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Christian Prayer Meeting Attacked in Amritsar: Pastor Beaten, Disabled Son Kicked

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Four or five men forced their way into a house in Amritsar's Mandir Wali Gali during a Christian prayer meeting and attacked the people gathered there, beating the pastor and kicking his disabled son"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Four or five men forced their way into a house in Amritsar's Mandir Wali Gali during a Christian prayer meeting and attacked the people gathered there, beating the pastor and kicking his disabled son. One man at the meeting suffered a head injury and had his turban pulled off in the assault, which was caught on CCTV and has since spread widely online.

The attack happened in Punjab, India, and the footage has now been seen across the country. Police were called soon after, and an inquiry is under way, though no arrests have been reported yet.

Picture the scene as the pastor must have lived it. He had opened his own home for prayer, the way small congregations in India often do, with friends and neighbours gathered in a front room.

Then the door gave way, strangers poured in, and the meeting turned into a beating in front of his own family. Worst of all, his disabled son - a child who could not run, could not fight back, could not even get out of the way - was kicked as the men lashed out.

A father can take a beating himself. Watching his vulnerable boy kicked in his own living room is a different kind of wound, and it is the image that has stayed with everyone who has seen the video.

The men did not just hit people and leave. According to the reports, they dragged dishes and other items into the residence, snatched mobile phones and gold chains from those present, and broke up the gathering completely. The prayer meeting ended in chaos, with people hurt, belongings taken, and a home that had been a place of worship turned into a crime scene.

For the familes involved, the shock is not only about what was stolen or broken. It is about the fact that it happened at all, in their own house, while they were praying.

Eyewitness Rajinder Kaur told reporters the men were under the influence of alcohol and wanted the prayer meeting stopped. That is the account from inside the house: drunk men, angry at the sound of prayer, determined to shut it down. But that is one account, and it is not the official one.

Nobody has yet confirmed what drove the men to force their way in, and the motive behind the attack remains officially unconfirmed. Until the inquiry reports back, the honest thing to say is that we have a witness's word on one side - and silence from the official record on the other.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment inside the police station itself -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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