

LECTURESHIP LESSON @ THE CHURCH OF CHRIST NYANYA ON 7TH
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THEME: THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER LIFE CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION

Life is full of questions we cannot answer and challenges we cannot control. One day you are enjoying peace, and the next day you are facing health challenges. Today you may be living joyfully with your family, and tomorrow you may be weeping because of the loss of a loved one. At times, you even watch helplessly as your plans fall apart right before your eyes. If you live long enough, you will realize this truth: we are not in full control. But if we are not in control, who then is? To address this all-important question, the congregation, with the help of the Holy Spirit, has carefully drafted the topic that is before us this morning:

TOPIC: GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY — THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

We are going to carefully, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, appraise this topic because the theme of this year's lectureship— "**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER LIFE'S CHALLENGES**"—is not a theme for the soft-hearted or the fair-weather believer (easy-"believism"). This theme is for those who have walked through the valley of the shadow of death and still believe in the Shepherd, and say, "***The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be consumed.***" It is for those who have been battered by life but have refused to let go of the hem of His garment.

So, I am not here today to paint a picture of a distant God, but to proclaim the power of a present King—the One who rules even in the midst of storms we do not understand. Therefore, open your mind and your Bible as we prepare to see God's sovereignty over our lives.

TEXT: John 14:6 "**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**

Not long before the cross, Jesus had performed a mighty miracle by raising Lazarus from the dead. This brought great enthusiasm among the people, but it also stirred stronger opposition from the religious leaders. As He entered Jerusalem, the danger around Him increased, and He began to speak openly about His coming death. Then, on the night of the Last Supper, Jesus was with His disciples in the upper room. There, He washed their feet to teach them humility. But the atmosphere quickly became heavy: He told them He was about to leave, revealed that one of them would betray Him, and even warned Peter that he would deny Him. The disciples were troubled, afraid, and confused. Sensing their fear, Jesus comforted them, saying: "**Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again**

and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” (Joh 14:1-4 ESV) But Thomas being very honest in his confused state protested: **“Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”** (Joh 14:5)

Note carefully: The question of Thomas is the same question we often ask—and are still asking—when life confuses us. We ask questions like: *“Lord, where are You in this? What path should I take? How do I get to where You want me to be?”* It was in response to such a question, in a moment of fear and uncertainty, that Jesus made this powerful declaration: **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** In this one sentence, Jesus revealed the sovereignty of God and made it clear that He alone is the hope for humanity’s eternal future.

For us to understand this sovereignty and the exclusive hope for all of us, we will carefully consider the following points:

- i. God’s Sovereignty: What Does It Mean?
- ii. God’s Sovereignty Revealed in Christ and Its Implication: The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
- iii. The Sovereign Invitation

I. GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY: WHAT DOES IT MEANS?

By definition, God’s sovereignty means He has supreme authority over everything in heaven and on earth (Psalm 103:19). This simply means that God has full authority and ultimate control over all creation according to His purpose. So, when we say “God is sovereign,” we are not suggesting that He merely knows what is going on, but we are declaring that He rules over all.

The most beautiful aspect of God’s sovereignty is that He rules supremely, wisely, and lovingly. As the sovereign Lord reigns, no power can overthrow His plan, and no situation is outside His control—both in this life and in the life to come. Therefore, anyone who rejects God’s standard or direction for life and eternity does so at his or her own peril.

Yes, you may exercise some rule over your life by making daily decisions, just as a king rules over his kingdom. But God’s rule extends over the entire universe—far beyond what you can control. For instance, when Nebuchadnezzar boasted in Daniel 4, God humbled him until he confessed and said... **“God lives forever, his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His rule is from generation to generation. And all the people of the earth are counted as nothing; and He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the people of the earth. And none can strike His hand, or say to Him, what are You doing?”** (Dan 4:34-35)

Beloved, when challenges come—whether through sickness, financial crisis, or persecution—they are not signs that God has lost control. Rather, they are opportunities for you to see His control at work.

II. God's Sovereignty Revealed in Christ

God's sovereignty—His absolute rule over creation and history—is not an abstract idea, distant, or impersonal. It becomes concrete, visible, and accessible in the person of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of John, chapter 14, brings this truth to light in a very personal conversation between Jesus and His disciples. The disciples were deeply troubled at the thought of losing their Master. They had left everything to follow Him, and now the shadow of His departure filled them with confusion and fear about the future. In response, Jesus revealed how the sovereignty of God is fully unveiled in Him: **"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me."** (Joh 14:1) Here, faith in Christ is presented as the divine cure for a fearful and uncertain heart. Notice the boldness of the words of Jesus: He does not merely point them toward God; He places Himself side by side with the Father, calling them to trust Him in the same way they trust God. This is sovereignty unveiled—Jesus identifies Himself as the very center of their faith and security. Furthermore, Jesus makes Himself the key to their destiny. He assures them: **"In My Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also."** (Joh 14:2–3)

Beloved, two thoughts stand out in the statement of Jesus concerning destiny: a place (the Father's house), and a person (the Lord Jesus Himself), whose presence makes the place glorious! The statement of Jesus secures the expectation of eternal fellowship with Him and with all the saved in the presence of the Father. He would never have promised a place for His disciples if He were unable to prepare such a place. Furthermore, Jesus' absolute confidence in His arrival at the Father's house is expressed in His three phrases: **"I am going there to prepare a place"; "I will come back", and "[I will] take you to be with me."**

Here, sovereignty is not a cold rule—it is loving preparation. The eternal King is not only Lord over history; He is the One who secures the eternal destiny of His people. Their hope is not anchored in their ability, their works, or their understanding, but in Christ's sovereign promise: "I will come again and take you to Myself." Thus, in Jesus Christ, God's sovereignty takes on a face, a voice, and a promise. His authority is revealed not in distant decrees, but in personal assurance, loving preparation, and unshakable hope.

Implications for Us Today

- i. **Faith over Fear** — Because Jesus is sovereign, we do not need to be ruled by fear of the future. Trusting Him is the antidote to anxiety.
- ii. **Christ as the Key to Destiny** — Our eternal security does not rest on chance, human effort, or circumstances, but on the finished work of Christ, who prepares a place for us.
- iii. **Personal Relationship with the Sovereign Lord** — God's sovereignty is not impersonal control but relational care. In Christ, the all-powerful King humbled Himself to walk with His people, comfort our hearts, and secure our future.

Based on this eternal fact, the sovereignty of Jesus Christ is revealed in three dimensions. These three dimensions serve as the eternal and perfect guide that everyone must follow to achieve anything worthwhile, both in this life and in the life to come. Let us carefully examine them one after the other:

A. Jesus is the Way -- Sovereign Mediation and Direction

When Thomas asked for a road map, Jesus gave a profound and eternal declaration upon which to base his thinking. In response to Thomas' question, Jesus made one of the greatest philosophical and theological statements of all time: **"I am the Way... no one comes to the Father except through Me."** This is not mere advice; it is a sovereign claim. The phrase "I am" (ego eimi) echoes God's name in Exodus 3:14. The definite article "the" makes His claim exclusive and complete. That is why Jesus did not say, "I know the way," but rather declared Himself to be the Way. This means that Jesus is the Way through whom humanity is brought back to God.

What Does this claim mean?

Jesus declaring that He is the Way proves that He is the **Sovereign Mediation and Direction** and it means:

- i. He is the only access to the Father. Salvation is not through a path we create but through a Person — Jesus Christ (John 10:9; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- ii. He is our daily guidance. Jesus does not merely point us in the right direction; He personally leads us (John 10:27). His sovereignty means we must follow His route, even when it conflicts with our convenience, our own understanding, or culture.

Implications

- i. Repent of self-made routes. To be with God, we must turn away from man-made religions and personal routes that bypass the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- ii. Obedience over options. We are called to choose what pleases the King, not what flatters our feelings (Luke 9:23).
- iii. Belong to the Way—the church. One Way means one church (God's family), which unites tribes, cultures, and classes, making them one in Christ (Act 9:1-2; Eph. 2:14-18).

Imagine you are lost in a thick forest. A stranger gives you a map — helpful, but you could still get lost. Then someone who knows the forest arrives and says, "Follow me. I'll take you out." That is Jesus — not just a map, but the living Guide. Since Jesus is the only Way, every other path — self-reliance, false religion, or good works without Christ — will ultimately fail. But if He is your Way, you don't just have direction; you have a guaranteed destination.

B. Jesus is the Truth — Sovereign Revelation & Definition

Truth is the most uncommon commodity in the world. Throughout human history, people—philosophers, rulers, and ordinary men and women—have been searching for it. Many have tried to discover truth through their wisdom, and others believed they could earn it by being morally upright. Yet, despite all these efforts, no one has been able

to fully grasp it. But the good news is this: what human wisdom and effort could not achieve, God has revealed in Jesus Christ.

Truth is not merely a proposition, not an opinion, not a feeling, and not a theory—it is reality as God defines it. This definition of reality by God is embodied in Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus is the full revelation of God (Joh 1:1–2, 14; Joh 8:32, 36). Truth is a Person, and that Person is Jesus Christ, and Him alone. Jesus perfectly reveals the Father (Joh 14:9) and defines reality. Abiding in His word brings freedom (John 8:31–32), and His word itself is truth (Joh 17:17).

Just as the word of a judge is final in court, so also is the word of Jesus Christ. In the courtroom, the final verdict comes from the judge. You may not like it, but you cannot overrule it. In the same way, the word spoken by Jesus Christ is God’s eternal verdict (Joh 12:47–49).

Implications

This simply implies that:

- i. Jesus is the only one who tells us who God is, who we are, what is right, and what truly matters.
- ii. His teaching judges and directs our ideas, thus our opinions, trends, and traditions must bow to His voice (Joh 12:48).
- iii. Scripture carries His authority

C. JESUS IS “THE LIFE -- Sovereign Source & Sustainer

Throughout the Gospel of John, life is described as the principle of spiritual vitality that originates with God and lifts humanity out of sin into fellowship with Himself. Jesus is the source and giver of all life (Joh 1:4; Joh 3:16; Joh 6:68; Joh 10:10; Joh 11:25). Without Christ, you may breathe, eat, and work physically, but you are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1).

Implication:

- i. Eternal life starts and ends in Jesus:
- ii. The power to change your life lies only in Jesus Christ: His Spirit produces new desires and holy habits (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:10–11).
- iii. Fruitful life flows from abiding only in Jesus Christ

This affirms that the sovereignty of Jesus Christ means He alone has the authority to give life. Overcoming life’s challenges begins with receiving eternal life from the One who conquered death. For instance, a patient in the ICU may have machines keeping him or her alive, but without the doctor’s intervention, the patient will not recover. In the same way, you may have “life support” from money, success, or relationships, but without Jesus, your soul is dead, and you will perish eternally.

Beloved, having seen that it is only Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, this affirms eternally that man is completely dependent upon Christ for “the Way,” “the Truth,” and “the Life.” **Without the Way, there is no going! Without the Truth, there is no knowing! Without the Life, there is no living!** No human being or

system of thought has ever been able to bridge the gap between God and man except Jesus Christ.

THE SOVEREIGN INVITATION

This invitation is very important because to ignore the sovereign call of Jesus Christ is to miss the only way of salvation. If God is sovereign—and He is—then He alone sets the terms of salvation, not man. This invitation is given through the gospel of Christ. Thus, it is only in the gospel of Christ that the terms for responding to this invitation are stated. These terms are:

- i. Hear (Romans 10:17),
- ii. Believe (Mark 16:16),
- iii. Repent (Acts 17:30),
- iv. Confess (Romans 10:9-10),
- v. Be baptized (Acts 2:38).
- vi. Remain faithful till the end (Rev 2:10)

Baptism is not merely a church tradition; it is a command of God. Therefore, it must be practiced exactly as God has instructed. The moment you surrender to Christ in the waters of baptism, you are brought into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27). This body is one—it is not the many man-made denominations established under the name of Christ, but the true church that belongs to Him.

Beloved, to grasp the reality of this one body of Christ into which you are baptized, consider this simple illustration: If the only bridge across a flooded river is in one location, sincerity alone will not get you across. You must take that bridge or be swept away. In the same way, Jesus is the only bridge to God, and baptism is the step that places you upon it.

CONCLUSION – CALL TO DECISION

I want to conclude by inviting you to make the most important decision of your life—surrendering your heart to Jesus Christ, if you have not already done so. Remember, the disciples' hearts were troubled until they realized that the answer to their fear was not found in a plan, but in a Person. Today, you may be facing storms of your own. Yet the Sovereign Lord stands before you, saying: **"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**

The water is ready. Eternal life is waiting. Don't walk away still uncertain—come to the Sovereign Lord today. If you long for peace in the storms of life, clarity in the midst of religious confusion, and life even in the face of death, I urge you to submit your life fully to Him.

As you do, may Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, fill your heart with His peace and guide you safely through every storm, now and always. Amen.

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