

Topical Message
Jesus Loves Lahaina Maui – Part 2
Pastor JD Farag and Pastor Steve Santos

DAVID: We just come to You this evening, Lord, and just thanking You for Your blessings, Lord. Thank You for who You are, Lord. And thank You we get to serve You, Lord. In everything, Lord, we thank You for the trials and tribulations that come in our way, Lord. It just draws us nearer and nearer to You, Lord.

Keep our hearts and minds always focused on You, especially during these times. We ask that You bless this time of fellowship, Lord. And may Your word go out and never come back void, Lord. And we all said amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. Good evening. You can be seated. Welcome. So glad you're here tonight. Those of you joining us online, we're going to go ahead and get started. And at this time, if you would, please join me in a warm welcome of my friend, Pastor Steve Santos from Lahaina.

[Applause and cheering]

You are loved here. You know that, right? Can I just give a shout out to his bride, Kim, sitting there by his side? His bride by his side? So he was — yeah, that's fine. I can put my feet up. Oh no. You know in the Middle East, that is like the ultimate insult. I just insulted all of you. I just want you to know. So anyway — (Pastor Steve saying something inaudible) yeah, and thanks for taking your slippers off before you did.

So anyway, good evening. We're looking forward to what the Lord has for us tonight with Pastor Steve here. He's been gracious enough to accept my invitation again. And I just asked him if he would come and share with us tonight. So I'm going to pray. And then we want to start off with a short video, and then we'll get right into it. So if you would join with me, yeah?

Father, thank You. Settle us down now, and just kind of as only You can, recalibrate and refocus our attention and get our minds off of all the cares and the affairs and the business of our stressful lives. Let us just focus now on this time that we have together tonight and that which You desire to do in this time that we have together tonight.

Just I thank You for Steve and Kim, and for the church there in Lahaina, and for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the people of Lahaina.

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Lord, would You just bless, minister, speak, and comfort? We ask in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. All right let's go ahead. You guys ready?

(Video playing)

PASTOR STEVE: We're here at Calvary Chapel in Lahaina. And a lot of people had questions about what's going on with our facility. Was it lost in the fire? Was it damaged in the fire? To look at our building right now, it's perfect. There's people in a lot of these buildings working. But the word that I've received from many HAZMAT specialists and the rest have said, "I wouldn't have my children there."

I love our congregation and I love my children and my grandchildren. And so we've opted to do the harder thing to meet down at the park every week, continually, as we have. But this building for now, for sure, is out of reach for us.

Let me show you what's going on across the street.

(🎵 Music playing 🎵)

So this is where we've come to. We're right across the street from Calvary Chapel right now, not even 30 yards. And this is what happened the night of August 8th. It was terrible. These buildings were on fire, so bad, so heavy everybody thought Calvary Chapel was gone. And it's not, but we can't use this facility.

It's been over six months, and they still haven't gone behind these barriers to clean this up. And the reason being, again, no one knows all of what's there yet, and there's a greater work to do with the homes and all of the businesses in Lahaina that go from here to the ocean.

Let me show you.

(🎵 Music playing 🎵)

And so we're across the street. We're about 70 yards away, 50 yards away from Calvary Chapel, our facility that we had been in for 15 years almost. And right behind us right here is the old Lahaina Mill Tower, the smokestack that Lahaina's been famous for. And it's about all that's left standing, for the greater part. All around it, every home, every business, completely flattened to the ground, melted, destroyed. And beyond that, it's not just the structures. It's the people and their lives that are more important.

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And as we walk over here — check this out — all the way to the ocean is about a half a mile to three quarters of a mile of burned city. And it's the most devastating thing I've ever seen.

And then six months later, I see people that are still wandering and wondering where they're going to live, what they're going to do. That's the situation we're in here. And it's been forgotten by so many. On the other side over here where I showed you, you can see along the path by the fence line or the drainage canal here, there were people that were running to escape the fire all the way to the ocean, being chased down by a 70-mile-an-hour wind-driven fire.

Let me read you this Scripture. It's 1 Peter Chapter 1:6, where Peter reminds us; he says, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, [And that's for sure] [He says, but all, that the genuine] [Listen to this] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it may be tested by fire, may be found to praise, and honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

That's what it's all about. Right now, we're in that place of letting the genuineness of our faith be seen in Jesus Christ, literally having been tested through the fire.

And so pray for Lahaina, pray for Calvary Chapel, pray for the saints of Lahaina that we would honor God, that our light would so shine, that they might see His good works in this terrible trial, and glorify our Father in heaven.

How would that happen? What would be the best way to glorify our Father in Heaven after going through all of this? It would be that some would be saved, that people would find Jesus.

And so pray for us. That's our heart. That's all I want. I want to see God save people because they're so hurting, so hopeless. He's the hope. Pray for them. Pray for us. Amen. God bless you guys.

(🎵 Music playing 🎵)

PASTOR JD: Wow. I mean, I've seen it more than once. That's such a great video. Thanks for putting that together and sharing it with us. I'm just going to let you take it from here,

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and I will not interrupt you, not necessarily, unless I interrupt you. But go ahead. Sorry to interrupt you. Go ahead.

PASTOR STEVE: Can you turn my mic on?

[Laughter]

That doesn't even — you guys have seen lots of videos and pictures and things, and it doesn't — to say that it doesn't do justice doesn't seem like the right word. You know what I mean?

And it's like I was sharing with JD when Kim and I were upstairs earlier, how we were driving in today, coming through the tunnel, and just came out and could see Kailua all of a sudden.

And I just thought — I didn't even say anything to Kim — but just how, you know, what if that were all burned? What if that was? And here you guys are here in Kaneohe, and you hear that Kailua is gone. You know, and that's like for us from Ka'anapali over to Kapalua. It's like here, but then Kailua is gone.

And so it's huge. It's heavy. But one thing — I don't know if you guys noticed — the first time, my wife and I didn't see that. But afterwards, the second time we saw it in there, that there's a rainbow in the back. Did you see that? It's like, you know there's rainbows every day. Still, just like over here — you know that song ♪ Where There Are Rainbows ♪ ?

And there's a reason for that. You know, in Lahaina there's afternoon rain in the mountains, and the rainbows are there. And it's like the Lord's just saying, "I'm still here. I'm still here, you know, and My promise is still good."

And I was writing down — my phone broke the other day. And I had all my notes on my phone. But anyway, there's a couple things I wrote down. My memory isn't completely gone. But I've shared with you before, and I'll maybe share a little tonight about that *1 Kings 19* passage that God put on my heart the night after the fire, the morning after the fire kind of thing, and how in that, the Lord wasn't in the fire. He wasn't in the wind. But then came a still, small voice where God spoke.

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And my thinking was that — He doesn't — God never stops speaking. You know, we stop, we may stop listening. We may have our focus and our attention on other things so that we aren't hearing. But God is always speaking.

And what He would speak to us today — and like I'd share with you guys, you know, that's our Lahaina. Everybody has their Lahaina. You know, your wife gets sick, your child gets sick, you know, there's an accident, and someone is lost or whatever.

But every one of us — in this world, you'll have Lahaina — you know, Jesus could say. But the Lord would say, “You know what? Listen to My voice. You know, don't ever stop listening to My voice. Hear My voice.”

And where are you going to hear it? It is going to be in the word of God. I mean, this book has been what's — literally, this very book — this has been what's carried me through, you know, all of this. That and wanting to be there and present and have God's strength. Lord, you know, first, how do I navigate this? And then, second, is how do I carry my bride that I love through this? Because she's devastated. We still, you know, tears still come. It's just, you know, it's our town and it's still — there's 1% maybe, you know, that's been cleaned up so far. There's a long road ahead.

But then you think about, you know, my family that's living with us now and stuff, too. And, you know, how do you navigate that? How do you encourage them? And then your church that's, you know...

We had a church split, you know, basically. The fire did it. You know I didn't drive them off. The fire — I mean, it's like we lost so many people through that fire.

But God's bigger. And so He's the one that carries us, and He's the one that we trust in all this. And a couple of things to kind of bring you up to date on Lahaina-wise, as far as that goes. That the town itself is basically about, like I said, about 1% cleaned up, you know. And you go through — and it's not necessarily comforting, though it is in a strange way, but not, that the ashes are gone. You know, when you see one of these lots that's been cleared as you go through town, it's like, well, that's great. We're moving forward.

But at the same time, it's like people not only loved their homes, but over the last six months, they've become attached to the ashes, you know, in a sense. And it's like, you

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know, a husband with his bride or wife with her husband, and they're gone, and you have their ashes, and you know, that thing with "I don't want to get rid of them."

My mom, she held on to my dad for I don't know how long. Then we went and dumped them both out on the beach up in... wherever it was. I don't know. We're like — we went here — this is a side note. We went up to — my mom's like, hey, when I die, then you're going to take my ashes and put them with your dad's, and you're going to take us up to this beach, Fort Dick Beach, up by Crescent City, where we used to go as a family.

Okay. Took the whole family up there for this trip. There was fun, there was nightmares, all the rest, you know, family trip. But we got to this beach. We finally found it. And we're walking out on this big — If you know the beaches up in Northern California, Oregon — you know, I know I'm going a long ways from Lahaina right now.

But all that to say, we were like, well, where should we dump the ashes? Out on the beach? Do we go to the water? Water's too cold. And there was a big X made out of — you know, literally somebody had put it there on the beach, made out of driftwood. And we're like, I think right here's the spot, you know.

And so we, we just — we figured the tide's going to come in and take them out, you know. And so we dumped the ashes out there and stuff on the sand, and I took one of the sticks, and I made a big heart and wrote my parents initials in the middle, you know.

But all that to say, guys, the ashes, the things of our lives, you know they've got to have their day. And Lahaina's going to have its day. There's going to be a day that it's going to be dirt again, and then infrastructure needs to be rebuilt and all kinds of things there.

So it's a long ways off. I mean, there's 1% of 3000-plus homes and businesses. So to give you just a gist of it kind of thing. For the people of Lahaina, 13,000-plus that lost everything: Their homes, you know, apartments, cars, their stuff. But you know, within their stuff, it's like you don't realize what's so precious to you till it's all gone.

And you think, oh, I need to — my daughter and her family are living with us. And still, today, things come up with, "Oh, I'm going to grab my..." Oh, I don't have that anymore. And those things that hit you.

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But memories from a lifetime. I talked with one of our friends, a guy that came to church. I don't know if I shared this with you last time, but it's too good to pass up. This guy who's become a good friend, Andrew, he showed up at our backyard when we were doing church services there for a little while because we couldn't even use the park where we meet.

And he walked in the backyard, and he goes, "Hey, you used to be my bartender." And I go, "Yeah, and now I'm your pastor." He's like, "You, you're the pastor?" I'm like, "Yeah!"

PASTOR JD: So you know that he was a bartender, and I was a car dealer. And then God called us into the ministry, so just full disclosure. Yeah. Only God could do that.

PASTOR STEVE: And He continues, you know, to use the foolish things. Don't ever count yourself — you know, none of us are worthy. But God says, you know, I can use you.

But so Andrew, this guy, he's one of those that ran from the fire. They ran — were on their way out, they ran back in to try to get their son or somebody else, I forget who it was, and then their grandkid was with them, and like, oh, my gosh. So they got them out, and they were running from the fire. And they were one of those that was running along the side of the wash that was there at Kahoma Stream.

But a lot of people lost a lot of stuff. He shared with us a friend of his that his grandparents were there. They were talking with them, and they said that they had \$100,000 in cash in a safe. And they got to the safe, and they opened it up, and there's — they'd saved about \$40,000 that wasn't — that was still together enough. But a fireproof safe is only as good as it bakes. You put money in an oven and bake it, even though it doesn't catch on fire, it disappears.

But people lost — and stuff that can be replaced. But right now, people; there's still around 6000 people. 13,000 people that fled that night and that were displaced. There's around 6000 still that are living in Lahaina or Lahaina, not town, but north of Lahaina, kind of Lahaina. For those of you who don't know Lahaina, they consider from Lahaina all the way up to Kapalua, Lahaina side. So from Ka'anapali to Kapalua, there's still around 6000 people in hotels there and some of the condos and things like that. People trying to get placed that have been displaced, that move still. Some people have moved five or six times with their families. We were dropping off some stuff, an air filter with a woman a little while back, and

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she'd said that they were on their fifth move. And they were in a really nice place now: two bedrooms, two bath, five-star condo. I mean, amazing. But they don't know how long they're going to be there.

PASTOR JD: This is from hotel to hotel or hotel to...?

PASTOR STEVE: Hotel to hotel. One side of the island to the other side of the island to back to the Lahaina side. Because most of the people that lived in Lahaina want to be back in Lahaina. Even though the town's, you know, gone, it's hard, but it's their home. And they don't want to be in Kahului. They don't want to be shipped over to Oahu or — because they haven't seen Kaneohe, you know, so they don't know how good they can have it, yeah?

PASTOR JD: We'll get back to you on that, okay?

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah, but also to the Big Island, whatever; they're trying to move people out to Puna and stuff. But all that said, it's just hard, and people's hearts are still broken. And it's you go from, you know, laughter and things are good and whatever to all of a sudden, just that wonder of where they're going to be, you know, the next day.

I mean, we've got good friends that are living in the hotels. And one of the guys was at prayer the other day, and there was some visitors there, and they didn't realize that he'd lost his home, was living in a hotel. And so they're asking questions about these people living in hotels. And he's like, well, that's me. That's where I live. We lost our home.

But God's good. Our family, our church body; people are faithful. We've got the faithful few that are there. You know, we talk about how, you know, it's like God's — like we're church planting again. It's like we didn't do too well the first time around, the first 30 years, you know? So the Lord's giving us another shot.

And... but I tell you; I tell you that I can't tell you, but God is doing some amazing things... and you know... and JD knows. But pray for our church and pray for Lahaina that God would make His name known through Calvary Chapel in a unique way, things that only God could do exceeding, abundantly, beyond all that we could ask or think.

That's our God. Don't ever discount Him for that. Before I get to that, though, I wanted to share with you, again, our home, our family. We have now living with us — when I was here

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the last time, I think we had a few families with us. Now we just have my wife and I and my daughter and her husband and my two grandkids that moved in because they lost their home.

And they're doing good. My daughter's stage 4 breast cancer that had gone into her ribs and her sternum and her scapula and her lymph glands and her liver, and massive, like eight, nine lumps in her breast, whatever, is cancer-free now and has been.

[Applause]

Yeah, amen. Soon to join the club. Yeah, totally. I mean that's God. I mean how great is our God? You can't sing it, you know, without just — He's so good. But she's doing good. She's —

PASTOR JD: Can I just interject something.

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah, sure.

PASTOR JD: So Nicole, his daughter, has spent a lot of time with Kellie on the phone. And I think we told you, full disclosure, that we were going to basically adopt your daughter and your grandkids. So we didn't tell you that? Okay.

PASTOR STEVE: We'll let you have the grandkids.

[Laughter]

No, just kidding. Just kidding.

PASTOR JD: We'll be talking to you about that later. But just fell in love with her. And she's, what, 33?

PASTOR STEVE: 33 now, I think. Yeah.

PASTOR JD: And this was four years ago when she was first diagnosed?

PASTOR STEVE: Gosh, probably like three years ago, a little over three maybe.

PASTOR JD: So when, of course, now — we went public with it. I announced that Kellie had a pretty aggressive form of breast cancer. And so if Steve and I were close before, we were knitted, our hearts together were knitted even closer than you could ever imagine and spent a lot of time, you know, just on the phone. And Nicole spent a lot of time with Kellie, and

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just things that, you know, she learned through the whole process. And it just basically came down to this: Prayer, like we talked about on Tuesday night.

And she's been a real encouragement. I tell you; Nicole loves the Lord. And Kellie was just so blessed. And, you know, here's my wife, right, the pastor's wife, and she's talking to the pastor's daughter on the other island who's went through what she's going through. And just such a tremendous — I think it speaks to you guys just in raising your kids in the fear and the admonition of the Lord. She's just so sound, so solid, and has been such a source of encouragement to Kellie.

And we're right behind you guys. I mean, we're going to — I'm looking forward to — I shared on Tuesday night — for those of you who weren't here, that God, and it's no thing or no one but God who is shrinking the size of the tumor and stopping the spread. So yeah, and only God can do that.

PASTOR STEVE: Amen!

PASTOR JD: And it's just in a word, prayer. So we're waiting for, like Nicole, for Kellie to be cancer-free. So thank you for sharing that.

PASTOR STEVE: And it affects your whole family. It affects your church body. I mean, and it tests your — God tests your faith. And He already knows. He already knows, you know, the faith that you're going to have. He knows, like He knew of Job, what faith you're going to have that's going to carry you to the end. And we just find out in the process.

But it's a big part, you guys that are here tonight and all those, you know, many, many thousands that watch online here, you're a part of the work that God's doing in Kellie and in JD's family right now, big time. For us at our church, we had a special we were doing.

It was during COVID that — or just after COVID, I guess, actually, and they had — no, it was during COVID. Yeah, right. Yeah, it was during COVID that she was diagnosed. And so they bumped the Calvary Chapel Pastors Conference from being at one place to being, you know, by video from all across the country.

And we just happened to be in our study on Wednesday nights there in Exodus, where Moses was there facing Amalek with Israel and Aaron and Hur. And when Moses — you

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know the story — he held his arms up, when he held the staff up and Israel would prevail. When his arms came down, they would not. And so he sat on a rock, and Aaron and Hur came to his sides and held his arms up, and Israel prevailed and won the battle against Amalek. And so that's right where we were on Wednesdays. And then we missed the conference the week before. So we showed it on a Saturday at our church. And during that time, each of the five speakers that spoke — and Chuck Smith being the final surprise guest who was in by video because he's in heaven. So he sent a video.

[Laughter]

PASTOR JD: He's connected, you might say.

PASTOR STEVE: But each of those five pastors, not knowing what the other guys were going to teach on, addressed the text from Exodus with Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' arms. And then one of them broke it down in some detail.

And I was like, wow! So you know, at the end of it, I went up to kind of close up and called everybody from the church. I want you guys to — we're going to do this. This might seem weird to some of you, but we're going to hold Nicole's arms up right now.

Nicole, I want you to come up here. We're going to hold your arms up, and we're going to pray for you. And so we pulled her up to the front of the church, and she held her arms up, and everybody held their arms up and was praying over her. And you know how people pray. Some people just a few words; a lot of people a lot of words.

And so she was looking for a rock to sit on, you know. But it was so cool. Like she's in tears. And it was just a really sweet God time, you know? I mean, it's not something — you don't do that all the time. But when God leads, you do it. And so we did. And then I remember at the end she said — she's just in tears — and she goes, “You know, [She goes] at first, you know, I was just so tired, and I was almost in tears just because my arms hurt, and I couldn't hold them up anymore.” But she said, but then it hit her. “I can't.” She literally could not let her arms down because everyone was holding her arms up.

And it was just such a picture of what we go through. Your prayers and your hearts for Kellie and for JD and for their family are huge. You can't replace that. It's supernatural. It's that thing where Super God comes in, and He works with a natural one, you and I, just simple us.

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And God does a work. And He wins the battle against the flesh, you know, Amalek. And He's good.

And I don't know how we got here, but — oh, yeah, Nicole is doing good.

PASTOR JD: I interrupted you. That's how we got there.

PASTOR STEVE: She's going to be on Oahu this Friday doing some tests again. Just got her wisdom teeth, one of her wisdom teeth out that was impacted and growing off the bone, and so a lot of pain. Pray for her for that. But she's doing good.

And then Tyler, her husband, he's just a champ, he's awesome, just a blessing to have at our house. It'll be sad when they go, you know? They were gone for three weeks, and it was just such a quiet, nice house. But we love them, you know? It's like, you know, you don't want them to leave.

But I want to share this with you. It's a song. I'm not going to sing it for you. But this is — we just had a pastor's prayer thing at Calvary Honolulu the other day, sweet time with guys together there, what have you.

And the last song that they sang before we went into our prayer time was, you know — you know it.

♪ I will serve You because I love You ♪

♪ You have given life to me ♪

♪ I was nothing until You've found me ♪

♪ You have given life to me ♪

♪ Heartache and broken people and ruined lives are why You died on Calvary ♪

♪ Your touch is what I long for ♪

♪ You have given life to me ♪

And I heard that song and I was just like, you know, that's it! You know, that's Lahaina, you're Lahaina, you're Lahaina at home where all those things that go on. Heartache, broken people, ruined — that's Jesus.

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God saw the hurt and the pain of man that came because of sin and death, and He sent His Son. Ruined lives. That's why Jesus died. It wasn't just to prove that He was God, though it did, that He rose from the dead, but to show how much He loved us, to take that pain.

That's why He died on Calvary.

And then that whole — that one line,

♪ Your touch is what I long for ♪

♪ You have given life to me ♪

People don't know it. So many don't know it. But His touch is what they long for, you know? I mean, do you remember — you remember where the Lord spoke in Revelation? He said, hey, you know, “Yet I have this against you. [You know] You forgot your first love.”

And in the NIV version, the old NIV version, it says, remember — after it says, [Hey, I have this against you] “Yet I have this against you. You've forgotten your first love.” [He says] “Remember the height from which you fallen and go back to the things you did it first.”

God doesn't say look at how low you've sunk. Look at your life is a mess, you know. But He says remember how good it was, you know, when we were just in love, and this, the simplest of your walk with Christ.

That is what those that don't know Him long for that they don't know that they long for. But some of you guys here tonight, those of you watching online, listen, you know what? That's what's missing right now in your life that you would just come back to that simple place of your first love with God. That's what Lahaina needs.

People ask, you know, what's the number one thing that Lahaina needs? The number one thing that comes out when people ask that question is: Housing, housing, housing. And it is a huge need, obviously. But it's number two. I thought of it the other day when somebody asked the question. That's number two. The number one thing that people need is Jesus Christ, He himself, His word.

And then — and the thing with that is they need to see, those that don't know Him, they need to see the church in that place where He's the number one thing. Again, the church,

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even as Jesus was speaking to the church at Ephesus there, hey, you know what? “You forgot your first love.”

You know, that's what He would say to us. Interesting, the first church that He addressed, their problem was their first love. And for the church today, people need to see us standing strong, not getting caught up in the — I was sharing this earlier, not getting caught up in the “what ifs” that the enemy throws out there.

You know, for Lahaina, you know, “what if”? You know, is it, is it a plan? You know, are they trying to take the land? Are they going to make Lahaina a Smart City? I mean, those things, it's interesting. Kind of like Event 201 with COVID, you know? Didn't they just do a story about this, you know, six months ago, and now it's happening? And it was not, what, six months before all this that, you know, that the governor's plans for a Smart City. And if something “were” to happen, not saying it will, you know, that we could make Lahaina a Smart City, not to get in all the political stuff with that. But pray for Lahaina because there's a lot of “what ifs” out there that, you know, that are very real. You know, yesterday's conspiracy theories are today's truth. Don't want to say that too loud.

PASTOR JD: That was pretty good, Steve.

PASTOR STEVE: But it's true, so many things like that. And so I don't know. But it's easy for me to get caught up in the “what ifs” just like with Sennacherib there with Hezekiah. Sennacherib, you know, he's like, they've been killing people and taking land and conquering, you know, people bigger than you, you know, he would say to Hezekiah, as he wrote him a letter. I mean it's just got the devil's handwriting all over that letter when you read it.

And listen, same thing with the “what ifs” of your life. Well, I mean, “what if” when Nicole and her cancer had hit, you know, and looking at our grandkids, what if God takes her? What if God takes her, man? What if God takes my daughter, and she's got these little kids? But you know what? He does sometimes. He allows it sometimes. Young moms die, and it's tragic. And I praise God for His grace and His mercy in our lives. And maybe it's because of just —you beseeched the Lord so much that He's like, you know, I'm going to bless you. I've

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allowed Satan, his hand this far, thus far, even as with Job, as we'll look at it in a sec here. But I'm going to bless you. I'm going to give you your heart's desire.

But still, even after God spoke so clear to my heart, "I've got this," you know, "I will heal her," those words twice, just like that. I didn't hear it audibly, but in my head, in my heart: "I will heal her," two separate occasions.

And I was just like, God, are You going to do this? And still I doubted, you know, and even — and with just where we live, this flesh that's weak. And God would say to you tonight, you know what? I can do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that you think or ask right now. Keep asking, keep knocking, keep seeking.

You know, you don't know that you might just find it's right around the corner. I love it. So many times in my Bible as I'm teaching on a Wednesday night in the Old Testament, and it's like — and you read one thing, and then you turn the page, and it's like at the top of the page.

Everything's gone. We've got nothing. We're in trouble. Everybody's going to die. We're going to — there's no water. And you turn the page, and on the top of the next page: "And there were 12 springs with 70 palm trees."

You know, just wait for God to turn the page. But for Lahaina, that's where we kind of live. You know, there's a lot of things that are real. We've got to face it, you know? Can people afford to rebuild their homes? Everything that's real out there right now would say that most people probably won't be able to afford to rebuild their homes, a great degree, at least, because the numbers for rebuilding your home — you see people most — the people that were blessed enough to have insurance, most of them were underinsured when it comes to present building costs.

Note to self, you know, take a moment right now. Write it down: Check your home insurance. Make sure that you have enough to rebuild your home. And then others that were completely uninsured — some close, close friends of ours that their insurance lapsed the month before, and they didn't know it. They didn't even know it. They live out of the state.

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But God's bigger. And we look at that. It's like Sennacherib's letter. Hey, see, you're doomed, man. You might as well just give up. “Curse God and die,” like Job's wife. Everybody picks on her.

PASTOR JD: Can I just insert some on Sennacherib’s letter? You know, what was so insidious about it was he wrote in that letter that God told Him to write that letter —

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah.

PASTOR JD: — as if it were from God to Hezekiah. And the Lord sent me to tell you — how did you say it? You're going to die. You're doomed —

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah.

PASTOR JD: — you know, and God's turned His back on you. And God is sending me to send you this letter to tell you that.

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah.

PASTOR JD: And what he does — can I just —

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah, go ahead.

PASTOR JD: You can finish it, but I just — I want a little bit of thunder here.

So what is so cool about that, for those of you that were with us when we were studying through that, Hezekiah does what every single one of us should do. He takes that email from Sennacherib. You know, the email I'm talking about? And he prints it out, and he lays it out before the Lord and says, okay, Lord, what are You going to do about this? And then you could take it from there.

PASTOR STEVE: And I was just going to say the same thing. And then he says, and he begins by saying basically, O Lord God, the creator of heaven and earth. And he goes on to recount all of the wonders and the glories of God and the goodness of God. And it's like — and by the end of that paragraph of prayer, it's like, I'm okay.

You know, you start to remember the goodness of God and the things that He's done and who He is. We always talk about it —and just finishing going through Joshua — when things look bleak, look back. Remember the good things that God has done.

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And that's where right now people in Lahaina need to see the church because we're in a place where there's a lot of people that don't know Jesus. If there's one thing like I shared in the video there, if there's one thing good that can come out of this and glorious, is that people will come to know Christ.

And for us, pray for us as a church. Like I wrote in one of the letters that JD read a little while back, you know, that we would find a place to rest. You know, right now, we're in the park and it's — we've been there for 31 years.

So what's the problem? Well, the problem is there is also a homeless camp that's growing in on each side and spreading out. And you think, well, these poor people lost their homes. Steve, have you no heart? You know, listen, the majority of those who are right now homeless in Lahaina and living in tents in the parks and stuff like that and around the island, for that matter, have come from Oahu.

I met a guy two weeks ago. Hey, come up. He came up for prayer at the end of the service, and I prayed for him. Hey, pray for my Social Security to come through. I just moved here three weeks ago from Oahu, and I'm not getting my Social Security. I'm like, what are you doing here? There's free stuff here, you know? Free stuff, tent, live on the ocean right here in Lahaina, great church. (Chuckle)

But another guy who just moved here from New York five weeks ago, from New York. I mean — and then others, you know, just from homeless camps that moved up from the other side of the island, because there's all kinds of free stuff.

So pray for us for that. But it's hard having a church in the midst of that. It'd be one thing if it was just adults and us there. But when you want to reach out to families, it's kind of tough.

You know, we got the kids with us during worship there in the park. Service, if you've ever been there and seen it, it's beautiful. It's beautiful. And then, hey, now, after, now, okay, worship is over. And the children, they're all going to go — Sunday school is down the park, just past the homeless camp. Don't worry, they're safe there. You can't see them. I know you smell the dope and you hear the yelling and whatever, but they're okay over there. Sunday School at Calvary Chapel.

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So we need a home. But I believe God for it. I mean, He's doing some wonderful things behind the scenes, like they say. But I don't want to get caught up in the “what ifs” because it's really easy to go there. But He has a plan for us. Yeah.

PASTOR JD: So I know you wanted to talk a little bit about Job, which I'm really looking forward to because this is a — Steve and I were talking about the fear factor, if I can call it that, for lack of a better way of saying that. With Job, there's that one point where he says, **“that which I have feared the most has come upon me.”**

But it was past tense after everything had happened. So this is well into this unthinkable trial that is just unimaginable, just the suffering that he was in. And when Steve talks about this, I think it'll kind of fill in some blanks.

But one of the things that's really interesting is that the enemy could not do to Job anything unless God allowed him to do it. And what's conspicuously absent from the account is any mention of Job giving — I mean the devil giving Job a heads up, as it were.

In other words, when Satan puts that spirit of fear in you, or the “what ifs,” which just give way to the fear. You know, what if I don't have a place to call home? What if I keep going from hotel to hotel? Or what if, you know, the cancer continues to spread? And what if and what if? And it's a bottomless pit. It's endless. And it's just, it's rife with fear and the spirit of fear.

But here's the thing. Satan is not going to give you a spirit of fear. He's just going to do it. Why would he give you a fear warning ahead of time? There's no mention of the enemy ever once telling Job, I'm going to take your kids, all ten of them. I don't want to step too far into what you're going to share, but I just kind of want to set the stage a little bit.

The point is this: When that spirit of fear comes in, you know it's the enemy. Why? Well, first of all, the Holy Spirit will never give us fear, but love, power, and a sound mind, right? So disciplined mind — to be able to take every thought captive, where you discipline your mind the way you would discipline your children. You just don't let that fear thought come in.

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But here's the thing and let me just lay it out. If you have a spirit of fear, it's the enemy knowing that he's not been given permission from the Lord to do it; otherwise, he would have already done it.

So when Satan (Job) says, **“that which I have feared the most has come upon me,”** that was not vocalized. That was internalized. And Satan cannot read your mind or know your thoughts. Only God can.

So Satan was not privy to that fear. And also Satan, who is the author of fear, as he is the author of confusion, if he didn't have permission from God to do it, he then resorts to just putting the fear, hey, I'm going to take your kids. I'm going to take your daughter. I'm going to take your wife. I'm going to destroy your life.

No, nice try. If you already had a green light from God, you wouldn't try to make me afraid. You would have already done it by now. Does that make sense? So don't let the enemy put the fear of “what if.”

Because if he's doing it, then rejoice. Because God has not given him permission to do it. And it's evidenced by the fact that if he had, he would've already done it. He wouldn't like, you know, send you a text like, just, hey, heads up, I'm going to take your kids.

No, he's just going to do it once he gets the green light. And I probably should include that — and we've talked about this — God will never allow the enemy to do anything unless it's for our good and His glory. Ask Peter, who Jesus said, *[You know]* **“Peter, Satan has asked for permission to sift you as wheat.”** And I just I see kind of a humor in that if I'm Peter, right?

PASTOR STEVE: Oh, yeah.

PASTOR JD: If you and I are Peter, especially if you and I, Steve — Steve and JD were there, we'd be like Peter. Did You ask Him if He said yes? You told the devil no, he doesn't have permission to sift me as wheat, right?

No, Steve, JD, Peter, I gave him permission.

No!

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But when it's all said and done, it's going to be for your good and My glory. And that's the only reason God will ever allow the enemy to do anything. He can do nothing. And when he doesn't have permission — and I'll close with this — when he doesn't have permission, then he resorts to fear because he doesn't have the green light to do it.

So you know it's the devil because it's not the Holy Spirit. Because, again, if he had permission from the Lord, he would certainly not put the fear. He would have already done it by now, by that time anyway.

Did I just derail everything that you want?

PASTOR STEVE: No, no. The thing is fear is a byproduct of the enemy's voice and the weakness of your flesh. That's what it is. It's the enemy's voice and the weakness of your flesh. And next thing you know, you're spinning. And the only fear that God will give you is the fear of the Lord, you know? And that **“fear of the Lord [That the Word says in *Proverbs 9:10*] is the beginning of wisdom.”** Right? **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”**

Everyone in our church knows the second half of that verse because I've shared this probably a thousand times because the second half of that verse is everything. **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”**

And the Holy one is Jesus. And when you have a knowledge of Him — first thing, what is the greatest knowledge that you are given of the Holy One, of Jesus? What is the greatest understanding of Jesus that you will find in the Bible? It's that you know it, at least personally, He loves you. He's God and He loves you. And that knowledge of the Holy One is the understanding that will carry you through all of the doubts and the fears and the shouts of the enemy along the way.

And I've shared from *1 Kings* before, *19*, and how, hey, like our t-shirts that says — our t-shirts, I wore it last week — the last time I made JD wear a t-shirt for the first time in his life. He wore a t-shirt at church that says: Jesus loves Lahaina. And on the back, it says: Not in the wind. Not in the fire. But a still, small voice. It's from *1 Kings 19:12*. And I want to get a

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new one made. I was telling my daughter today — that got these going — you can still get them on JesusLovesLahaina.com.

We have a new one coming out, hopefully, says Jesus — Jesus — and then with a little arrow thing at the bottom, you know, and then the item above, “Jesus still loves Lahaina.” He still loves Lahaina.

He wasn't in the wind. He wasn't in the fire. And I don't know; I couldn't tell you how many hundreds of times I've shared those verses with people. And it's just been awesome and good because it was God, so it was powerful that way.

But God called Elijah to the cave, to come out of the cave. And He had him stand there. And He had there before him the wind that broke the rocks and then the earthquake that shook. Interesting, the wind broke the rocks. That's radical. God wasn't in the wind. I mean, that's the destruction that the Lord showed you. I'm not in that destruction.

Then came the earthquake. Then came the fire. And it says, **“And the Lord was not in the wind...”** *[Or the earthquake or the fire]* But then came the **“...still, small voice.”**

And the Lord wanted to speak. And we've expounded on that. It's amazing. You go back and watch the one from before that we did if you want to see more on that, whatever.

But I thought, okay — all of a sudden, it hit me. Where else was it that the enemy brought destruction by wind and by fire? And I was just sitting there. I thought, wow, in Job, isn't that what happened? And so there was a day in *Job 1:6* after explaining how awesome Job was and how much he had. No man of the land was as great as Job — blameless, upright, feared God, turned away from evil. Borne seven sons and three daughters, you know, camels, and yokes of oxen, and all the rest.

And interesting — and when his sons — it says — let's just read this. Look at *verse 4*. It says, **“His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day.”** So they shared. You come to our house tomorrow night. We come over to your house the next night. We're going to party over at sister's house on Thursday, you know.

“And they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he

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would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be *[You think so]* that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.”

So again, amazing studies. You can go there and ideas and understanding for praying for your family and the example that he was. But all that to say offering all of the burnt offerings, all of the prayers that God had brought through Job’s heart and consecrated therein, God still took his family.

So was it God? Was it judgment because Job’s prayers weren't good enough or his kids were just that bad? No, it wasn't.

“There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. *[Satan was there]* The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” And Satan answered the Lord and said, “I've been down going to and fro around the earth, from walking up and down on it.”

And the Lord said to Satan *[With a big smile]* “Have you considered my servant Job...”

And you know he had. You know he had. It's like God is just digging in there, you know.

“Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” *[And of course]* Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have You not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”

[And so important] And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” And so Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

And so this was — this, when you read on, we find this was Satan's hand. It wasn't God's hand. God gets blamed for everything, you know? Anything bad and huge happens, “it was an act of God,” you know?

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Well, maybe not, you know. I mean, I thought, you know — it makes me wonder how many times over the millennia has God, you know, had similar conversations with Satan. Have you considered My servant JD?

PASTOR JD: No!

PASTOR STEVE: Blameless? Well...

[Laughter]

PASTOR JD: Just stop. Have you considered My servant Steve?

PASTOR STEVE: Okay, Kellie. Have you considered My servant Kellie? Blameless, upright. No, I mean upright man? I mean Job was not a perfect man. You just got to know that there is never a perfect man but Jesus.

But hey, **“blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.”** Put your name in there. You know, those who love God and won't quit is the idea. And the Lord allows that man, that woman, those to be tested.

And he goes on through that, and you know the story. I spoke of it earlier. As enemy went out, it says that **“The fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them.”**

And while he — the one that had come, remember? I jumped ahead. But just for time's sake, you know, one of the servants had come and said, hey, this is what happened.

And he says, **“And while this one was still speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”**

And while he was yet speaking, [Remember these three guys coming with bearers of bad news] there came another and said...” “...your brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness...” “...and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

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And so you have the fire that burned. And again, the wind that blew. And Job's children are dead. **"Then Job arose, and he tore his clothes..."** And he said, Lord, I prayed. I prayed every day. I was faithful every day to pray.

No, he doesn't do that. He just shaved his head and he showed us what real worship is, an outline for the response to tragedy here. **"He shaved his head and fell on the ground, and he worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong."**

And I mean, that's you know — I can understand Job's wife. Like I started to mention earlier, a lot of people, you know, bag on Mrs. Job. **"Curse God and die, Job."** And it's like, **"Get behind me, Satan."**

Listen, this woman just lost all their family and her children and their home. And now her husband is sick and looks like he's going to die. You know, it's like, people need to give grace to Mrs. Job.

But all that to say, you know what my wife needs in times like this, what your wife needs — men out there — what your church needs, pastors, is that we would be those that — you know what? I don't know. I don't get it. I cannot say. But we're going to trust God. We're going to trust God. That's all we've got. And we've seen Him be faithful.

Like that song I sang for you earlier, you know, I'm going to trust Him for the distance. He's never waiting on the sidelines. He's always there with us in the fight and ready.

And you go through all the next, you know, 40 chapters with Job there, and his friends show up and give us an example of what it is to be a good friend and what it is to be a friend in the flesh. They start off, they're all weeping and mourning and sackcloth and ashes, you know, for seven days and just doing the right thing.

"Weep with those that weep." Sometimes we don't know what to say and then what happens? But we finally decide that we need to figure out what to say. No, you don't. No, you don't. Just love. Just love. Just love. Unless God really gives you a word, and I'm the one that needs to learn this as much as anybody, keep your mouth shut till God speaks.

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But at the end of it all — and I just want to share this with you. I don't know what, where we want to go through or to, but at the end of it is the Lord speaks and clears things up and shows His grace, not only for Job and his approval of Job, yet his correction. It says in *Chapter 42:7*, **“After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”**

That's the guy I want to be, you know. I want to be the one that in the end, you know, God can say, thank you. Thank you for believing in Me. Thank you for representing Me rightly. Thank you for not giving in to your hurt and your pain that was very real, Job.

But He says, He goes on to say, **“Therefore now take seven bulls and seven rams and take them to My servant Job and offer these offerings for yourselves. [And He says] And My servant Job [My servant Job] shall pray for you, and I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly.”**

You know, it's like God already knows that Job is going to pray for these guys, even though they are messed up, mixed up, frustrating, you know, as people can be in our lives. People that come when you have someone in your family has cancer and tell you the story about their family member that died.

Nobody needs to hear that story, okay? Nobody needs to hear that. You know, go to your prayer closet, and pray. But here he is praying for these guys. And again, I love it. **“I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.”**

Again, that's who I want to be. I want to be the one that God could be able to say, “That's My servant.” I don't want Him to say it to the devil again anymore. I mean, I don't know. Did it happen behind the scenes? “Consider My servant, Steve.” Burn his whole town down.

I mean, I don't know. I don't think that Lahaina was just for me and this and that. But who knows how many together, God's saying, hey, I've got faithful servants there.

I was working as a bartender one time at the Marriott, like I'd shared, and it was probably the best paying job in the hotel, if not in Lahaina, at that time in that kind of a field.

Ridiculous money we were making. And they called us in for a special meeting.

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And the night before I'd been on my floor in the living room. I'd get off work every night, go home, you know, study my Bible, and then I'd drop on my knees on the floor in the living room.

And this one night; it was one of those times where you know God heard your prayer. And I literally just dropped on my knees in the living room floor before I went back to get to bed, before it got light, you know, and I just prayed, "Lord, turn my life upside down. Whatever you want God, I'm yours."

And then the next day, hey, we got an emergency meeting. Everybody, come in. We need to talk with all you guys that work Banana Moon. I'm like, whatever. Somebody got busted, you know, drugs. Who knows.? It was going on there all the time. But long story short, I went into the meeting, and they said, "Well, we need to let y'all know we're closing. Banana Moon is closing. Y'all need to find jobs within the next month. Otherwise, some of you that have been here for a while we'll give you some severance," and this and that, which is very generous, you know, for an hourly job.

But my wife was pregnant, you know, with a baby, and we needed the insurance. And everybody was devastated because these guys were making bank. And so they said, "All of you are out of jobs. Good luck."

And I just started laughing and literally just like belly laughing. And they were like, "What's so funny?" And they all knew I as a Christian; they'd all mocked me before, whatever.

And I looked at them, and I just said, I go, "I'm so sorry."

"What's so funny? You just lost your — you're making more money than any of these guys — only two of you," the other bartenders, you know.

And I go, "Well, [I go] last night I prayed, and I asked God to turn my life upside down and do whatever He wanted. And you all got caught up in it. And I'm really sorry. God's doing something here."

And He was. Because it was through that that I moved into the — on the last day of it, got a job at Nico's little Japanese Teppanyaki Steakhouse thing at the Marriott back then. Got a job in there as a cashier/bartender two days a week. And it was through that, that I started

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breaking down the *Book of 1 John* and thinking, you know, maybe I should teach this. And, you know, that's kind of where Calvary Chapel kind of got born in there and some other ways.

PASTOR JD: Hey, Steve, with the Marriott that you were a bartender in, the same Marriott that you did Bible studies?

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah. Well, let me see. Wait, no.

PASTOR JD: I mean, all these years later, was it a different Marriott?

PASTOR STEVE: No, no, no. We did — we did — I actually went from bartending at night — we did Christmas Eve services there for a year when we first started the church because we didn't have a building.

So did Christmas Eve services at the Marriott Ballroom. And there is a couple of them that — where it fell on a night that I was working. And so I went from working at the nightclub — not the nightclub, but at the Teppanyaki Bar to the ballroom — and went from the one bar to the pulpit, whatever, you know, and shared our Christmas Eve service.

But at the Hyatt was where we did the evening services, yeah, out there at the luau garden.

PASTOR JD: God's got a sense of humor, doesn't He?

PASTOR STEVE: But all that to say the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends, guys that were mixed up, messed up, you know, said some hurtful things. And I just thought, you know, I've got that — actually, I have it in my notes on my phone that didn't work anymore, that broke.

But, you know, who is it there — who is there in your life that maybe you need to put them back on your prayer list? That person that was — and I hate those words — “they're too much trouble.” You know what? Don't ever tell me that. Don't ever me tell me, or anybody tell me that they're too much trouble. I mean, look at what God's put up with and gone through for you and me, and for our sake, and His love.

And so maybe there's people on your prayer list that the Lord would say, hey, put them back on your list and start praying for them. Maybe God will start restoring some things in your life, if not just your own heart, which is greatest of all.

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But then He goes on to say, and more to it than that, but in *verse 12*, it says, **“And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.”**

And again, Calvary Chapel, we're not a name-it-and-claim-it, and God's got a blessing for you. You know, He's got a seven-fold — give a \$68 seed, and you're going to receive \$68,000 back. You know, we don't do that here.

PASTOR JD: You don't?

[Laughter]

PASTOR STEVE: But the truth of the matter is, is you know what? I believe we shortchange God when it comes to blessings, sometimes, in our lives as well. And we need to be asking Him for it, believing Him for greater things than these in our lives.

What if the latter days — I mean, I look at our lives and our church right now, and it's like, you know, God, do You want to do more than You've done before? We've always had — you know, when we were talking earlier, and JD is saying he was a CPA. We've never had the money to need a CPA. True.

But in the latter days, what does God want to do? You know, what does He want to do in your life? Don't count yourself out. A lot of gray heads here tonight and stuff like that, and mine, I dye it, so that's why — not really.

PASTOR JD: You know that Steve's older than me.

PASTOR STEVE: Are we going to do this again?

PASTOR JD: Oh, yeah. He just — I just want to get this off my chest real quick, if that's okay. I just want to go on the record and let you know that he's older than me.

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah. And I'd like to go on the record that I do not dye my hair. My sister-in-law asked me one time, “Hey, what do you use on your hair?” Because my brother, his hair went gray a long time ago. She's like, “What do you use on your hair?” I'm going, “Sometimes a little product, and you know, whatever.”

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And she goes, “No, for the color.” I’m like, “I don't color my hair.” I mean, I think it would be cool because, you know, you get a little respect. You know, people look at you like, oh, well this guy is a little older. He’s got the gray hair, you know, that the glory going on.

PASTOR JD: Thank you very much. Respect me, then.

[Laughter]

PASTOR STEVE: But when there's no hair — no, no.

PASTOR JD: Okay. You had to go there with the no hair?

[Laughter]

Okay, we're even now.

PASTOR STEVE: Hey, isn't it amazing how superficial and whatever people are? I mean, when I first got glasses, this little old lady at our church was like — I got glasses because I couldn't get — my arm wasn't long enough to see my watch anymore. And she was like, “Oh, well, now I can respect you.” She's been coming to our church for years.

PASTOR JD: You guys would never do that to me, right?

PASTOR STEVE: But listen to this, though, again. Again, **“The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.”** **“And Job died, [This is jumping down the last verse of the book] Job died, an old man and full of days.”**

And this morning I read that, and I was thinking **“full of days.”** We just read just a portion of his life there, you know, some amazing days, the beginning of Chapter 1, amazing days, crazy days. At the same time, then, you know the bulk of the book really, really, really hard, hard, brutal days. But good days or really, really hard days, Lahaina days. Cancer-call days.

The one that believes will say, **“Blessed be the name of the Lord.”** I'm going to worship Him. And what happens as you worship Him? Listen, the same thing — when you get to that place, and you're broken and you're hurt, and you worship Him, I'm okay. I am okay.

You know, Hezekiah reading Sennacherib's letter, you know, lays it out before the Lord. You know, God, You are good, You're glorious, You created the heavens and the earth. And all of a sudden, what it is, it's basically — it's that place of worship. And I am okay.

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It doesn't happen if you don't worship. It will not happen if you don't read your Bible. The place where God works is through worship and His word. I'm not going to live in fear. I refuse to abandon hope. His word I will believe. My God will rescue me.

God gave me those words when I needed them so bad, praying for my daughter, praying for my daughter, not just, "God, heal my daughter." "God, keep my grandchildren's mom around." "God, don't make me have to comfort my wife at the loss of her daughter, and her sister who loves her so, and her husband who'd be left behind."

But all of a sudden, God gives you those words. I'm not going to sing it for you now, but I sang it for JD earlier.

PASTOR JD: I got a special, dedicated song.

PASTOR STEVE: I am not going to live in fear. I refuse to abandon hope. You guys, that's — worship. Worship will carry you. Worship will change your mindset. **"And full of days,"** *[Good or bad]* **"blessed be the name of the Lord."**

PASTOR JD: Wow! Did you want to — you still got like four pages of notes.

PASTOR STEVE: I still have four pages of notes?

PASTOR JD: Don't you?

PASTOR STEVE: No. That's it.

PASTOR JD: Oh, you're done? Wow, how'd you do that?

PASTOR STEVE: Oh, no, you know what? I do have two things, two things. This is on the Sheraton Waikiki paper from this morning.

PASTOR JD: Yeah.

PASTOR STEVE: And I'm like, God bless them. My wife works for Ritz-Carlton. Little plug for Ritz. Marriott owns Ritz, and they own everything. Like I shared with some of the guys earlier; they will own your home soon. (Chuckle) They will own Lahaina. Maybe. I don't know. But we won't go there.

But I got this there, and there's two notes left here. One of them is this. And I read it there, but I'll read it for you now as well because it's just too good. This is where we live. In that

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place in *1 Peter 1:6*, **“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith may be tested.”**

Again, so that's where you live, in the place of the test, every one of us, that's where we live, in the place of the test of our faith, the testing of your faith, **“...more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire, that it may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

And the greatest revelation of Jesus Christ and the greatest praise and glory that will ever go to Him, is people finding Christ, people finding Christ through your life, through the reality of it.

And I want to share this with you. JD doesn't know. I told him I was going to share something with you if I can find it again. This is a little card I — oh, this is a different little card. Here's another little card. That's a different — oh, look at that.

This is the card that my daughter gave me the day of her first chemo. She wrote out one for each person in our family. It was on my birthday — there it is, there's the date. Now we know, 2021, she went in for her first chemo.

Where is it? There it is. This is a card I printed out years ago before I ever — like back when we started church in '93, so probably '92, maybe '91. But I was in a class up at Regent College in Canada. And one of the classes was a class by John Stott, who is well known, famous, you know, theologian. But the book is called *'Between Two Worlds.'*

And this just stuck out to me so heavy. And it was before I was ever a pastor. I wrote it out. And it's just, you can tell how faded and worn and you know, coffee leaked-on it is and all. But it says this. And you guys will get this. You know, I feel sorry for the congregation, for the church that wouldn't understand this, and there are many.

It says, “A congregation learns the seriousness of the Gospel by the seriousness with which their pastor expounds it.” The congregation learns the seriousness of the Gospel by the seriousness with which their pastor expounds it. Basically, it's like the congregation learns the seriousness of the Gospel by the heart of their pastor. You know, you guys have a pastor that is serious about the Gospel.

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You know, I just met with guys the other day at the Calvary Chapel, the pastors' prayer meeting thing, guys that are seriousness about the Gospel, that expound the Gospel. And I thought, well, you know, this is great, and we could all applaud JD and maybe me, or something like that, or people like us that are serious about it. But it will all go back to the glory of God, casting our crowns at His feet, all the rest.

But I thought, you know what? Your friends, your coworkers, your children, your grandchildren will learn the seriousness of the Gospel by the seriousness by which you live it out. You're not maybe going to be expounding it from a pulpit or someplace like this, but every day, you guys, we're those living epistles that God has given, that write upon people's hearts the seriousness of the love of God and Jesus Christ.

You don't want to make it all religious: "The seriousness of the Gospel." We know it's just good news. But what's the good news? God loves man. God loves people in their hurt, in their pain, in their sorrow. He has hope. He has a plan. He still has a plan for Lahaina because He still loves Lahaina. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Yeah, I was telling Steve — I was actually — I was going to title tonight's, you know, time together with Steve — I was actually thinking instead of 'Part 2, Jesus Loves Lahaina,' I was going to actually title it, 'Jesus Still Loves Lahaina' because here we are seven months later — almost?

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah, just about.

PASTOR JD: We're hugging seven months after this happened. And sadly it is — it's just not even a blip on the radar. Yeah, nobody really — and you know it's — just I'll just take a couple minutes if that's okay. Because we've talked about this and I — Steve and Kim have been a real encouragement to Kellie and I in a myriad of ways, one of which is — really chief of which is — that we are reminded with a much-needed reminder, and things are put into perspective when — especially my wife who's born and raised Kailua girl — reflects on how Lahaina could have been Kailua and how that we take so much for granted.

I was sharing with Steve about a project that I embarked on. In fact, it was just yesterday, and I won't go into details. But suffice it to say my sanctification fled from me trying to repair a desk drawer that wouldn't shut, casting demons out of it and everything.

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And, you know, so here I am. I'm just like — and I don't have time to be fixing a drawer. And the Lord is so faithful. He just reminded me of my brother Steve and the people of Lahaina who would probably love to have a drawer to fix. And it just laid me out.

You know, here we are. We have this beautiful church. I just, I'm always before the Lord just thanking the Lord. But at the same time, I'm just with fear and trembling before Lord, asking for forgiveness for just taking everything for granted.

You know, we're going to, when we end tonight, we're all going to go to our homes and, you know, our comfortable, nice homes. You made a comment, you know, both when we were upstairs and now about how, you know, when you talk about stuff, it's not just stuff. You know, hey, forget it. It's just stuff.

But wait a minute. Irreplaceable stuff, photos, home videos of your children when they were little — gone — just little things that we, you know, take for granted.

And anyway, it's been a convicting, not condemning — you know, the Holy Spirit convicts, but it's the enemy who condemns. You know that's the litmus test, right? That it's conviction when it draws you closer to the Lord. It's condemnation when it distances you further from the Lord.

But just a sanctified conviction of man, my brother Steve's over there dealing with — I did not know that it was getting that bad at the park. This just horrifying. But you know, man... And here we are. We're up here like, you know, hey...

(Sighing) Oh, I don't want to even go there. I'm going to get more convicted.

But that's just real stuff. And then when you guys— you can see Lahaina town from where you live, right?

PASTOR STEVE: We're just down the street of pictures that I showed you earlier.

PASTOR JD: That was from down the street from your house, yeah?

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah.

PASTOR JD: Man, that just — anyway, I just, I think maybe the takeaway — I'll speak for myself. The takeaway for me always is — whenever I think of Steve and Kim and the

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brothers and sisters there — is we are so blessed, and just an attitude of gratitude. And you know, don't be like the Israelites grumbling and complaining about things that some people would love to be able to grumble and complain but can't because they've lost everything.

So thank you for the conviction and sanctified conviction. But it's good. It's a good word, especially one last thing. Your comment on, you know, yeah, we're in the last days, but “what if” on the other side of that “what if” equation, what if God, you know — like we've talked about many times over the phone about “what if God has something just so grand and glorious for you this side of the rapture?”

Psalm 27:13-14. And I'll let you kind of end it off and close us in prayer. David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel is just at the end of himself. He's hit rock bottom, and it's at one of the lowest points in his life. And he pens these words. The whole psalm is just— you know, bathe in it.

You will be so encouraged by it because it just speaks to right where I know many people are. And it's just a rock bottom, the bottom has fallen out, and he's just in a freefall. And he says, I would have just totally given up and thrown in the towel, and I came this close to losing heart, but I — had it not been for remaining confident that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. That's this side of heaven. The land of the living is earth. Now, this is not to say that, you know, it's a heaven on earth. But no, what David was saying was he had not given up all hope. He still had confidence that as bad as it was — everything was just unspeakably bad — he still was confident that this side of heaven, he would see the goodness of the Lord.

And I love *verse 14*. It's the last verse in *Psalm 27* where David basically — it's not self-talk but a talk with self. You know, we've talked about this. Self-talk is, you know, we know what self-talk is. It's not that. It's David having a talk with himself.

I like to see it and say it as, you know, JD, sit down, boy. We need to talk. And you have a good talking to yourself.

“Why be in such despair?” [Psalm 42 and 43] “For you will again have reason to praise the Lord.”

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Well, he does the same thing in *Psalms 27*. He has a talk with himself, and he says to himself, you just wait, you be strong, be of good courage and wait and you will see. He's talking to himself. **“You will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”**

So I just — maybe that's a word. Maybe we'll have another one if the Lord carries. I hope not. But if He does, we'll have 'Jesus Still Loves Lahaina - Part 38.'

[Laughter]

PASTOR JD: Well, I think there's a Scripture. You know, there's those times you think, God, did You give me this word? Did You give me that Scripture? And it's just come about in all of my Bible— it's — pretty much it's right there. It has a little CCW next to it, Calvary Chapel Westside.

“Behold, I am doing a new thing.” Isaiah 43:19. “Behold, I am doing a new thing.”

Before that He says don't think about the former things. Don't consider the things of old. You know, surely, I buried the chariots in the mighty waters of the sea, and I did all those things. That was great. They lie down, they cannot be used. They're extinguished like a wick. Forget about all the great and glorious things I did before. Don't talk about the tent. Some of you know.

“I am doing a new thing; now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness. I'll make rivers in the desert streams. And there the beasts will honor me, the jackals, the ostriches...”

Nobody wants beasts and jackals. And you know ostriches are like the dirtiest bird in the world? Nobody wants those in their church.

But He says, hey, **“I'm going to take the beasts and the jackals and the ostriches, and they will honor Me, and I will give them water in the wilderness and streams in the desert...”**

“...My chosen, My people to give them drink that I have formed for Myself, that they might declare My praise.”

And I just think, God, do You want to do something in these last days in Lahaina? Do You want to reach out to those that maybe would be thinking of themselves as unreachable for God, been a jackal all my life?

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But all that to say I believe He does. I believe God's got plans. I know that — I believe that God can come back for His church at any time, and I hope He does. But I got a feeling that there's some things He still wants to do. I could be wrong. I've been wrong before. But I think there's some things that God still wants to do that are going to glorify Him in amazing ways.

And we ought not to think less than the blessings that God brought upon Job that He could bring up on your lives, and our church, and your church, and His church in general. Everybody's looking for those that will tell you there's going to be a great revival in the last days. I don't see that anywhere in the Bible. But that doesn't mean that there can't be great revivals and spreading of God's word until that day comes.

And so that's what we're looking for. That's what we're hoping on and going to carry it out with the seriousness of the Gospel being expounded verse-by-verse every Sunday. That's all I know how to do. I don't know how to do anything else. I mean, I can't go back to bartending.

PASTOR JD: It's like Peter trying to go back to his fishing business, and God ruined him for — yeah, I tried it too. I'm confessing. I tried to, you know, quit, but slaves can't quit. Have you noticed that?

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah.

PASTOR JD: Yeah, I tried to, like, tender my resignation. You know, I quit God. And God's like, well, that's adorable, but you can't quit. You're a bond slave, and bond slaves can't quit. I ruined you for Me. You can't go back to bartending. Yeah, you could try. You won't catch any fish or serve any beverages.

PASTOR STEVE: And it's not like you're forced or coerced kind of thing. It's just you open up the Word, and you can't not do it. You know, that's the idea there. It's not like the pastor who was in the morning, you know, didn't want to get out of bed, and he didn't want to go to church. And his mom said, you got to go to church, you got to go to church. You've all heard the story. I already blew it. I told you the end.

“But you got to go to church.”

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“I don't want to go to church.” “Nobody likes me there.”

“You have to go.”

“I don't want to go.”

“You have to go.”

“But everybody hates me. They talk about me. ”

“I don't care. You have to go. You're the pastor. You have to go.”

PASTOR JD: You tell it way better than I do. I just shared that. You know, there's variations of that.

PASTOR STEVE: But I gave the punchline first. See, I can never remember a punchline. The people at our church have heard so many jokes that they never heard the punchline for. (Chuckling) How did that end? I don't know. Verse 2...

[Laughter]

PASTOR JD: Okay, lets stand. David, why don't you come up? Steve, I want you to — I told you it was going to evaporate. The time is already 8:32. I opened us in prayer. Would you close us in prayer?

PASTOR STEVE: Yeah, sure.

PASTOR JD: And then Steve and Kim will be here if you guys would like to talk with them or if you have any questions for them or criticisms of them.

PASTOR STEVE: Please bring it. I'm good with that.

PASTOR JD: There's a suggestion box. It's about this big. You can put your suggestion there. Why don't you close us in prayer?

PASTOR STEVE: All right. Lord, we thank You, God. Thank You that You would use any one of us, Lord, a roomful of those that You've called. Lord, help us never forget it.

God, You've called us to be those that would confound the wise, Lord, that You'd give us words of knowledge, words of wisdom, love beyond, that people would scratch their heads,

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forgiveness that would abound, everything that's needed for life and godliness in Christ Jesus.

Lord, fill our hearts with that. We don't want anything less, God, than the fullness of all that You have promised. Lord, help us not to doubt You. Help us not to live in fear, the lies of the enemy, but Lord, to do and quickly lay out before You all of our fears, all of those things that the enemy might bring our way, and then start to sing Your praise, Lord, start to read Your word and hear Your heart and know “you're going to be okay because I am with you, and I will never leave you.”

God, I thank You for those words. Lord, how many times, Lord, we've heard it. Lord, help us cling to that heart that is Yours and to share it with all the world. There's such a little time left we have God. No matter if we live it out. Maybe we got somebody here, 20, 30 more years in them, I don't know. But all that to say, God, it's not enough.

Lord, we want to give everything we have till the day that You call, till the day you come. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen. God bless you. Thank you all for coming tonight.

PASTOR STEVE: Thanks for having us.

PASTOR JD: Hope you were encouraged.