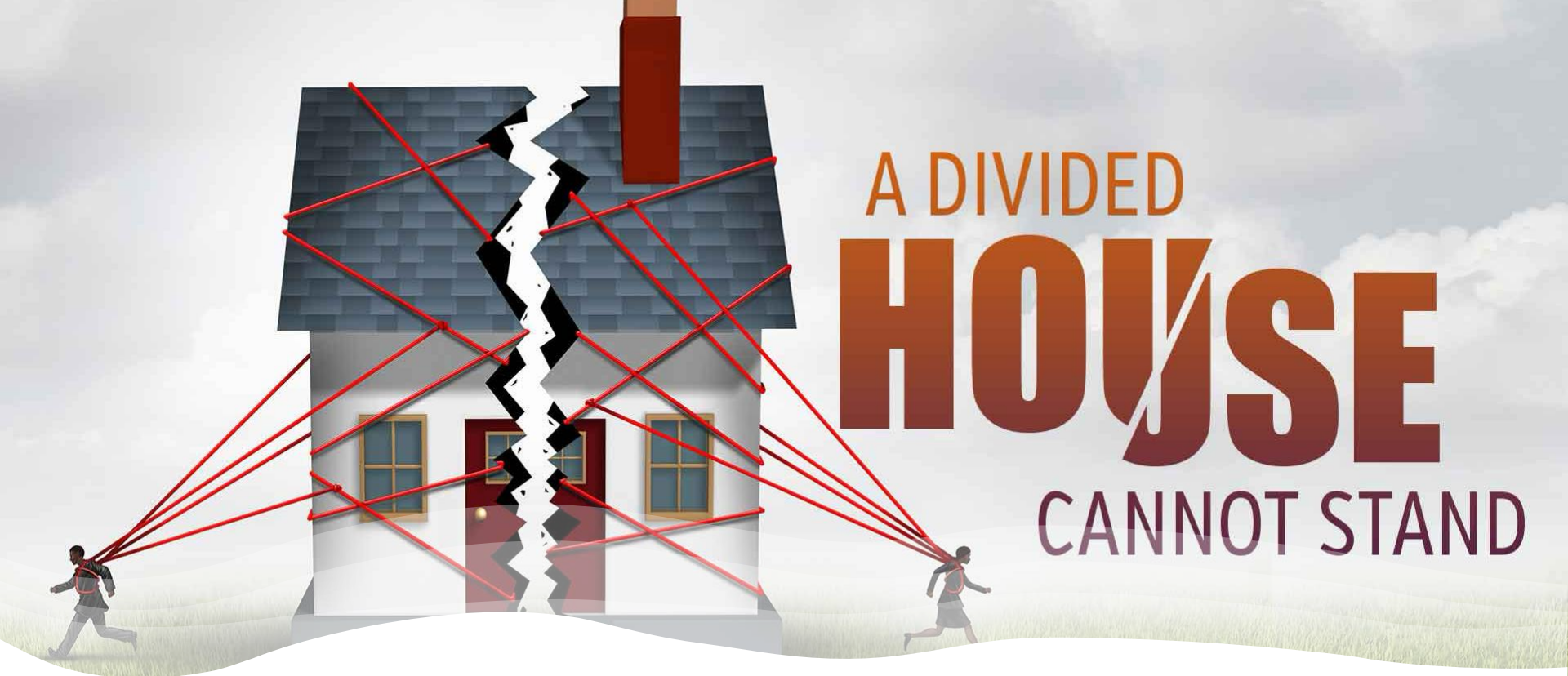


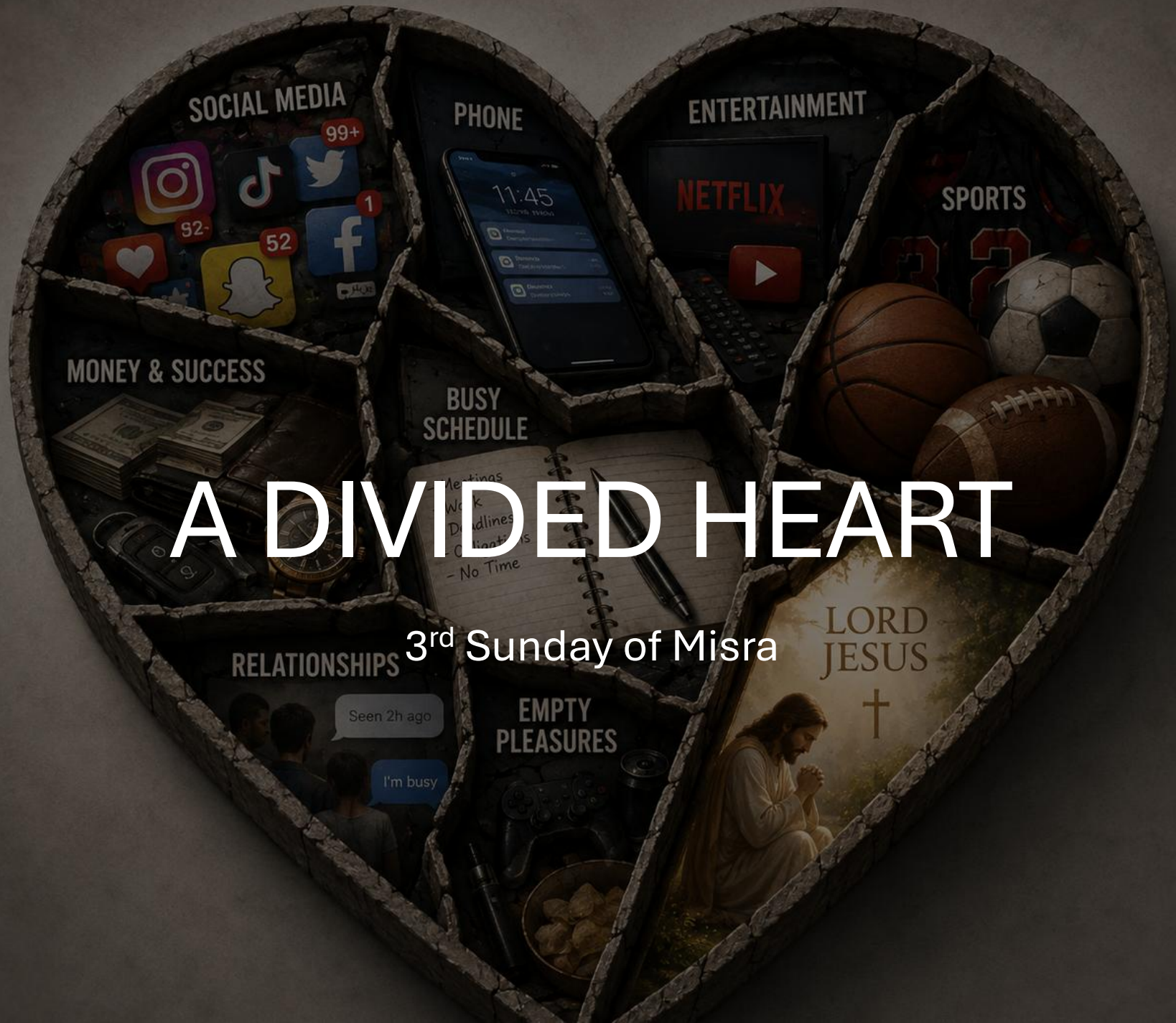


A DIVIDED
HOUSE
CANNOT STAND

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25)

A DIVIDED HEART

3rd Sunday of Misra



Mark 3:22-35

- **A divided house**
- “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:23–25)
- “*For the wars from without are not so ruinous as the civil ones.*” (St. John Chrysostom)



Mark 3:22-35

- **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**
- **“Who is My mother, or My brothers**
- **“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19)**





How has the heart of mankind become divided?

- The Fall
- “Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1 John 2:15–16)

How does this division manifest itself?



1. Conflict of the flesh and the spirit

- “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Galatians 5:17)
- Our perception of the body versus the spirit makes this conflict difficult

2. Attempting to serve two masters

- “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)
- We compromised with God and the world thinking we can fully satisfy both
- “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)
- “*God is easy to please, but hard to satisfy.*” (George MacDonald, CS Lewis)



2. Attempting to serve two masters

- Is there ever a point where the passions are completely satisfied?
- “...*the increase of acquisitions kindles the flame more, and renders the getters poorer, inasmuch as it puts them in greater desire, and makes them have more feeling of their want.*” (St. John Chrysostom)

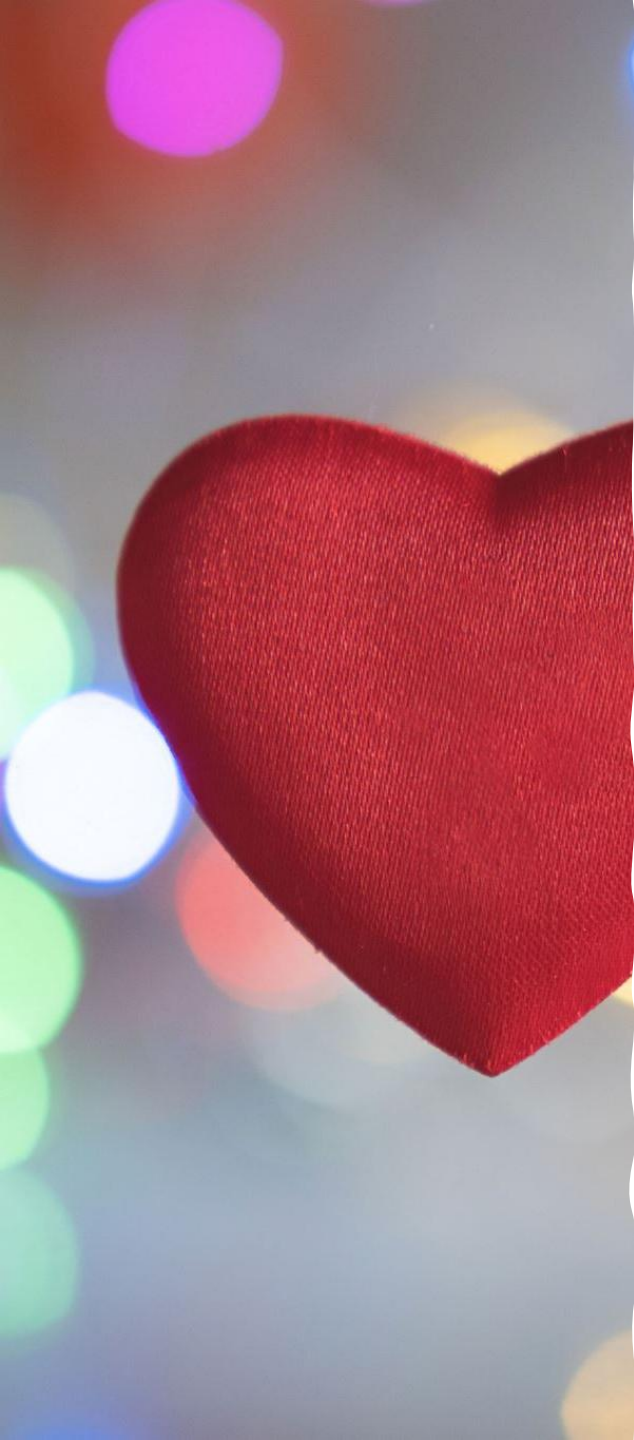
2. Attempting to serve two masters

- The Lord and the Church teach us that we live in the world but we are not of the world
- “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (John 17:15–16)
- *“And we too, who are sojourners in this place, keep us in Your faith, and grant us Your peace unto the end.” (Liturgy of St. Basil)*



Examples of Division

- The rich young ruler
- King Ahab
- “Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, ‘Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?’ So they said, **‘Go up, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king.’**” (1 Kings 22:6)
- “There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; **but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.**” (1 Kings 22:8)



What does a
united heart look
like?

1. Acquire the Dove's Eye

- “Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! **You have dove's eyes.**” (Song of Songs 1:15)
- “The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness.” (Luke 11:34)
- “If then your whole body is full of light, **having no part dark**, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.” (Luke 11:36)



2. Confess the truth and deny the lie

- The foundation of division is a denial or confusion of the truth and covering it up with a lie
- “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20)





3. An active member in the body of Christ

- The church is the unifying body of Christ that He instituted and left on earth
- “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and **the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**” (Matthew 16:18)
- Tower of Babel vs. Pentecost