- Section 1: Matthew 7 and the Foundation of Our Lives
- See Matthew 7:24–27

Verse 24: They heard and they obeyed. They built on a strong foundation.Verse 26: They heard, but they did not obey, and they lost everything due to a poor foundation.

- Translation in Nepali:
- मत्ती ७:२४–२७ हेर्नुहोस्
 पद २४: तिनीहरूले सुने र आज्ञा माने। तिनीहरूले बलियो जगमा घर बनाए।
 पद २६: तिनीहरूले सुने, तर आज्ञा मानेनन्, र कमजोर जगका कारण सबै कुरा गुमाए।
- उनीहरू ती मूर्ख मानिसहरू जस्तै हुन् जसले आफ्नो जीवन कमजोर जगमा निर्माण गर्छन्। जसरी बालुवामा बनाइएको घर हुन्छ, त्यस्तै।
- विश्वासीको रूपमा, हाम्रा निर्णयहरू परमेश्वरको इच्छासँग मेल खाने र सहमत हुनु आवश्यक छ।

हामीले उहाँको निर्देशनमा ध्यान दिनु पर्छ र उहाँको मार्गदर्शनलाई मान्नु पर्छ।

- हामी विश्वासद्वारा प्रभुलाई पठ्याउँछौं, किनभने हामीले उहाँको भलाइपूर्ण हृदय चिनेका छौं। हाम्रा निर्णयहरूले परमेश्वरको महिमा खोन्ने हाम्रो चाहनालाई प्रतिबिम्बित गर्नुपर्छ।
- Section 2: Who Are We Following?
- Let me ask a couple questions... If you are following close behind the Lord, What we are really examining today is who we are following. Who are we imitating?
- All of us should ask ourselves how much of the heart and the mind of Jesus we understand.

How much of His heart and His mind are we putting into practice by imitating Him?

 Before we make a decision, do we consider what the Lord might have done in the same circumstances?

Do we seek the Lord and pray and ask Him to give us grace to respond so that we might imitate Him?

• I'm sure that some of you are the only believers that your neighbors have seen, or can get to know.

Is your form of life, your manner of living, drawing them to want to seek the Lord?

- Depending on our degree of imitating our Lord, Are we becoming more like Him? Or are we becoming less like Jesus Christ?
- Translation in Nepali:
- म केही प्रश्नहरू सोध्न चाहन्छु... यदि तपाईं प्रभुको नजिकै पठ्याइरहनु भएको छ भने, आज हामी वास्तवमा कुन व्यक्तिलाई पठ्याइरहेका छौं भन्ने कुरा परीक्षण गरिरहेका छौं। हामी कसको अनुकरण गरिरहेका छौं?
- हामी सबैले आफैँलाई सोध्नुपर्छ: के म येशूको हृदय र बुद्धि कति बुझेको छु?
 उहाँको हृदय र उहाँको सोचाईबाट हामी कति कुरा अनुकरण गरेर व्यवहारमा उतारिरहेका छौं?
- निर्णय गर्नु अघि, के हामी सोच्दछौं—यस्तै परिस्थितिमा प्रभु के गर्नुहुन्थ्यो?
 के हामी प्रभुलाई खोज्दछौं, प्रार्थना गर्दछौं, र उहाँले हामीलाई अनुग्रह दिनुहोस् भनेर सोध्दछौं ताकि हामी उहाँको जस्तै प्रतिक्रिया दिन सकौं?
- म विश्वस्त छु कि तपाईंहरूमध्ये केही त यस्ता विश्वासी हुनुहुन्छ जसलाई तपाईंका छिमेकीहरूले मात्रै देखेका छन्, वा चिनेका छन्। के तपाईंको जीवनशैली, तपाईं बाँच्ने तरिका, तिनीहरूलाई परमेश्वरलाई खोज्न प्रेरित गरिरहेको छ?
- हाम्रो प्रभुको अनुकरण गर्ने स्तरअनुसार,
 के हामी उहाँजस्तै हुँदै गइरहेका छौं? वा येशू ख्रीष्टबाट टाढा हुँदै गइरहेका छौं?
- 🛄 Section 3: Seek First the Kingdom of God
- As believers, we are called and commanded to be like Christ, to follow His example.

Can all of us think about what Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33 tells us? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,

And all these things will then be added unto us—what we think we need every day."

- We should have the type of thinking that wants to include:
 "What would God want me to do?"—before we make our decisions.
- Christ says to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
 We need to ask ourselves and train our children to ask themselves:
 "What I am about to do—will that bring me closer to God and His kingdom, or further away?"
- We want to learn how we should prioritize the eternal before we choose the temporal.
- Translation in Nepali:
- विश्वासीको रूपमा, हामीलाई ख्रीष्टजस्तै बन्न र उहाँको उदाहरण पछ्याउन बोलाइएको र आज्ञा दिइएको छ।
- के हामी सबैले मत्ती ६:३३ मा के भनिएको छ भन्ने कुरा विचार गर्न सक्छौं? "तपाईंहरू पहिले परमेश्वरको राज्य र उहाँको धर्मिता खोज्रुहोस्, र यी सबै कुराहरू तपाईंहरूलाई दिइनेछ" — जुन हामीलाई हरेक दिन चाहिएको जस्तो लाग्छ।
- हाम्रो सोचाई यस्तो हुनु पर्छ जसले सधैं सोध्छः
 "परमेश्वरले मबाट के चाहनुहुन्छ?" कुनै निर्णय गर्नु अघि।
- ख्रीष्टले भन्नुहुन्छः पहिले परमेश्वरको राज्य र उहाँको धर्मिता खोन्नुहोस्। हामीले आफैँलाई पनि र आफ्ना छोराछोरीलाई पनि सिकाउनुपर्छ यस्तो प्रश्न सोध्नः "म अहिले गर्न लागिरहेको कुरा—के यसले मलाई परमेश्वर र उहाँको राज्यतर्फ नजिक ल्याउँछ वा टाढा पुऱ्याउँछ?"
- हामीले सिक्नुपर्छ कि कसरी अनन्त कुरालाई प्राथमिकता दिने, अस्थायी कुराहरू छनोट गर्नु अघि।
- 🛄 Section 4: A Prayer for Transformation and Imitation
- Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, I thank You that we can meet together.

I pray, Lord, that this time together would be more than just an intellectual or mental study.

I pray that all of us would be challenged to follow our Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind.

He teaches the importance of the principle of imitation—
 Understanding the difference between imitating righteousness or imitating foolishness and sin.

Help us, Lord, to see its significance.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

- We want to see what the Scripture tells us about the conviction or the persuasion of imitating what God tells us to.
- Translation in Nepali:
- आउनुहोस्, प्रार्थना गरौं।

स्वर्गीय पिता, धन्यवाद दिन्छु कि हामी एक साथ भेला हुन पाएका छौं। प्रभु, म प्रार्थना गर्दछु कि यो समय केवल बौद्धिक वा मानसिक अध्ययन मात्र नहोस्। म प्रार्थना गर्दछु कि हामी सबैले हाम्रा हृदय, आत्मा, र बुद्धिले पूर्ण रूपमा हाम्रो प्रभुलाई पछ्याउने चुनौती पाऊँ।

- उहाँले अनुकरणको सिद्धान्तको महत्त्व सिखाउनुहुन्छ— धार्मिकता अनुकरण गर्नु र मूर्खता वा पाप अनुकरण गर्नुको फरक बुझ्न। हामीलाई यसको महत्त्व बुझ्न दिनुहोस्, प्रभु। येशूको नाममा हामी प्रार्थना गर्दछौं, आमेन।
- हामी जान्न चाहन्छौं—पवित्रशास्त्रले के भन्छ परमेश्वरले भन्नुभएको कुरा अनुकरण गर्ने दृढ निश्चय वा प्रेरणाबारे।

• 🛄 Section 5: Christ Left Us an Example

- Can we go to 1 Peter chapter 2? Let us read verses 21 through 23.
 Even in the middle of Christ's suffering for us,
 We are called to follow His example in good times and in very troubling times.
 If you're not sure what to do, our Lord has already left us His example.
 And it says in this verse, we should follow His steps.
- This phrase, "follow His steps," is very interesting. The vocabulary words picture someone walking so close behind the other person—

It's like this—they're walking almost on top of them, touching them, So close to them.

As the Lord leaves His footprints in the sand or in the dirt, We are to walk in His steps.

• Verse 22 refers to actions and our speech.

Our Lord, even when He was under great trial, did not sin.

And His responses were controlled. There was no evil or guile in His answers. It says He committed Himself unto God and God's will, the one who judges and does all things right.

Our Lord has left us a very high standard to follow.

- Translation in Nepali:
- हामी १ पतरस २ अध्यायमा जाऊँ। पद २१ देखि २३ सम्म पढौं। येशू ख्रीष्टले हामीका लागि दुःख भोगिरहनु भएको अवस्थामा पनि, हामीलाई राम्रो समयमा र अत्यन्त कठिन समयमा पनि उहाँको उदाहरण पछ्याउन बोलाइएको छ। यदि तपाईंलाई के गर्ने थाहा छैन भने, प्रभुले पहिल्यै उहाँको उदाहरण छोड्नुभएको छ। र यस पदमा भनिएको छ—हामीले उहाँका पाइला पछ्याउनुपर्छ।
- "उहाँका पाइला पछ्याउनुहोस्" भन्ने यो वाक्यांश निकै रोचक छ। यस शब्दले कोही व्यक्ति अर्काको यति नजिक पछ्याउँदै हिँडिरहेको चित्रण गर्छ— जसरी मानौं कि उनीहरू लगभग एकअर्काको शरीर छोइरहेका छन्, यति धेरै नजिक। प्रभुले बालुवा वा माटोमा आफूले छोडेको पाइला जसरी छोड्नुहुन्छ, हामीले पनि ती पाइला पछ्याउँदै हिँड्नुपर्छ।
- पद २२ ले उहाँका कार्य र उहाँको बोलीको बारेमा बताउँछ। हाम्रो प्रभुले, अत्यन्त कठिन परीक्षामा हुँदा पनि, कहिल्यै पाप गर्नुभएन। उहाँका उत्तरहरू नियन्त्रणमा थिए। उहाँका जवाफहरूमा कुनै दुष्टता वा छल थिएन। भनिएको छ—उहाँले आफूलाई परमेश्वर र परमेश्वरको इच्छा अनुसार समर्पण गर्नुभयो— उहाँ जसले न्यायपूर्वक सबै कुरा गर्नुहुन्छ। हाम्रो प्रभुले हामीलाई पछ्याउनका लागि धेरै उच्च स्तरको उदाहरण दिनुभएको छ।
- 🛄 Section 6: God's Purpose in All Things

- We're going to see that everything God allows in our lives is for His purpose. Where does the Scripture say one of God's purposes for our Christian lives? Let's turn to Romans chapter 8.
- We all know what Romans 8:28 says:
 "For we know that those who love God, all things work together for good." And then verse 29—can you read Romans 8:29?
- We see in this verse the word *predestinate*.
 Don't be afraid about this doctrine of predestination.
 This verse, Romans 8:29, tells us what the purpose of predestination is.
 God has chosen us beforehand. He has predestinated us in Christ to be conformed to the image of His Son.

The purpose—God's purpose for us as believers—is to be made more like Christ every day and every month and every year of our lives.

- Translation in Nepali:
- हामी देख्न गइरहेका छौं कि परमेश्वरले हाम्रो जीवनमा जे गर्न दिनुहुन्छ, त्यो सबै उहाँको उद्देश्यको लागि हो।

पवित्रशास्त्रमा कहाँ उल्लेख छ कि ख्रीष्टियन जीवनमा परमेश्वरको उद्देश्य के हो? हामी रोम ८ अध्यायमा फर्कौं।

- हामी सबैलाई थाहा छ कि रोम ८:२८ मा के भनिएको छ: "परमेश्वरलाई प्रेम गर्नेहरूका लागि सबै कुरा मिलेर भलाइका लागि काम गर्छ।" र त्यसपछि पद २९—के तपाईं रोम ८:२९ पढ्न सक्नुहुन्छ?
- यो पदमा हामी पूर्वनिर्धारण (predestinate) भन्ने शब्द देख्छौं। यस पूर्वनिश्चितताको सिद्धान्तबाट नडराउनुस्। यो पद-रोम ८:२९-हामीलाई पूर्वनिर्धारणको उद्देश्य बताउँछ। परमेश्वरले हामीलाई पहिल्यै चुन्नुभएको हो। उहाँले हामीलाई ख्रीष्टमा उहाँका पुत्रको स्वरूपमा रूपान्तरण गर्न पूर्वनिर्धारित गर्नुभएको हो। उद्देश्य के हो?-विश्वासीहरूका रूपमा परमेश्वरको उद्देश्य यो हो कि हामी हरेक दिन, हरेक महिना, हरेक वर्ष ख्रीष्टजस्तै बन्दै जाऊँ।
- 🛄 Section 7: In Christ Before the Foundation of the World

 Let's turn to Ephesians chapter 1 and allow the Bible to help us understand God's purpose.

Can you read Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 4?

 One of the great keys to understand the mystery of predestination Is to understand that connection all this has with being *in Christ*. It says in verse 4, "He has chosen us in Him."
 In Christ.

The word or the phrase "in Christ," "in Him"

Is repeated many, many, many times in the first chapter of Ephesians.

I have counted between verse 1 and verse 13—eleven times! Eleven times!
 The phrase "in Christ," "in Him" occurs.

Before the foundation of the world, Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of mankind. In the moment we became *in Christ*, our predestination began with a purpose. And that purpose is explained again in verse 4:

That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

- Translation in Nepali:
- अब हामी एफिसी अध्याय १ मा जाऔं र परमेश्वरको उद्देश्य बुझ्न बाइबललाई बोल्न दिऔं। के तपाई एफिसी १:४ पढ्न सक्नुहुन्छ?
- पूर्वनिर्धारणको रहस्य बुझ्नका लागि सबैभन्दा महत्त्वपूर्ण कुञ्जीहरूमध्ये एक हो—ख्रीष्टमा भएको हाम्रो सम्बन्ध बुझ्नु। पद ४ मा भनिएको छ: "उहाँले हामीलाई उहाँमा छान्नुभयो।"
 ख्रीष्टमा।

"ख्रीष्टमा" वा "उहाँमा" भन्ने वाक्यांश एफिसीको पहिलो अध्यायमा पटक–पटक 繰ाइन्छ।

मैले पद १ देखि १३ सम्म गन्दै गर्दा – एघार पटक!
 "ख्रीष्टमा", "उहाँमा" भन्ने वाक्यांश दोहोरिएको पाइन्छ।
 संसारको आधार राखिनु अघि नै, येशू ख्रीष्ट मानिसको मुक्तिदाता हुनुहुन्थ्यो।
 हामी जब *ख्रीष्टमा* भएका थियौं, त्यहीबेला हाम्रो पूर्वनिर्धारणको उद्देश्य सुरु भयो।
 र त्यो उद्देश्य पद ४ मा फेरि स्पष्ट गरिएको छ:
 कि हामी प्रेममा उहाँको सामु पवित्र र दोषरहित बनौं।

- 🛄 Section 8: The New Man in Christ
- Let's go to Ephesians chapter 4 and read verse 24 to see more of God's purpose for our Christian life.

To be in Christ means that we have put on a new man.

We are born again—from above, in the Spirit.

Can you read Ephesians chapter 4, verse 24?

 What is the purpose of this new man? God has created us—created us together in His Son, being born again— To the end that we might show righteousness and true holiness. In Christ, following His holy example—His example of being without blame or guile.

All of this is so that we might be conformed to the image—become in the likeness—of Christ.

- This is God's plan for us right now—
 That we should follow our Lord's example and put our feet into His footsteps.
- Translation in Nepali:
- अब एफिसी ४:२४ पढ्न जाऔं, ताकि ख्रीष्टियन जीवनका लागि परमेश्वरको उद्देश्य अझ स्पष्ट रूपमा देख्न सकौं।
 ख्रीष्टमा हुनुको अर्थ हो—हामीले "नयाँ मानिस" लगाएका छौं।
 हामी आत्माद्वारा माथिबाट पुनर्जन्म भएका छौं।
 के तपाईं एफिसी ४:२४ पढ्न सक्नुहुन्छ?
- नयाँ मानिसको उद्देश्य के हो?
 परमेश्वरले हामीलाई सिर्जना गर्नुभएको छ—उहाँको पुत्र ख्रीष्टमा हामीलाई नयाँ जन्म दिनु भयो—
 ताकि हामी धर्म र साँचो पवित्रता प्रकट गरौं।
 ख्रीष्टमा, उहाँको पवित्र उदाहरण पछ्याउँदै—
 दोषरहित र छलरहित हुनुको उदाहरण।
- यी सबै कुराहरू हामी ख्रीष्टको स्वरूपमा रूपान्तरण होस् भनेर हुन्। हामी उहाँको छायामा—उहाँको चालमा हिँडौं भनेर।
- यो अहिलेका लागि परमेश्वरको योजना हो—
 हामीले हाम्रो प्रभुको उदाहरण पछ्याउने, र उहाँले छोडेका पाइला पछ्याउने।

- 🛄 Section 9: The Glorious End Our Future in Christ
- All of this is leading to a glorious end or another final manifestation of God's glory.

Let's now turn to Philippians chapter 3 and read verse 21.

- This refers to the process now, and its ultimate—when it's finalized— When we are with God forever in heaven. Can you read Philippians 3:21?
- There will be a day when our vile body will be changed and become like Christ's glorious, resurrected body.

This is where we are headed!

According to God's constant and faithful working in our lives now— And for all eternity.

Because God is powerful and faithful to subdue and to make everything finally work for the purposes He has designed.

- That the Father wants us to be like His glorious Son— Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Translation in Nepali:
- यी सबै कुरा परमेश्वरको महिमाको एक महिमामय अन्त्यतर्फ अघि बढिरहेका छन्। अब हामी फिलिप्पी ३:२१ तिर फर्कौं।
- यो हालको प्रक्रिया र यसको अन्तिम परिणामलाई जनाउँछ— जब यो पूर्ण रूपमा पूरा हुनेछ, जब हामी सदा सर्वदा परमेश्वरसँग स्वर्गमा हुनेछौं। के तपाईं फिलिप्पी ३:२१ पढ्न सक्नुहुन्छ?
- एउटा दिन आउनेछ जब हाम्रो यस अपवित्र शरीर रूपान्तरण हुनेछ र येशू ख्रीष्टको महिमामय, पुनरुत्थान प्राप्त शरीरजस्तो हुनेछ। हामी यही बाटोमा अगाडि बढिरहेका छौं! हाम्रो जीवनमा अहिले काम गरिरहनु भएका परमेश्वरको निरन्तर र विश्वासयोग्य हातअनुसार—

र अनन्तकालसम्मका लागि पनि।

- किनभने परमेश्वर सामर्थी हुनुहुन्छ।
 उहाँ सबै कुरा उहाँको योजना अनुसार अधीनमा ल्याउन र अन्ततः पूरा गर्न सक्ने विश्वासयोग्य प्रभु हुनुहुन्छ।
- पिताको इच्छा छ—हामी उहाँका महिमामय पुत्र येशू ख्रीष्टजस्तै बनौं— हाम्रो प्रभु र मुक्तिदाता।
- 🛄 Section 10: Born Again for Transformation
- Being born again is the first step.
 It's a requirement to begin to experience this great transformation.
 Receiving Jesus Christ—by believing in Him—God has the authority to make us become His children.
- "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,

to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12)

- So let's now turn to 1 John chapter 3 and read verse 2.
 The Word of God tells us that we are now the sons and daughters of God.
 And God isn't finished with us yet, even in this life.
- There's more work to be done by His part in our lives to make us like His Son.
 1 John 3:2 says that we know—we are assured—we can look forward to when our Lord appears and calls us to come up together with Him.
- His process, I think, will be completed. It says, "We shall be like Him." It will not be living by faith anymore. We shall see Him as He really is.
- Translation in Nepali:
- पुनर्जन्म हुनु यो महान् रूपान्तरण अनुभव गर्ने पहिलो कदम हो। येशू ख्रीष्टलाई ग्रहण गर्नु—उहाँमा विश्वास गर्नु—यही बाटो हो जसले हामीलाई परमेश्वरका सन्तान बन्न अधिकार दिन्छ।
- "तर जसले उहाँलाई ग्रहण गरे, उहाँको नाममा विश्वास गर्नेहरूलाई उहाँले परमेश्वरका सन्तान बन्न अधिकार दिनुभयो।" (यूहन्ना १:१२)

- अब हामी १ यूहन्ना ३:२ पढौं।
- परमेश्वरको वचन भन्छ कि हामी अहिले परमेश्वरका छोराछोरी हौं। र परमेश्वरले हामीमा अझै काम गर्न बाँकी राख्नुभएको छ—even in this life.
- हाम्रो जीवनमा उहाँको पक्षबाट अझ काम बाँकी छ—हामीलाई उहाँको पुत्र ख्रीष्टजस्तै बनाउनका लागि।
- १ यूहन्ना ३:२ भन्छ—हामीलाई थाहा छ, हामी विश्वस्त छौं, हामी आशा गर्न सक्छौं— जब प्रभु प्रकट हुनुहुन्छ र हामीलाई उहाँसँग मिल्न बोलाउनुहुन्छ—
- त्यस समय उहाँको प्रक्रिया पूरा हुनेछ। भनिएको छ, "हामी उहाँजस्तै हुनेछौं।" त्यसपछि विश्वासद्वारा होइन, दर्शनद्वारा हामी बाँन्नेछौं। हामी उहाँलाई उहाँ जुन हुनुहुन्छ त्यस्तै देख्नेछौं।
- Section 11: Conformed to the Image of Christ
- This is an ongoing process in our sanctification—
 To be made conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.
- If you are in Christ—if you are saved—
 If you have put your trust only in Christ—
 You are now a son or daughter of God.
 You are in Christ.
 - And you are predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son.
- We follow a perfect God in every sense, in every moral way. God is perfect.
- Translation in Nepali:
- यो हाम्रो पवित्रीकरणको प्रक्रियामा निरन्तर चलिरहेको यात्रा हो— हामी येशू ख्रीष्टको स्वरूपमा रूपान्तरण हुँदै जानु।
- यदि तपाईं ख्रीष्टमा हुनुहुन्छ—यदि तपाईं उद्धार पाउनुभएको छ— यदि तपाईंले आफ्नो विश्वास केवल येशूमाथि राख्नुभएको छ— तपाईं अहिले परमेश्वरका छोरा वा छोरी हुनुहुन्छ। तपाईं ख्रीष्टमा हुनुहुन्छ। र तपाईं उहाँको पुत्रको स्वरूपमा रूपान्तरण हुन पूर्वनिर्धारित हुनुहुन्छ।

- हामी एक पूर्ण, सिद्ध परमेश्वरलाई पछ्याउँछौं— सिद्धताको प्रत्येक अर्थमा, नैतिकता र सत्यमा। परमेश्वर सिद्ध हुनुहुन्छ।
- Section 12: The Father of Lights and the Unchanging God
- Let's look at one more verse before we summarize this principle of imitation.
 Let's turn to James chapter 1 and read verses 17 and 18 to appreciate who our God is.
- "If there is anything good—and all perfect things—they come from above. They come from the Father of lights, who dwells in perfect holiness— With no darkness at all."
- God is always faithful to all His character.
 He said, "There's no changing, there's no variableness."
 God stays the course and doesn't change or get off direction.
 He does not have any shadow of turning.
- In verse 18, He says He has worked in us so that we might be a kind of firstfruits, Or a special offering of His newly remade creatures.
- Translation in Nepali:
- हामीले अनुकरणको यो सिद्धान्तलाई संक्षेप गर्नु अघि एउटा अन्तिम पद हेरौं। हामी याकूब १:१७–१८ मा जाऔं र हाम्रा परमेश्वर को हुनुहुन्छ भनेर सराहना गरौं।
- "यदि कुनै कुरा असल छ—र जुनसुकै सिद्ध कुरा छ—त्यो माथिबाट आउँछ। त्यो 'जोतको पिता' बाट आउँछ, जो पूर्ण पवित्रतामा वास गर्नुहुन्छ— जहाँ कुनै अन्धकार छैन।"
- परमेश्वर सधैं आफ्नै चरित्रमा विश्वासयोग्य हुनुहुन्छ।
 उहाँले भन्नु भयो, "उहाँमा कुनै परिवर्तन छैन, न कुनै रूप फेरबदल।"
 परमेश्वर सधैं आफ्नो बाटोमा अडिग हुनुहुन्छ, उहाँको मार्ग बदलिँदैन।
 उहाँमा कुनै 'छायाँको परिवर्तन' छैन।
- पद १८ मा भनिएको छ—उहाँले हामीमा कार्य गर्नुभयो ताकि हामी उहाँका नयाँ सिर्जित प्राणीहरूको एक प्रकारको 'पहिलो फल' —विशेष अर्पण—हुन सकौं।

- 🛄 Section 13: Our Life Goal—To Be Like Christ
- Keeping in mind the great character of our Lord—
 The objective for our Christian life is to be like Him in our character.
- The outcome, or the final result, should be that our desires are in agreement with His desires.

By God's power and His grace, we can overcome all circumstances and respond as He would.

- This character, this desire, and this response—
 All start because we want to have His motivation.
 The origin of all this is the desire to imitate our Lord and follow Him.
- And all of this works together to produce an attitude—
 The same attitude He showed us in His life here on earth.
- We might have His attitude—
 To share the same willingness and humility
 That our Lord modeled and left us as a perfect example.
- Translation in Nepali:
- हाम्रो प्रभुको महान् चरित्रलाई ध्यानमा राख्दै—
 हाम्रो ख्रीष्टियन जीवनको लक्ष्य यही हो—हामी उहाँको चरित्रमा उहाँजस्तै बनौं।
- अन्तिम परिणाम यस्तो हुनुपर्छ कि हाम्रो इच्छा परमेश्वरको इच्छासँग मेल खाओस्। परमेश्वरको सामर्थ्य र अनुग्रहद्वारा हामी सबै परिस्थितिहरूमा विजय प्राप्त गर्न सक्छौं— र येशूले जसरी प्रतिक्रिया दिनुहुन्थ्यो, त्यसरी नै गर्न सक्छौं।
- यो चरित्र, यो इच्छा, र यो प्रतिक्रिया—
 सबै कुरा यस कारणले सुरु हुन्छ कि हामीसँग उहाँको प्रेरणा होस् भन्ने चाहना हुन्छ।
 यसको जरा यही हो—हामी हाम्रा प्रभुको अनुकरण गर्न चाहन्छौं र उहाँलाई पछ्याउन चाहन्छौं।
- र यी सबै कुराहरू मिलेर एउटा मनोभाव उत्पन्न गर्छन्—
 उहाँले पृथ्वीमा जीवन बिताउँदा देखाउनु भएको त्यही भावना।
- हामी उहाँको भावना राख्न सक्छौं— त्यही समर्पण र नम्रता,

जुन हाम्रो प्रभुले देखाउनु भयो र हामीलाई एक पूर्ण उदाहरणको रूपमा छोडिदिनुभयो।

Whole Zoom Class, June 3: Principle of Imitation

See Mt 7.24-27

Verse 24: They heard and they obeyed. They built on a strong foundation.

Verse 26: They heard, but they did not obey, and they lost everything due to a poor foundation.

They are like the foolish people who build their lives upon a weak foundation. Like a house built on the sand.

As believers, our decisions should align with and be in agreement with God's will. We should be paying attention to His direction and obeying His guidance.

And we follow the Lord by faith because we have come to know His good heart.

And our decisions should reflect our desire to seek the glory of God.

Let me ask a couple questions... If you are following close behind the Lord.

What we are really examining today is who we are following.

Who are we imitating?

All of us should ask ourselves how much of the heart and the mind of Jesus we

understand.

How much of His heart and His mind are we putting into practice by imitating Him? Before we make a decision, do we consider what the Lord might have done in the same circumstances?

Do we seek the Lord and pray and ask Him to give us grace to respond so that we might imitate Him?

I'm sure that some of you are the only believers that your neighbors have seen, or can get to know.

Is your form of life, your manner of living, drawing them to want to seek the Lord? Depending on our degree of imitating our Lord, are we becoming more like Him? Or are we becoming less like Jesus Christ?

As believers, we are called and commanded to be like Christ, to follow His example. Can all of us think about what Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33 tells us? Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,

And all these things will then be added unto us—what we think we need every day. We should have the type of thinking that wants to include what would God want me to do before we make our decisions.

Christ says to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We need to ask ourselves and train our children to ask themselves:

And what I am about to do, will that bring me closer to God and His kingdom, or further away?

We want to learn how we should prioritize the eternal before we choose the temporal.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, I thank You that we can meet together.

I pray, Lord, that this time together would be more than just an intellectual or mental study.

I pray that all of us would be challenged to follow our Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind.

He teaches the importance of the principle of imitation-

Understanding the difference between imitating righteousness or imitating foolishness and sin.

Help us, Lord, to see its significance. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We want to see what the Scripture tells us about the conviction or the persuasion of

imitating what God tells us to.

Can we go to 1 Peter chapter 2? And let us read verse 21 through 23.

Even in the middle of Christ's suffering for us,

We are called to follow His example in good times and in very troubling times.

If you're not sure what to do, our Lord has already left us His example.

And it says in this verse, we should follow His steps.

This phrase, "follow His steps," is very interesting.

The vocabulary words picture someone walking so close behind the other person— It's like this—they're walking almost on top of them, touching them, So close to them.

As the Lord leaves His footprints in the sand, or in the dirt,

We are to walk in His steps.

Verse 22 refers to actions and our speech.

Our Lord, even when He was under great trial, did not sin.

And His responses were controlled. There was no evil or guile in His answers.

It says He committed Himself unto God and God's will, the one who judges and does all things right.

Our Lord has left us a very high standard to follow.

We're going to see that everything God allows in our lives is for His purpose.

Where does the Scripture say one of God's purposes for our Christian lives?

Let's turn to Romans chapter 8.

We all know what Romans 8:28 says:

It says, "For we know that those who love God, all things work together for good."

And then verse 29—can you read Romans 8:29?

We see in this verse the word "predestinate."

Don't be afraid about this doctrine of predestination.

This verse, Romans 8:29, tells us what the purpose of predestination is.

God has chosen us beforehand. He has predestinated us in Christ to be conformed to the image of His Son.

The purpose—God's purpose for us as believers—is to be made more like Christ every day and every month and every year of our lives.

Let's turn to Ephesians chapter 1 and allow the Bible to help us understand God's purpose.

Can you read Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 4?

One of the great keys to understand the mystery of predestination

Is to understand that connection all this has with being in Christ.

It says in verse 4, "He has chosen us in Him."

In Christ.

The word or the phrase "in Christ," "in Him"

Is repeated many, many, many times in the first chapter of Ephesians.

I have counted between verse 1 and verse 13—eleven times! Eleven times! The phrase "in Christ," "in Him" occurs.

Before the foundation of the world, Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of mankind.

In the moment we became in Christ, our predestination began with a purpose.

And that purpose is explained again in verse 4:

That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

Let's go to Ephesians chapter 4 and read verse 24 to see more of God's purpose for our Christian life.

To be in Christ means that we have been put—we put on a new man.

We are born again! From above, in the Spirit.

Can you read Ephesians chapter 4, verse 24?

What is the purpose of this new man?

God has created us—created us together in His Son, being born again—

To the end that we might show righteousness and true holiness.

In Christ, following His holy example and His example of being without blame or without guile.

All of this is being so that we might be conformed to the image—become in the likeness—of Christ.

This is God's plan for us right now—

That we should follow our Lord's example and put our feet into His footsteps.

All of this is leading to a glorious end or another final manifestation of God's glory. Let's now turn to Philippians chapter 3 and read verse 21.

This refers to the process now, and its ultimate—when it's finalized, ultimately— When we are with God forever in heaven.

Can you read Philippians 3:21?

There will be a day when our vile body will be changed and become like Christ's

glorious, resurrected body.

This is where we are headed!

According to God's constant and faithful working in our lives now -

And for all eternity.

Because God is powerful and faithful to subdue and to make everything finally work for the purposes He has designed.

That the Father wants us to be like His glorious Son-

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Being born again is the first step. It's a requirement to begin to experience this great transformation.

Receiving Jesus Christ—by believing in Him—God has the authority to make us become His children.

But as many as received Him, to those who believe in His name,

He gave the authority to become children of God. (John 1:12)

So let's now turn to 1 John chapter 3 and read verse 2.

The Word of God tells us that we are now the sons and the daughters of God.

And God isn't finished with us yet, even in this life.

There's more work to be done by His part in our lives to make us like His Son.

1 John chapter 3, verse 2 says that we know—we are assured—we can look forward to—

When our Lord appears and calls us to come up together with Him—

His process, I think, will be completed.

It says, we shall be like Him.

It will not be living by faith anymore. We shall see Him as He really is.

This is an ongoing process in our sanctification—

To be made conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

If you are in Christ—if you are saved—

If you have put your trust only in Christ-

You are now a son or daughter of God. You are in Christ.

And you are predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son.

We follow a perfect God in every sense, in every moral way. God is perfect.

Let's look at one more verse before we summarize this principle of imitation.

Let's turn to James chapter 1 and read verses 17 and 18 to appreciate who our God

is.

If there is anything good—and all perfect things—come from above.

They come from the Father of lights, who dwells in perfect holiness—

With no darkness at all.

God is always faithful to all His character.

He said, There's no changing, there's no variableness.

God stays the course and doesn't change or get off direction.

He does not have any shadow of turning.

In verse 18, He says He has worked in us so that we might be a kind of first fruits, or a special offering—

Of His newly remade creatures.

Keeping in mind the great character of our Lord—

The objective for our Christian life is to be like Him in our character.

The outcome, or the final result, should make our desires be in agreement with His desires.

By God's power and His grace, we can overcome all circumstances and respond as He would.

This character, this desire, and this response all start because we want to have His motivation.

The origin, or how this all begins, is because we should want to imitate our Lord and be motivated to follow Him.

And all of this will work to produce an attitude that He has shown us in His living here on Earth.

We might have His attitude—

To share the same willingness and humility that our Lord modeled and left us as a perfect example.

(a) Call to Action

- Self-Check Ask yourself: Am I becoming more like Jesus in how I think, speak, and act?
- 2. Commit to the Word Study Christ's life in Scripture regularly. Follow His teachings, not just admire them.

- 3. Pray for Grace Daily ask God for the strength and desire to imitate Christ, especially in trials.
- 4. Live Intentionally Before every decision, ask: Will this bring me closer to Jesus or further away?
- 5. Disciple Others Help your children and others ask the same questions. Model Christ in front of them.
- 6. Stay Encouraged God's work in you is not finished. He is faithfully shaping you for eternity.