. But in the economy of God, there's nothing surprising about grace. It's amazing how God can move us. And even this morning as I am speaking to you, my very beloved mother is in the intensive care unit in a hospital in the city of Kolkata. And I want to thank you that you cover families like us in prayer, because that means a lot to us.

Alive in Christ one day at a time. Is there not a longing in your heart to walk like Jesus everyday? A longing that you're mind will be filled with his thoughts, that your heart will beat

like his heart, that your feet will be quickened to do his will? A longing in the words of that hymn writer, Edwin Hatch, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Come with me to a passage of Scripture that amplifies some beautiful thoughts about how we can live for Christ one day at a time. Luke Chapter 5, commencing at verse 1.

“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’

“Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’

“When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

“Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.’ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed him.”

May I share this principle with you quickly as you consider this passage?

Principle number one: To be alive in Christ one day at a time is this – break away from the multitudes of life to solitude with Christ.

In Luke Chapter 5, Verses 1-3, we find Jesus is addressing a crowd of people who were eagerly listening to the word of God. Have you lately wondered what it would be like if Jesus walked flesh and blood on this planet at this given time? You’d discover that CNN, Fox News, BBC, and every international channel across the globe would be talking about him every few hours, because what he was doing was redefining the meaning of love. What he was saying was redefining the meaning of life. What he was pointing us to was redefining the meaning of destiny. Therefore, it’s not surprising as Luke opens Chapter 5, that Jesus is surrounded by a crowd of people. But as you look at Jesus, he’s going to zoom out of the crowd and zoom into one man. But before I get there, some questions for you to consider.

Where was Jesus in Luke Chapter 4 in the last verse? The Bible says Jesus was preaching in the synagogues of Judea. Question to you: What is it that brought Jesus from the Synagogues of Judea to the lakeside at Gennesaret? Was it chance or was it purpose? Why in a busy fishing

zone does the writer highlight only two boats? Was that chance or was that purpose? Why between those two boats did Jesus enter the one that belongs to Simon? Was that chance or was that purpose? If we're still tempted to subscribe to the possibility of chance, we've got to answer this one: Why after delivering his message from that boat did Jesus not rise and go away? Because, beloved, it was not chance; it was purpose.

The Triune God had set this appointment up in the calendar to change the world. And the God of that Scripture, the God of history and time, continues to do that. Jesus was telling Simon, Simon, it's now going to be just about you and me. That's why the Bible says, "when he finished speaking, he said to Simon" And as Simon listens to Jesus, Jesus, in a sense, is telling him, Simon, the whole universe yearns for my attention, but for the next few minutes, you'll be my world. I want to invest in you. I want to show you my love. I want to invade your sense of morality. I want to give you meaningful life. Simon, I want to change your destiny.

The Jesus who did it then continues to do it even today. He keeps coming, keeps visiting, keeps transforming in the pub, in the corporate office, in the sports arena, in the arts world, in the entertainment world, in the world of the universities, in the world of the church. In this next twenty-four hour section, from Hong Kong to Singapore, to Dubai, to the ends of the earth, the gospel shall be preached, and men shall come unto him.

I was only eight years of age when in the Emmanuel Methodist Church in the South Indian city of India, my pastor, the Rev. Dr. Samuel -----, preached about the cross. And I still remember rising and walking to the altar when he called us to receive Christ. Friend, you can go back to that moment when you first met Jesus, when grace became amazing for you, when you were taken out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. I go back to that city, and if I ever went to that church on a weekday, unlock the front doors, and walked in, by the time I reach the altar, I'll be a bundle of tears, as I run back forty-one years to that moment when grace lit up and changed my life for good. Jesus continues to meet us, masterfully, skillfully saying to each one, a moment is designated.

And then, of course, after meeting him once, we have the journey of a lifetime. Like the songwriter says, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before." Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before. Do you enjoy your fellowship times with him, brothers and sisters? When you come to him in prayer, and you want to take time to be holy and speak oft with the Lord. When you remember that the history of the church has proven to us that the men and women who can stand up to their challenges are the men and women who went down on their knees before God.

No wonder the Psalm writer says in Psalm 42, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O, God." No wonder he says in 1:30, "As the watchmen wait for the coming of the new day, more than that, Lord, I long for you." Jesus invites us to come.

In Mark Chapter 1, Verse 35, the Bible says these words, "Very early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus left the home and went to a solitary place to pray." Notice what he chose. He chose three specific things. A specific time – very early in the morning. A specific place – a

lonely place. A specific purpose – that he might pray. And as you listen to the narrative, you discover Jesus was not on a holiday, because in a little while the apostles come and say everyone is looking for you. Our pagers have not stopped beeping, if we're speaking in today's language. Our cell phones have not stopped ringing. Everyone's asking where is Jesus? And, Lord, you've secluded yourself out in this quietness. But Jesus was teaching them that he had chosen the beauty of solitude before he met the multitude. That he had chosen the beauty of the quiet time before he faced the pressure of the rush time. That he had chosen to gaze upon the face of the Father before he'd look at the face of the crowd. Jesus was proving to us that the secret of success really lies in the success of the secret moment.

Oh, to be still and to know that he is God. Do you long for those times, brothers and sisters?

Mother Theresa was at a banquet with princes and kings and presidents and prime ministers, and people of great power. A news reporter got up to her and said, "Mother Theresa, do you pray?" She said yes, I do. He asked what do you ask God for when you pray? She said, nothing. Mother Theresa, if you don't ask God for anything when you pray, then what do you do when you pray? She said I listen; he was a smart guy. ----- He said. If you only listen when you pray, what then does God do when you thus pray? She gave him the most beautiful answer. She said he listens, too. Oh, to be still, and to know that he is God. And in Ronan Keating's words popularized by the Boyzone for the young people, you say it best when you say nothing at all sometimes. Break away from the multitudes to solitude with Christ.

The second lesson is this: Break away from past failure to fresh obedience. Look at Jesus. In Chapter 5, Verse 4, he says to Simon, "Put out into deep water ..." and do what next? What did he say? Put out into deep water, and then let down your nets for a catch. And imagine, Simon looks at Jesus and says, "Ho, Mr. Jesus. There's some dealing to do out here. Well, I must tell you that I knew as the carpenter boy from Nazareth, and you folk are pretty good with that, Joseph and Private Company, Ltd., you boys are doing good on the Stock Exchange ratings. Your furniture stuff is brilliant. And by the way, I didn't realize it, but you're a pretty good talk show host, as well, Mr. Jesus. But Mr. Jesus, when it comes to fishing, it's unfortunate that you must recognize that you're only a carpenter on a fisherman's turf. And if you're still not convinced about it, here's a photocopy of my PhD. in Fishing from the University of Galilee."

Simon could have stood upon his professionalism, upon his pride, and he could have missed the moment of grace that Christ was crafting for him. But Simon's shoe size is universal, because he says to Jesus, Lord, I worked hard all night and I haven't caught anything. Like some student is saying here this morning, academically I'm trying, Lord, but I'm not succeeding. Like some parent is saying this morning, I'm struggling with that teenager; I'm giving it my all, but I am struggling, Lord. Like someone here in a marriage is struggling and saying, Lord, I'm trying to work this out but it's been hard for me. Like someone out there in ministry is saying, Lord, I'm giving it my best but it's still not working out in my strength.

Like Simon, you can look at Jesus, into his eyes, and say, I tried hard, Lord, but because you say so, I will try again. Master, because you say so, I will try again.

Break away from past failure to fresh obedience.

A Christian had been put in prison for many years in a country that opposed the gospel. And even as this Christian was there in that prison, another Christian was allowed to visit this Christian. And as the Christian visitor came to the Christian prisoner, the visitor with compassion looked across the prison bars and said to the prisoner inside, "Well, brother, is not suffering the worst thing in all the world?"

And the Christian who had been in the prison for many years looked out of those prison bars, and looked at the friend and said, "Friend, suffering is not the worst thing in all the world.

Disobedience to God is the worst thing in all the world."

And Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it so correctly for us. He said it for us to remember that only those who believe are obedient. And only those who are obedient believe.

Break away from the multitudes of your life to solitude with Christ. Break away from your past failures to fresh obedience.

The third thing is this: Break away from being a blessing receiver merely, to become a blessing sharer.

When Jesus told Simon, let down your nets for a catch, could there not have been two voices in his mind? One that was saying, "Simon, nothing is going to work. Nothing is going to work, Simon. This is the wrong time to fish at." But another voice that's saying to him, "Simon, only believe."

And as Simon put his net down, he felt the tug of the fish, you know what happened? When Simon obeyed Jesus, I believe Jesus sent a remote control message to those fish. And just like many of you tellers were running with those telling machines, those fish ran after Simon's net, and it was an over-flooding for Simon.

But look at this; listen to this, Simon didn't say to John, "Boy, this is our day. We hit jackpot. We made it to the box office. It's all about us. We're going to sell what we can. We're going to pickle what we can. We're going to eat what we can. It's all ours." He didn't say that. The Bible says he signaled to his partners in the other boat, and shared his blessings with them. Oh, if he hadn't he might have learned a new swimming lesson that day. But he probably didn't hear what John Wesley said that you can save all you can, to give all you can, but that's what Peter was doing, or Simon, was doing.

I don't know if you've heard the conversation between the hundred dollar bill and the one dollar bill. It's a pretty interesting one. The hundred dollar bill told the one dollar bill, my life has been an absolutely colorful one. I've been to the world's best casinos, cruises, airports, star hotels, inside parliaments, palaces, and the pockets of movie stars, music icons. And I've also been to all the natural wonders of the world. Well, said the discouraged one dollar bill, unfortunately, my life hasn't been that exciting. I've spent most of my life in the offering bags of the Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church, and so on. Let's remember that God blesses us that we can be a blessing.

Is this a hurting world, friend? Is this a hurting world? The answer is, yes. Broken homes, broken hearts, broken dreams. Let me quote for you from Dr. Zechariah's words. He often repeated these words, and as a ----- I've so admired him from a distance, and been blessed to work with him seven years as I traveled with the team. These are words you've heard from him on the radio or live. Words that came across the airwaves many years ago, words of a song:

"From the canyons of the mind, we wander on and stumble blind. Wade through the often tangles maze of starless nights and sunless days. Hoping for some kind of clue. A road to lead us to the truth, but who will answer? Is our hope in walnut shells worn round the neck with temple bells, or deep within some cloistered walls where hooded figures pray in shawls? Or high upon some dusty shelves or in the stars or in ourselves? Who will answer? If the soul is darkened by a fury it cannot name, if the mind is baffled when the rules don't fit the game, then who will answer? Who will answer? Who will answer?"

From across the cultures of our times you have these questions spiraling. People asking, does God really care? Is there really meaning to life? What if my best friend leaves me? How can I enjoy life without messing around? Is there really an eternity to take into cognitions?

Beloved, as you look at these questions, you and I are called to give our gifts, our time, our all, that we might go forth and say, Lord, I want to receive, that I might be a blessing unto others.

There is another principle, and then I am through with this message. It's this one: Break away from being a torchlight person to being a candlelight person.

Jack criticized everyone he saw. Have you met someone like that lately?

I want to detour from my message just a bit. I want to tell you something. I come from India, and India has, I believe, about seven times less land than you and seven times more people than you have here. It's a challenging nation of many cultures and beauty, and yet, a nation that's seeking after truth. And I've served with the Indian Methodist Church for twenty-five years. I want to say this with all my heart to you. I want to say this with all my heart to you. If you ever thought some small thing went wrong in the running of this Conference, believe me, this is one of the best Conferences I've ever been at in terms of church. I mean it with all my heart to you. In the mission focus, the prayer focus, the organizing of the house, the way it's run. Of course, Bishop Park's leadership and humor. And I thought last night, my, if they ever had push-ups as the one bar by which you can be elected to the Episcopal Office, it's gone. And when the team came and did the ----- lessons for us, I said what an organized way in which you can bring the gifts of the church to us. Thank you.

And as I look at this passage coming back, I look at Jack. He criticized everyone. He walked up to an art exhibition with his wife, looked at a frame on the wall, and he said in the hearing of everyone, "That's the most horrible, terrible, miserable work of art that I've ever seen." His wife nudged him and said, "Jack, shut up. You forgot to wear your spectacles. It's the mirror that you're looking into."

Flashlight or candlelight. I used the word “torchlight.” You wouldn’t understand that. That’s more Indian. Flashlight.

Imagine I had a flashlight and this auditorium was dark. It has multiple batteries. Switch it on, and flash the light into your eyes. And then I ask you, friend, can you guess the color of this torch beyond the light you see? Unless you have the gift of being an owl, it’s going to be impossible. Because the light has blinded your eyes, and the darkness has shrouded the color of that torch. You don’t know whether it’s metallic, plastic, whatever it is. Very many times in our own lives when someone else makes a mistake, we flash that light upon their mistakes. We amplify, we speak about it, but we hide our own sins in the privacy of our darkness.

By contrast, the candle is very different. You light a candle; it begins to lose its shape. But no candle passes a resolution within its Board that I shall shine my light only upward without shining upon myself. A candle not only reveals its circumstance, it also lights itself up. And that’s what we are called to do as the people of God.

When Simon saw the miracle of Jesus, he didn’t say go away from me, Lord, because John is a terribly sinful fellow. He said go away from me, Lord, because I am a sinful man. King David in Psalm prayed blot out my transgressions, wash away my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin. Transgression implies crossing the line. Iniquity implies choosing the crooked path. Sin implies missing the mark. As we look at our own lives, friend, this morning, have you resolved to live and embrace the holiness of God? Have you resolved to shun sin and to fight temptation? Have you drawn the line of resistance and stayed within its safety?

As Warren Wiersbe says, “God’s things may not be sinless, but we surely want to sin less.” And as Max Lucado says, “God is not holy. God is not wholly holy. God IS wholly holy holy.”

It was two o’clock in the morning. The telephone rang at our home in Bangalore, India. It was the voice of a man I had been listening to for awhile. He had come searching for me from another place a few months prior to that. His wife had left him for another man. He was fighting a custody rights issue for his son. And I spent many, many hours listening to him. Sometimes into very late night calls, and even on personal moments. But that night at about two o’clock he called me, and in India they do that quite freely by the way. And we pastors receive them quite freely, too. And he said have you ever wondered, Arun, why God is not answering your prayers for me? I said go on, tell me. He said every night when I tuck my son into bed, I lock his room, and I go to another room. -----put a stool,-----, climb up, open a cabinet, and I pull out videotapes with pornography movies and them. And every night I watch one of these movies, Arun. But tonight, I was on that stool, and when I was on that stool the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, “What are you doing here?” I trembled. I picked up the whole pack of them, put them into a bag, and said let me go and dispose them into a bin on the street. Then I realized that someone else will get them. So tonight before I spoke to you, Arun, I opened up every one of those plastic covers, took those tapes, put them on my terrace, used a matchstick, and lit the whole lot out. Maybe from tonight God’s hand will move in my life in a special way. And the man was weeping and crying, as I remembered the words of John St----- said, “There is a difference between confession and contrition.” This man was a broken man.

And even as he probably would speak the words -----spoke in the Holy Communion order, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, this man was crying to God. And I want to tell you, friend, as a pastor friend of that man, that I saw the hand of God move amazingly in his life to restore him in the most beautiful fashion.

This morning, you and I are called to break away from that kind of lifestyle. From a flashlight lifestyle to a candlelight lifestyle. Cannon Michael Green said Jesus did not come to make bad men good. He came to make dead men live. Hallelujah.

I want to close. Break away from the multitudes of life to solitude with Christ. Your past failure to fresh obedience. From being blessing receivers to blessing sharers. From being flashlight people to being candlelight people. And when you do all this, you move from an old lifestyle to a brand new lifestyle.

You know Jesus said to him Simon, do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men. And the Bible says he pulled up his boat, left everything, and followed Jesus. Ask yourself this question: When he turned and followed Jesus, did Simon ever imagine that one day he'd be a leader in the New Testament Church? The answer is, no.

Did he ever imagine that he'd preach the Pentecost day sermon in which three thousand people would come to Christ? The answer is, no. Did he ever imagine that he'd write letters that would become part of the writ of God? The answer is, no.

The only thing Simon knew was the one that came upon his boat was more than a carpenter. He was a master worth following. And as Simon turned and followed him, his life was going to be changed forever. This morning Christ continues to do the same.

Jeremy was born with severe disabilities. Physically and also some intellectual challenges. At the age of twelve he was put in a Christian school. And his teacher, Miss Miller, often tried to convince his parents that he belonged actually in a special education class. That he didn't really fit in here. But Jeremy's parents were strong about integration.

And so while Miss Miller was trying to be fair to the other eighteen children, who had a child who would wriggle in his seat, drool or make grunting noises, she sometimes was tested in her patience.

Good Friday and Easter were approaching, and Miss Miller described to the class that on Good Friday Jesus died for our sins, and on Easter morning he rose again from the dead. And then she gave to each of them large sized plastic eggshells. And so these can be opened out. She said you take them home each one and put in something here that reminds you of life, and that Jesus died and rose again.

The next morning there was great excitement in the class. Somebody had brought a plastic butterfly, somebody had brought a stone covered with moss. Little things that reflected life. But

as Miss Miller went about, she came to little Jeremy's desk. His desk had an eggshell that was open but empty.

Thinking that the little boy had not understood the exercise, she bypassed his eggshell without a comment. She complimented everyone else, but she passed him by without wanting to embarrass him, when Jeremy perked up and said, "But Miss Miller, you made a comment about everybody else's eggshell, why did you leave out mine?"

She said, "Jeremy, but yours is empty, isn't it?" And little Jeremy's eyes sparkled when he looked at Miss Miller and said, "But Miss Miller, that first Easter morn, was not the tomb of Jesus empty, too?"

Oh, Miss Miller realized that one of the weakest ones in her class had captured the glory and the beauty of the resurrection in the most powerful way.

After the class left, she sat down, feeling the pain of how she treated this boy differently, and confessed her wrong.

Three months later, Jeremy passed away and went to be home with the Lord. At his funeral service his classmates in a solemn moment came one by one and laid a plastic eggshell beside him, symbolizing that here was a little boy who knew the beauty of a risen Savior.

Jeremy's story has always inspired me. And I hope this morning is inspires you to say, Lord, here I am. I have so much that you've blessed me with, what can I do for you?

And this morning as you bow your head with me and close your eyes, I want you to just pray with me as you think about this message that God has given you. Maybe you need to be reminded this morning that great things can happen through faith. Someone is saying, Lord, I want to spend more time with you. Someone is saying, Lord, I want to set aside my past failure and walk afresh with you. Someone is saying I want to be a blessing sharer. Someone is saying I want to shun sin and walk in holiness. And someone is saying, Lord, I want to live a new life. Before I pray, If you are saying, Arun, pray with me, I would like you to put up your hand wherever you are as a sign of your obedience to God. You are saying, God, I'm responding to you, and just put it down. God bless you. God bless you. So many of us. Anyone else, just put your hand up and put it down. You may be young or old but it's your response. God watches your hands, and he responds.

Father, we thank you this morning. We thank you for speaking to us in actions clear and loud. We thank you for your Holy Spirit who will keep repeating the words we have heard at this Conference, and even this morning. We thank you for your manifold blessings in our lives, and the commitments we can make to you. Lord, especially for those who responded in specific ways, we praise your servant, that you will give them the long journey of obedience, the joy of following you, and knowing as they walk with Jesus, that every day with Jesus will be sweeter than the day before. Continue to bless our Conference, Lord, and especially the ordination, we pray in Jesus name, Amen.