

Echoes of Calvary



Weekly Newsletter – 2 | 18 – 24th Jan '2026

Dear family in Christ,

Grace and peace to you. This week we're focusing on learning the lifestyle of Jesus—not only in words, but in daily choices.

Scripture of the Week: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” — Mark 10:45

This Week's Practice: The Lifestyle of Servanthood

Lifestyle of Jesus: Love Expressed Through Servanthood

Jesus consistently demonstrated love by serving others. He washed His disciples' feet, fed the hungry, healed the sick, welcomed children, and gave dignity to the marginalized. His life shows us that love is not merely spoken—it is demonstrated through humble action. Jesus did not serve when it was convenient; He served even when tired, misunderstood, or rejected.

To follow Jesus is to adopt a heart that asks, *“How can I serve?”* rather than *“What do I gain?”*

Practical Ways to Implement This Lifestyle

- **Serve intentionally at home:**
Choose patience over irritation, listen without interrupting, forgive quickly, and help with tasks without being asked.

- **Practice humility in daily interactions:**

Let others go first, admit when you are wrong, and resist the need to be recognized or praised.

- **Notice the overlooked:**

Speak kindly to those who are often ignored—cleaners, service workers, the lonely, the elderly—and treat them with dignity and respect.

- **Give your time generously:**

Make time for someone who needs encouragement, prayer, or simply a listening ear, even when your schedule feels full.

- **Serve in your church and community:**

Volunteer consistently, not for visibility but out of love for God and people.

- **Respond to conflict with grace:**

Choose forgiveness over resentment and kindness over retaliation, reflecting Christ's heart in difficult moments.

Reflection: How can I reflect the heart of Jesus through simple acts of service this week? Following Christ means choosing love that serves—especially when no one is watching May we walk in His footsteps, loving as He loved and serving as He served.

Upcoming Events to add in your daily prayers :

- Get-together, Bangalore – 16th Feb'26
- Wednesday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM
- Friday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM
- Sunday services – 8am and 3pm onwards
- Children's Global Sunday school — Saturday, 7pm onwards on zoom

Events that happened in 4th week of Jan'26 to seek the fruit of the Word sown in your daily prayers (18th to 24th Jan'26):

➤ Sunday Worship on 18th Jan'26:

Meditated on how Stephen's martyrdom exemplifies the hardest Christian act: praying "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:59-60) while being stoned, which led to Saul's conversion to Paul and 13,000 km of missionary journeys across three continents (Asia, Africa, Europe), impacting thousands and proving that forgiving enemies can trigger massive spiritual transformation. Below are some points for us to follow:

- ✓ Live by God's Word, not worldly standards—Spirit-filled with matching words and actions
- ✓ Share the Gospel on buses, trains, and flights—even briefly—collecting phone numbers/photos to follow up
- ✓ Take 10–15 minutes to personally connect, encourage, and share the Gospel wherever you go
- ✓ Focus on raising soul-winners, not just counting conversions (like the village pastor who produced many "fishers of men")
- ✓ Pray for those who accuse or persecute you, like Stephen did (Acts 7:59–60)
- ✓ Release revenge, trust God as your defender, and forgive even when it's hardest
- ✓ Stephen's prayer helped lead to Saul's conversion, who later preached across 3 continents (13,000 km)
- ✓ Serve God with holiness and the Holy Spirit's presence—not perfection.

➤ Midweek Prayer, Wednesday 21st Jan'26:

Meditated on Luke chapter 10, focuses on Jesus sending out His followers and teaching what it means to truly love God and others. Jesus sends out the 72 (or 70, depending on translation) disciples in pairs to towns ahead of Him. He gives them authority to heal and announce that the Kingdom of God is near. They are to rely on God, accept hospitality, and move on if rejected.

Here are a few points for us to keep in mind:

- ✓ God prepares His servants through tests and trials, shaping them over time before using them.
- ✓ Jesus trained His disciples carefully and strategically, sending them in pairs to understand people's needs and situations.
- ✓ Ministry requires full focus on Jesus, avoiding distractions. Authority to heal and deliver came as part of their calling.
- ✓ Failure doesn't mean the end—there may be delays, but God doesn't stop His work.
- ✓ God often uses the weak and humble to fulfill His purposes (1 Corinthians 1:27–29).
- ✓ Leaving one's calling can result in loss of blessing, as seen in Judas.
- ✓ Even small faith can do great things when strength comes from Christ, not personal ability.
- ✓ Prayer should be specific and intentional, not general or careless.
- ✓ The church's role is to support the weak, not reject them—believers must carry one another's burdens.
- ✓ Share the gospel through all available media including phone calls, printed materials, social media, and street evangelism, traveling to villages monthly at your own expense to reach the lost and broken in your city.

➤ **Friday Fasting Prayer, Wednesday 23rd Jan'26:**

we meditated on God's Word— "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

- ✓ Prayer is the main weapon God gives believers to overcome problems and opposition.
- ✓ Obstacles are not meant to stop us but to push us to pray with perseverance.
- ✓ Victory comes by kneeling in prayer, not by giving up when difficulties arise.
- ✓ Long prayer time shows deep commitment and requires full focus without distraction.
- ✓ Half-hearted, doubtful prayers bring little result, but persistent and focused prayer brings answers.
- ✓ God responds to prayers offered with thanksgiving, not complaints or demands.
- ✓ Complaining in prayer grieves God; praise and gratitude please Him.
- ✓ Ministries without strong prayer have little impact; more prayer brings greater blessing and expansion.
- ✓ Set aside extended time to pray with a single mind and no distractions.
- ✓ Pray alone in a quiet place and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers.
- ✓ Pour out every burden at Jesus' feet and receive God's peace.
- ✓ Pray specifically for the needs of the church and its leaders.
- ✓ Keep your thoughts focused on what is true, pure, good, and praiseworthy.
- ✓ Avoid negative thinking, criticism, and self-condemnation.
- ✓ Rejoice in the Lord always and love others, even in difficult situations.
- ✓ Living this way keeps the peace of God with you.

➤ **Sunday school Children's retreat, Saturday 24th Jan'26:**

"Lord, show me Your ways and teach me Your paths." — Psalm 25:4

The Sunday School Children's Retreat was a joyful and meaningful experience filled with learning, fellowship, and fun. The children participated in engaging Bible lessons, interactive activities, songs, and games that helped them better understand God's love and how to live out Christian values in their daily lives. Through group discussions, crafts, and team-building activities, the children built friendships, learned to work together, and grew in confidence. The retreat also provided a safe and nurturing environment for prayer and reflection, allowing the children to strengthen their relationship with God. They even practiced praying holding hands as pairs like how the elders do in the worship. Overall, the retreat was a memorable and spiritually enriching event that encouraged faith growth, joy, and unity among the children.

Please keep in prayer the Word that was sown this week, that each of us may continue to meditate on it and bear fruit in our lives. Let us also pray for everyone in the church to overcome the trials and attacks of Satan in our daily lives, standing firm in faith. Additionally, please remember all the other church ministries taking place in your prayers.

May the Lord teach you His ways and strengthen you to walk

as Jesus walked! Amen!

**With love,
Dr. N. Jayapaul,
Calvary Church Chennai.**