

# God's Second Chance To Man

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God has a message for us this morning and the message is borne out of His love for mankind. The topic of the message is Second chance given to man by God.

God the creator of heaven and earth has no pleasure in death of any man. He will go to any length; he will go to any extent to ensure that every person passing through this way of life gets saved before he crosses to the great beyond. Especially, those whom he had saved from their life of sin, God expend a special care over them to ensure that the race they have started they accomplish it. In between the journey to heaven and the consummation of the journey which is entering into heaven, there are a lot of vicissitudes of life; there are a lot of changing circumstances which may sometimes flaw our vision to heaven. God been the creator of heaven and earth, is aware of this changing circumstances of life. That is why in His economy, he had made provision for another chance. He had made provision for another chance, in case through your carelessness, through the deceitfulness of the enemy of our soul, you have lost ground with God that is no reason why you should bemoan your lot. God is willing and ready to give you another chance. That is the object of our focus this afternoon. -**Second chance given to man by God.**

Why this sermon? Let us turn to Ps 37.23,24

**23**The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. **Psalm 37:23-24**

Who is the good man here? No one is good. What is consider best in our life, is regarded as filthy rag in the sight of God. We are all bad, we are all sinners, we are all wicked, we are all useless in the sight of God, but through the loving kindness of God, through the provision he made at Calvary, he brought us to himself, he dug us from the miry clay of sin. He dug us out of the sinfulness of this life, and he brought us unto himself. Having brought us, he washed us from our sin, and he gave us as it were a licence to go and operate without committing sin again. That is why, or that is how we become good men. It is through the lovingkindness of God that we can answer to that name a good man. It is the economy of God that we answer to that title a child of God. We are told that the steps of a good man, the steps of a righteous man or the steps of child of God are ordered by God. That is one assurance I want to give you at the beginning of this message. Are you a child of God? I congratulate you, I rejoice with you. Are you a child of God? Yes you are a child of the king. Are you a child of God? Yes, you have hope of eternal life. Are you a child of God? Your hope is not limited to this earth; the goals are far beyond this terrestrial globe. That being the case therefore, you have to be reassured in the fact that, every step you take is ordered by God. Whether you are at the mountain top, God is there, in the valley, God is there, whether on the level ground, God is there.

**Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. Psalm 37:24**

Though he fall, the good man, the child of God, the son of God, the Christian man, the Christian woman, why these three words - Though he fall. Is God not able to uphold? He is able. But due to circumstances surrounding us, our souls have been saved; our bodies have not been saved. Times without number, our bodies' compromise with sin, compromise with flesh and the world with a view to making us to fall. A child of God, yes you are a child of God, and I congratulate you, but you are living in a sinful environment. Was it possible for us like the three disciples who were on the mount of transfiguration with Jesus Christ, the place was so pleasant, the experience was so glorious, that Peter was also pleading with Jesus Christ that he should allow them to build some tabernacles there, one for him, one for Elijah, and one for Moses. He was not even mindful of where he and his colleagues will abide, for as long as they were there. He was satisfied that things will be alright. In spite of these glorious experiences that we have from saving us from our life of sins, there is the possibility of falling. Do not let that scare you. Do not let that make you give it a second thought that is this salvation not durable? Salvation is durable. Is this salvation not a lasting one? It is a lasting one. Is this salvation not able to carry me through life? It is able. But the fact is that, it is your soul that had been saved, but not your body. The world in which you are, has not been saved, the environment, the neighborhood where you are living, people there have not been saved. All of these put together constitute a problem. He says, 'Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down. Glory be to God. He shall not be utterly cast down. What a

wonderful God we have, what a wonderful Saviour we have, what a wonderful Father we have. Even in our fallen state, he says he will not cast down. You know when your enemy fell before you, the next thing is to match on him, and yes you are served right. But God does not have such an attitude. When you fall, he says he will not cast you utterly down, why? For the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. Glory be to God. Amen. One thing I want you to know is that it is not you holding God. If you were the one holding God you will fall. It is God holding us. The hand of God is powerful, the hand of God is mighty, there is nothing that can sever us from the hand of God. That is the assurance and the foundation that I want you to build in your heart, on this topic of God second chance given to man. I do not know your state this morning but if you have falling, I congratulate you; God will not utterly cast you down, why? Because God holds your hand.

## GOD'S ATTITUDE TO MAN'S FALL

Let us turn to Psalm 78, we want to see God's attitude to man's failure.

**40**How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! **41**Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. [Psalm 78:40-41](#)

This is about the children of Israel, our counterpart, God's own children in their own days. In God's great economy, he brought them out of the Egyptian bondage, out of slavery, out of servitude. He brought them unto himself, so that they would be able to serve him and live for him all the days of their life in the promise land. It was not through their effort they were able to get out of Egypt; it was through the power and might of God. I want you to equate yourself with the children of Israel while they were in Egypt, while you were in the world, when you were in sin. Is there anybody here who could remember how he was able to get over one single sin in his life? No one, No one is able. Many of us have tried ways and means where we could live a life above sin and get out of the shackles, the fetters, of the enemy of our soul. The more we tried, the more involved we became. It is finding you in the miry clay. If you have lived in the up country, if you make the mistake of stepping into the miry clay with your right foot, and while you are stepping to bring that out, the left one is inside, unless someone comes your way, you cannot get out of the miry clay, that was the picture of your life, the picture of my life before we came to the present state in which we are today. During the time of Israel, he brought them out of Egypt with his mighty power, he lead them through the Red Sea with his mighty power, and when they got to the other side of the Red Sea, there was a song of Moses, a song of Redemption, the song of victory. All along their path ways, there were a lot of problems, no food, God gave them food, no water, and God gave them water. There was a time when the water was sour, was bitter, God made the water sweet, that was the condition of life, no condition is permanent. But there came a time in the life of these people, the commonest thing in the life of the people of Israel was murmuring, grumbling, why did God bring us out now? We could have remained in Egypt, and began to eat our cucumber, and began to eat our onions, and began to eat our vegetables, oh no, no, we are not going back to Egypt, definitely we are not going back to Egypt Amen. By God's grace the bridge that connects us with Egypt that is the world, it has been burnt, and it was not broken, because what had been broken can be mended, but this time the bridge that connects us with the world had been burnt. We are not going back to Egypt, the children of Israel, with any little problem, they murmur, and think of Egypt. Please my dear Christian brother and sisters, no matter the lowness of your faith, think not, it is not in your record that you will go back to Egypt, you will not go back. Why? Because the one who holds your hand is mightier than Egypt, is mightier than the world. But these people provoked God to anger. In spite of their provocation, God had no pleasure in their returning to Egypt. There was a time Moses was telling God that if you did not save these people now, the heathen surrounding them would say after all that was their end, their God was not able to do it, but our God is able. God who had started us on the race would see us accomplish it. That is it. Moses told God that if you would not take these people to the promises land it would be shame on you, because the people around would say that God was not able to do it, but God was able to do it. And he did it, for as many of them that were obedient to God. May God make us obedient?

Let us see Psalm 78.38,39

**38**But he, *being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.* **39**For he remembered that they *were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.* [Psalm 78:38-39](#)

That is the God we our serving, that is the Saviour we have - God of second chance. Nobody would query God if he had destroyed them at the slightest murmuring. But God would not. Nobody would ask God why you have done this if they have perished in the Red Sea, nobody would query. Nobody would query God if there was no food for them and if they should die of hunger, but God is not like that. Look at the attributes of God described here. He, being full of compassion, can you measure God's compassion, no one can. God is our benefactor. All that we have in life comes from him, because all good and perfect gifts come from the father of life. Look at kindness of God towards these people in spite of they provoking him to anger because of his compassion, he did not destroy them. That is what we want to think about with regard to God's attitude to our fall. When we fall, let us see Proverbs 24.16.

**16**For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. [Proverbs 24:16](#)

Who is the just man? We are taken out of the righteousness of Jesus Christ to make us just. It is out of the lovingkindness of God that we are regarded righteous. It states that the just man falleth seven times. I am not encouraging rising and fall

Christianity. No, but I am telling you that if your lot as at now is you are falling, you are going to rise again. It states the just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again. Why is he able to rise because God held his hand? If God did not hold your hand, at the first fall, the enemy would come and say I have got him, and would make an end of you there, but the one holding your hand was around, "...he is my sheep, he is not going anywhere, I am not leaving him, I am protecting, I am guiding, I am succouring him, I am raising him", Glory be to God. Amen. We thank God for the wholesome Gospel. I call it wholesome Gospel. The gospel that takes care of us when we were sinners, the gospel that takes care of us when we are his children, the gospel that takes care of us when we fall.

God's second chance- We are grateful to God for giving us this second chance in our life. I do not know your state, whether you have fallen may be you have lost focus. Yes, I congratulate you because there is a God of compassion here, there is a God that gives a second chance, and He gives second chance, until the last chance that will take us to heaven. Glory be to him.

### **MAN IS LIKE A MARRED VESSEL IN THE HAND OF GOD – THE GREAT POTTER**

As Bible students our mind will quickly go to the book of Jeremiah. In chapter 18 of Jeremiah, God told Jeremiah go to the potter's house, and watch him make some vessels on his wheel. That is how we are. We are a vessels, may be a cup, tumbler. Flower vase or bowl. God made us, and we are differently made. Our facial appearances differ from one to the other, our temperament differ one to the other. Our races are not the same; our languages are not the same. Who made all these? It is God. Recently we studied how God confused the language of man, as a result of their disobedience, as a result of them going to where they did not belong. That is why we are speaking different languages again. We are like vessels in the hand of God the great potter.

God is wonderful, when God is going to do something stupendous, something great, he starts with problem. Let us see that great murderer, the murderer who turned out to be leader of Israel. How can we equate the two? The murderer became a leader of God's people. Let us turn to Exodus 2.11:

**11**And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. **12**And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was no man*, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. **13**And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? **14**And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known. **Exodus 2:11-14**

You know the circumstances surrounding the birth of Moses; there was a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph. By the time Moses was born, a decree went out of the land of Egypt that all male children must be slaughtered, must not be allowed to see the light of day. But the midwives have the fear of God in them, and whenever they went about to do their midwifery works, before they got there, the Hebrew women have delivered already. There was a query that why did they do that, oh, the Hebrew women were not like the Egyptian women. My dear sister, married sisters, never you equate yourself with the women around; you are not the same at all. You are different. The midwives told the king, before we got there, they would have delivered. They would not stand up to allow us to kill their children. In spite of these obnoxious decrees, the children of Israel started to grow. It was at this time Moses was born. When he was born, he was a fair child, his mother kept him for three months. A child of three months cannot be hidden, he started to cry, the neighbours heard. The mother had to contrive a method. They made a basket, cover it with a waterproof substance and put it by the riverside. There the daughter of Pharaoh, picked him and adopted him as her own child, and brought Moses into the King palace. God works in a mysterious way, his wonder to perform. The wrath of man easily praises God. God was going to train Moses at the expense of Egypt. Moses in return would come to afflict the Egyptians. That is our God. He works in a mysterious way. Are you in a mysterious situation today, why don't you hold your peace? You do not know tomorrow. You do not know what God will do tomorrow, why are you upset today. A brother was sharing his experience with me at a grave side, he said that what he swore that something would not happen many years ago, however he is now eating by that very thing that he said would not happen. So do not tamper with God's plan for your life. Moses was in the king's palace. In fact he was to become a king, because the king's daughter had no child, he had all the training, all the experience in the palace of the king of Egypt. He had all the bounties, all the respect that was accorded to a prince, but there is a saying that 'East or West, home is the best'. There was something telling Moses, that 'I do not belong to this place, I do not belong here'. Have you ever felt comfortable when you are in the midst of sinners? If you are truly saved, you cannot feel comfortable in the midst of sinners. When you look at Lot, we are told that the wickedness of the people Sodom and Gomorrah were a concern for Lot. Moses felt that I do not belong here. Occasionally he went out and saw his brethren been afflicted, they made bricks without straws, without water, and oh the labour was hard. He identified himself with them. He identified himself to suffer with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season. At one occasion, he saw an Egyptian maltreating a Hebrew, oh no, he could not tolerate it; he looked here and there, and helped his brother the Hebrew to kill the Egyptian. He looked here and there, and buried him in the sand, and he went his way, he thought he was working for God. Please let us learn a lesson here; God has a plan far above the mind of man. God has a plan for your life, do not try to quash that plan, do not try to side track that plan, and do not try to

withdraw from that plan. Just stay where you are. At his own time, God will bring it to past at his own time, at his own economy.

The following day, Moses went out as usual, he saw two Hebrew quarrelling. 'Oh why are you doing that, do you not know he is your brother, he is Abraham, and he is Lot, why are you doing that.' 'What do you mean; you want to kill us as you killed the Egyptian yesterday'. 'Oh what I thought was a secret, so is now public'. My dear brother, my dear sister, my visitors this morning, the sin you committed in your chamber, is right in the sight of God. The sin you commit at your place of work, the fast angel is writing it against your name, against your record. When Moses realized this, he was afraid, and he had to run away. God took him to a school of experience. We need experience. It is not enough to be saved, sanctified and baptized with the Holy Spirit, we need experience. An experience is something that will happen in our life that will take us into the school of experience. Moses went to Midian. He was there for forty years, and while he was there God was training him. May be God is hiding you in the corner now, please be patient with God. God had not forgotten you; he is working out his program for your life. Moses was there tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. One day God called him, you are the man, which man Sir? You are going to deliver the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, Oh no, over my dead body, I do not have the qualification, but God said you are the one; a murderer -- second chance. Have you committed any sin, outrageous sin, there is no sin that is outrageous in the sight of God for as long as you are penitent, as long as you are repentant, and for as long as you plead the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ covers everything. During the forty years of experience, Moses must have made his peace with God. God had saved him from his life of sin; he had changed him completely, because this time around he was not the active type of person. He was very active while in Egypt, he wanted to see the plan of God fulfilled immediately. But this time around, oh no, I do not want to go ahead of God. God said, 'I have prepared you, you are now ready. You are now no more a murderer, you are going to be the leader of my people' - God's second chance. God of Moses is the God we are serving. Do you know why God does that? Why God does not remember our sins? Micah 7:18,19

**18**Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. **19**He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. **Micah 7:18-19**

If God was to retain his anger for ever, he would have written off Moses. A murderer, no, I have no part with you. But God does not retain his anger for ever, he delighteth in mercy. He will have compassion upon us. That was what happened to Moses, God turned again; God went and looked for Moses. God is looking for you. May you be found of him Amen? Many years ago, in the tutorial class, one of our lecturers, thinking that they were above God, they made fun of God, made jest of Christianity. He wrote on the wall of our tutorial class that 'Tell God I am looking for him, if you find him'. I answered in my heart that I have found Christ, I have found God. God went and looked for Moses, far away from Egypt, and he told him,

**19**He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Glory be to God, God's second chance. The murder that had been levelled against Moses in the land of Egypt had been covered up by the blood of Jesus, and God as it were bound all the sins of Moses in a bag and threw in to the depth of the sea. We are told the deepest sea is about 8 miles, and you know that is very deep indeed, so that God will not remember. God can even do the same for you today. If you have even committed murder, God can still forgive you and make you a wonderful leader, a wonderful minister, a wonderful representative or ambassador of the gospel. May God help you? Amen.

God is not like man - God's second chance. When Saul the first king of Israel misbehaved, God took his spirit from Saul. I want you to take note of that. It took the spirit from Saul and gave that spirit unto David. There is no vacuum in nature. Evil spirit from God, please take note of this came upon Saul and started to disturb him, whereas the spirit of God came upon David, and he started to behave normally, that is the difference, it is a miracle, no one can explain it. A drunkard yesterday, is now behind the pulpit preaching. A useless man yesterday, irresponsible man yesterday is now a holy man of God. That is the spirit of God at work. May the spirit work today? I know He is working right now. Allow him a place in your heart. David was anointed king, but he never ascended the throne of Israel until ten years later, why? God wanted to school him. Who are you? How can you become anything in the gospel without going to school? I do not mean university, neither polytechnic nor worldly school, No. God has a school, school of experience. Whether you like it or not, he will take you through. David went through school, and after graduating, God put him on the throne. David after he became King something happened to him. I refer you to where we read initially. The good man will fall, why will a good man fall? I told you the circumstances that will make a good man fall. The good man fell. The good man David fell. See 2 Samuel 11.2

**2**And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. **2 Samuel 11:2**

That was the undoing of David. At evening time, when things were normal, were cool, he came out of bed, fresh, and invigorated, he looked through the window, he saw a woman in her bathroom naked, washing herself. Maybe he did not attend our Sunday school; if David attended our Sunday school he would not have done that –

*O be careful little eyes what you see,  
O be careful little eyes what you see,*

*There is a Saviour up above,  
And he is looking down in love,  
O be careful little eyes what you see.*

David did not keep watch. He saw and when he saw, the gate of his mind opened. Mind is different from the heart. Mind refers to your mentality, from the gate of his mind it went to his heart. In the question of the sister this morning, reference was made to the mistakes of the mind compared with the sins of the heart. Something runs across your mind, you see it, but you do not give a second thought, that is no sin. Something runs across your mind and the devil wants to prompt you to see it, to act, and you said no, a child of God does not do that that is no sin. But when it enters into your heart, well you are conceived, and definitely it must bear fruits, you must deliver.

David saw the woman, if he had remembered the song of the Sunday school children he would not have fallen. He saw the woman, he been a king, he called his servants, 'who is that woman?' She is the wife of Uriah. Oh a subject under my dominion. Call her here. He brought the woman, and had an affair with her, and the woman went away. God was looking, God was watching. This was a man anointed by God through Samuel, he was a good man, he was a righteous man but this time around, sorry, he had fallen. May be, a month later the woman came back and said, 'sorry I am carrying a baby for you king'. You know that was a bombshell, 'I am carrying a baby for you king'. A bombshell, 'how am I going to do it'? An offence once denied is twice committed. Instead of David owning up, he complicated issues. He said to Joab the Captain of his army. Make sure you sent Uriah to hottest spot in the battle. Well, Joab did not know what was happening. Please my dear brothers and sisters, God knows your thought, he knows the intent of your heart, even that which you had not made vocal, God knows it. Please be careful do not hand in the sins of others. Joab did not question the instruction. He went to the battlefield, sent Uriah there, and at the heat of the battle, this man was killed. When the news came to King David, he thought 'I have overcome it.' You have not overcome anything. He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, be it a minister of God, anyone, if you cover your sin you will not prosper. I tell you that is the word of God. Unchanging word of God, you will not prosper; you will not prosper within your spirit. He called the woman, 'your husband had died, I am free to do what I want to do now.' Yes, you are free, you are free to do what ever you want to do as far as man is concerned, but in the sight of God you are not free. You are not free. You know God of second chance, God could have killed this man David immediately, but because God had no pleasure in death of the wicked. God has no pleasure in your death when you are in sin. God has no pleasure in your death when you have backslidden. God has no pleasure in your death when you have derailed. Well, David thought he had got over it. One day the prophet came. May God give us godly prophets, prophets who would tell us the mind of God, truth, not minding whose heart is affected? Tell the truth. The man of God came – Nathan, he said there was in a city, a poor man who had only one sheep, a rich man who had hundred, unfortunately, the rich man had a visitor, and he wanted to entertain his visitor, and he went and took the only one sheep the poor man had. Oh, David said 'no no, over my dead body, that man can not live in my kingdom.' Thank God, speak the truth and let the devil be ashamed. Jesus told his hearers, the world hate me, because I tell them the truth. Have you told the truth to such an extent that you are hated? Speak on. Have you told the truth to such an extent that you are hated? Speak on. God is behind you. He will sustain you, he will see you through. The man of God said, 'thou art the man'. You could imagine, I want you to picture the situation of David at that time. He would be shivering, 'you are the man, God asked me to ask you, what else I should have done for you that I have not done'. You have your own wife and that of your predecessor, I have given them to you, and what else do you want? If you have asked me I would have given you more, but you have disgraced me, why have you disappointed me, why have you brought an indelible mark upon my name? David needed no further explanation. Let us see - 2 Samuel 12.7

**7**And Nathan said to David, *Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;* **2 Samuel 12:7**

**10**Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. **2 Samuel 12:10**

This was serious a serious situation indeed. But thank God, the God of second chance. When David heard this pronouncement – Blessed are they that fear my word and fear. Do you have a nonchalant attitude when the word of God is coming forth, do you pass the buck, that is for Isaac, that is for Gloria, that is for Victor, that is for Bisi, that is for John, that is not for me, as far as I am concern, I am perfect, who told you that you are perfect? Why are you passing the buck, let it come to you, direct. David knew that the message was his. I hope, I pray that I, Soyinka will regard this message as mine, this message coming forth is mine. It is directed at me because God will not send something that will not be of benefit to you. I am pleading with you therefore, have a similar heart, a similar attitude to the message of God that comes to you. God knows you inside out, that is why He is sending this message to you.

What happened?

**13**And David said unto Nathan, *I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.* **2 Samuel 12:13**

Glory be to God. I have sinned against the Lord. What sin did he commit? He had committed two atrocious sins. Two crimes, he had killed a man, he had committed adultery. These sins, the world do not take them for granted. In the book of Proverbs, if a man finds you lying with his wife, he would not take any gift; he would want to kill you. But look at God here, God did not kill David while he took the woman, neither did he kill him, while he ordered that Uriah should be killed. But when he

was faced with the judgement, look at his attitude, **And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD.** He that confesses his sin shall obtain mercy. The first part of that verse says whosoever covereth his sin shall not prosper. Before now, David was covering his sin. He was covering his sin, he did not own up, and he never prosper, for as long as your sins covered, you would not prosper whoever you may be, whatever position you may be holding. Are you coming for first time? That is the problem in your life, because you are covering your sin, that is why you are not happy, that is why you are not settled, that is why you are roaming about, that is why you are a man of no fixed address. But this time around, David said, Yes, I am the man; I have committed this atrocity against myself, against my country, against my neighbour, and against my God. What was the answer? Unto this will I look, the poor that trembleth at my word, and Nathan said unto David, the Lord had put away your sin, and thou shall not die - the God of second chance.

God's ways are not like our own ways; His thoughts are different to ours. Let see Acts 13.21

**21**And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. **22**And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. [Acts 13:21, 22](#)

David was a man after my own heart a murderer and adulterer? Why because he repented. Why because God is a God of second chance. I do not know what is your lot? Have you committed adultery? Have you taken another man's wife? Have you taken another woman's husband? The God of David will be your God this morning. He had offered you this golden opportunity, so that you may not perish.

Let us come to the New Testament period. During the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, he was going about doing good. He called some people and ordained them, but when the work was becoming expansive, he called some other seventy to help them, and these are called disciples. The twelve were called apostles. They were moving in and out with Jesus Christ, they saw him performing miracles, they listened to him preach, and they have been buying all that he was teaching them. But there was a time, he told them, the shepherd would be taken, and the sheep would be scattered. Peter said, ah that could not be possible. What strength do you have? Your strength is very feeble, you cannot defend yourself, and you cannot do anything. But the time came, when at the time of Christ trial, something happened. Peter, the spokesman of the group, he failed, when the little maid accosted him. 'Your facial appearance identifies you as one of them', he said 'me no, no, no, I am not one of them, I do not know what you were saying.' This denial happened the second time and the third time, but before he knew it, the cock crew. When the cock crew, he looked back, and Jesus Christ looked at him, with a meaningful look, and Peter knew. You know when Jesus Christ looks at you differently in a positive way, and when he looks at you in a negative way, you know what it means if you are truly a child of God. There are times, you cannot get your prayer to go beyond the ceiling, there are times the way is risky, cloudy and you cannot find your way through, it means you need to check and see if there is something wrong. Something had happened to Peter, he had denied God, he had denied his Saviour, he ran away, but because God is a God of second chance, he was rescued. Bible students, I want you to understand, that Peter was astounding, but all his disciples, and all the apostles deserted him, they ran away. God of the second chance rescued them, one day ten of them, you know one have gone, that one was not given a second chance. May that not be your lot? Amen. Judas Iscariot, he was no more there. In the room where they were, because Jesus wanted to give them the second chance, he did not knock, they were there with fear, and as soon as he entered, they were wondering, he said do not worry, I am the Lord. I am Saviour, see the nail print, see my side, and he breathed unto them, he encouraged them, he restored them, he restored them unto their graces. There are many who are empty here, in this assembly, in this hall this morning, they are empty, they between and betwixt. Will I come to this church again; will I serve this God again? May God inspired them, may God breathe into them, Jesus Christ breathed unto them, and they became resuscitated spiritually, may God resuscitate us this morning, we need a spiritual resuscitation. The apostles were resuscitated, they were glad, they rejoiced, may be those who will hear this sermon on tape are coming next week. The following week, they told Thomas 'our Lord is risen,' 'who told you that, unless I saw the nail prints, I would not believe.' There are many people that you would tell during the week that there is a God of second chance they would tell you, 'my own is beyond repair' there is no one. As long as you are alive, God will give you a second chance. The following week, Thomas was there, and Jesus did not need any key at all. Anyway, that is our aspiration; a time is coming when we are going to have a glorified body, a body that does not need an airplane to carry it anywhere. See how much trouble I took before I could travel to this place. But with the glorified body, having the intention that I want to be in Brooklyn now, next moment I will be there. Glory be to God. May God make you qualify for this? Amen. Jesus Christ entered, and the disciples were rejoicing, did we not tell you, ah, Thomas said I believe, Jesus Christ said Blessed are those who do not see, and yet I have believed. May God make you to be a believer? Amen. That was how God gave the disciples another chance; he did not cast them away. If it were you and I, if Coker and Affiah, were ministers, and they did something not to my taste, I would write them off. I will get some people better than them, there are better people in the church but Jesus never did that, the gospel does not do that. I will rather put some manure in his feet, as we read in the Bible this morning, I will give him another chance, I will give him another opportunity, whether he will improve, and I know they will improve. God bless the gospel that is the ministry we are in. These disciples were restored, and were it not for their effort; the gospel would not have reached you and me - the God of second chance.

Remember the great propagator of the gospel; he was the greatest antagonist of the gospel Saul of Tarsus. With authority in his hand, he was going about, binding, putting in prison, harassing, embarrassing people, and even he was there

at the death of the first martyr, Stephen. He held his garment, aiding and abetting. He was aiding those people who were killing although he did not physically assault him, but the mere fact that he was holding their garments shows that he had all his mind in it. It was there he had a shot, God shot at him. May God shoot at you today? Amen. Not a shot of death but a shot of life. When God gives you a shot of life, your life will be changed radically. It was from that moment that the hand of God was upon Saul of Tarsus. He had the authority, he was going to Damascus to bind and put into prison, there, God of second chance met him by the way. He sent a light, a perpetual light, brighter than the noontday sun, and when Saul saw it, he fell on the ground. May God make us fall on the ground today? If we fall on the ground for our Lord and Saviour today, something will happen, there will be revival, there will be resuscitation, the blind will see, the dead will be raised up, the sick will be healed, oh God is going to do that, here. Amen

There was a conversation, Saul, Saul, he asked who are thou? I am the Lord whom thou persecutest. 'I have never seen you, you persecuted Mark, you persecuted Matthew, you persecuted John, those are my servants, in essence you have persecuted me.' Do you not know it is a hard thing to kick against the brick? What will thou have me to do? Glory be to God. Something had happened, the God of compassion, had changed the heart of Saul, he had melted the heart of Saul, there are stony hearts this afternoon, God is going to melt them. There are stubborn hearts this afternoon; God is going to soften their hearts. He asked, what would you have me to do? Go to Damascus and you would be told what you have to do. Thank God he went. And you are the fruits of his work; you and I are the fruits of his conversion. God had brought you here to tell you what you have to do in order to have life, to tell you what you have to do in order to be what he wants you to be. I said a while ago, that God has a plan far above the mind of man. He has a plan for your life, even before your conception, right from the time of your conception, he had been following you, following you, and by bringing you here today, is for a purpose, and the purpose is to give you another chance. May God help you to take hold of this chance? Amen.

Before we go to pray, I will show you that this God is a God who gives a second chance. But there are many people who were not given a second chance. There are many people who were not given the second chance. We learnt about Abraham and Lot today. Eventually when the city of Gomorrah and Sodom were going to be destroyed, through the answer of the man of God, men of God continue to pray, your prayer are bottled in heaven. God will unlock the bottles, and the answer to the prayers will come out. Abraham was praying, will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? No that is unlike you, God said I will not. If you find fifty, I will spare, forty, I will spare, twenty, I will spare, ten I will spare. Alas there were no ten righteous people in Sodom, God had to execute judgment. But in executing judgement, God will not destroy the wicked with the righteous. He answered the prayer of Abraham, the prayer you are offering for your men, children, relations who are miles away, God will answer. Do not stop praying, God will answer, God moves in a mysterious ways is wonder to perform. This time around, the angels revealed their identity, have you anybody in this city, go and tell them the instructions is imminent. Lot went and told his two sons in law. When he told them God was going to send fire upon this city. Papa, ah, that was falsehood, we know rain since God had been raining, how can fire come from heaven? Well, he left them, he came home, probably packing, what was I to take, then the angel of the Lord got hold his hand, escape for your life, God of second chance. You know Lot had maltreated his uncle, God would not bank on that, God was still counting on the prayer of the righteous which availeth much. They got hold of him, escape for your life, I would not bring destruction unto this city until you were out of here. And behold, Lot, his wife, the two unmarried daughters left Sodom and Gomorrah. They left Sodom and Gomorrah, and God spared their lives. Alas, the second chance did not avail for Lot's wife, Lot's wife was saved already, but because she allowed the seed of doubt to come into her heart. God said do not look back, and she looked back and she became a pillar of salt. May God not let you look back? Amen. There is protection in the front. I am a soldier, I am facing a battle, the army is shooting, and I am shooting, as the army is shooting, I am shooting. The moment I look back, the enemy would get hold of me. Do not turn your back, do not do it, and do not go away. No matter what happen, stay, stay on your ground, and stay on the battlefield. Lot's wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt. So the second chance did not apply to her.

You young boys and young girls be careful, the forty two insolent children, on that memorable day, Elisha was coming full of the power of God. The double portion of Elijah had falling upon him. As he was descending, rascal children saw him and said bald man go up, bald man go up. Making jest of him, making jest of a man of God, you are making jest of God. Because that man of God represented God. No matter is ugliness, no matter is unworthiness, no matter what you may consider he is not doing well, he is the representative of God. Do not touch him. Be careful, do not touch him, if you touch him, you can not go unpunished. If you touch him, God will not take you with out guilt. If you touch him, you will regret it forever and ever. Psalm 105:15

**15**Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. Psalm 105:15

Forty two insolent children, insolent youths, they touched the Lord anointed. **15**Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. They did the prophet of the Lord harm. Under the inspiration of the spirit of God, the man of God looked back, and he commanded two bears to come from the woods, and they tore these children to pieces. Be careful they were not offered second chance.

Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, having had an opportunity, a golden opportunity, he was raised up under the rulership of the grandfather Nebuchadnezzar, but he never learnt his lesson. There are many people who never learn by the mistakes of others, they want to learn it first hand, they want to drink in it. He became king; he threw a party into

which 1000 people were invited. They were dancing, and they were making merry, cheering one another. At the peak of the ceremony, an uninvited guest was there, with his hand, mene, tekelliphrasin. Ah, the king saw it, shivering, but his colleagues responded, gently my lord, may God help you, ah, God does not help the wicked if the wicked does not change. When the judgment of God comes, you will forget pleasure, you will forget all those sweet things you think you are enjoying. At the peak of these troubles, the man of God was brought to focus. Daniel came, and interpreted the hand writing of God. God is writing. God is writing all over the place, but only the wise will take note. Please my dear brother and sister, God had brought you to this place of refuge, may God keep you there, but you will have to keep yourself there. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. We are under the shadow of the Almighty here, never do you leave here. Belshazzar had left the shadow of the Almighty and Daniel told him, tonight, the Median and Persian would take your government and they would kill you. He was not offered the second chance.

Absalom, was a very handsome young man. He wanted to usurp his father position. He said this my father did not know how to do it, hold on when you reach my age you will know whether I know how to do it or not. Absalom, through his cleverness, his education, his influence, he gathered many people unto himself. 'You know your case is so good, but the king has not appointed a good judge how I wish I was the judge.' He had bought the hearts, the minds of people and they ran after him, ah, do not run after rebels. The end is not good. Look at Absalom, handsome, what did he trust? He trusted in his horses, what did he trust? He trusted in the many people that were following him. Do not forget that this world would leak your fingers, when there is plenty of oil. But when blood comes out they will run away. As he was going, riding on a horse, he had long hair, the hair got hold of the oak tree, and there he hung in the balances. Nobody around, where were his friends? Those your fair weather friend, those who are eating with you, those who go to places of pleasure with you, those who write you so called love letters, those who give you geese gizzards to perish your soul, when you are in trouble they will run away. They ran away, they left him there dangling. Dangling, he was not given a second chance.

Herod, the king in the New Testament, one day he was talking, people acclaimed 'Oh the voice is like the voice of an angel' oh yes, 'I do not think like an ordinary man now, I think like an angel' He took the glory of God. God said I would not share my glory with any mortal.' God gave him a knock, and he was eaten up. No second chance.

This morning let us see somebody whose case was very desperate, but God gave him a second chance. How I wish that will be your lot this morning. Judges 16.28

**And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. And Samson called took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand and of the other with the left. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines, And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. [Judges 16.28-30](#)**

Samson was only given this second chance and the only last chance. The power of God came back to Samson. The power of God is here, is here this afternoon. You know he was in a desperate situation, his eyes were plucked, you can imagine, the dejection, the sorrow the anguish of his soul. But there he communed with God. Oh God, just this second chance, just this last chance, please have mercy on me, I have misused my opportunity, I have misused my life, I have disobey your instructions, I have disobeyed my parents, and here I find myself in this awful situation. But God, God of second chance. I thank God. What was the sign? His head was scrapped, but before long, the hair started to grow, which was a sign of the return of the Spirit of God upon his life. May the Spirit of God return today? Amen. May the Spirit of God return in his fullness? Amen. May the Spirit of God return into my life, into my heart, into my home, into my family, and into my church in his fullness? Amen. The Spirit returned unto him in His fullness. That is what we want. And that is what God is going to do for us this morning. He pleaded with his pilot, you know the eyes were no more there, take me to the pillars. He got hold of one, and got hold of the other. With the power of God in our life, we are going to do exploit for God. We are going to do exploit for God. He said God of Abraham, God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, I know I have sinned against thee, but you have forgiven me, give me the second chance, and he shook, and behold there was a great slaughter. All the enemies die. All the enemies that followed you this morning will die here. Amen. They will die here. Amen.

**Second chance, second** chance; are you not going to ask for it this morning? Are you not going to ask for the second opportunity this morning? This altar is waiting for you to come and ask God to give you another opportunity, to give you another chance. Here is a God of another chance; he is going to give you another chance.