

5 Day Devotional
February 22, 2026 AM Sermon
“Warning of Judgement”

Day 1: Beyond Religious Activity

Reading: Hebrews 2:1-4; Matthew 7:21-23

Devotional: Religion without relationship is empty ritual. Pastor Jake’s story of the 80-year-old woman who served faithfully yet lacked salvation reminds us that church involvement doesn't guarantee heaven. Jesus warned that many will claim religious credentials on judgment day, only to hear "I never knew you." The question isn't whether you've been baptized, served on committees, or attended faithfully—it's whether you truly know Jesus personally. Today, examine your heart honestly. Can you say with confidence that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, not just a religious figure you know about? Don't let another day pass neglecting the salvation God offers. Knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus personally are vastly different realities.

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Day 2: The Warning of Neglect

Reading: Hebrews 2:1-3; Proverbs 29:1

Devotional: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" This isn't a threat but a loving warning. God places warning signs in our lives not to discourage us, but to protect us—like a bridge closure sign preventing disaster. Every time you hear the gospel and say "not today," your heart hardens slightly. Neglect means knowing something but refusing to act on it. Perhaps you've attended church for years, heard countless invitations, felt the Spirit's conviction—yet delayed responding. The Spirit who convicts you today may not always strive with you. Don't mistake God's patience for approval of your procrastination. Today is the day of salvation. The most dangerous sin isn't outright rejection—it's comfortable neglect.

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Day 3: Greater Light, Greater Responsibility

Reading: Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 12:47-48

Devotional: Jesus declared that cities witnessing His miracles would face stricter judgment than notoriously wicked Sodom because they had greater revelation. This principle applies today: with greater exposure to truth comes greater accountability. If you've grown up in church, heard the gospel repeatedly, and witnessed God's work, you cannot claim ignorance. America, blessed beyond measure with religious freedom and biblical access, will answer for how we responded to such privilege. Personally, every sermon you hear, every conviction you feel, every opportunity to respond increases your responsibility. Don't envy those with less exposure—steward what you've been given. God's blessings aren't just for enjoyment but for response. How are you honoring the spiritual light you've received?

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Day 4: Intentional vs. Willful Sin

Reading: Numbers 15:27-31; Hebrews 10:26-27

Devotional: Pastor Jake’s honest confession about struggling to pray for a difficult person illustrates an important distinction: unintentional sins of the moment versus premeditated, willful rebellion. When anger flares unexpectedly, that's human weakness requiring immediate repentance. But when we nurture that anger, rehearse offenses, and deliberately gossip, we've crossed into presumptuous sin. God makes provision for our weaknesses, but willful defiance is serious. The beauty of grace is that even when we plan to sin "and ask forgiveness later," God still convicts and restores. However, habitually planning to sin reveals a heart problem. Are you quick to repent when the Spirit convicts, or do you rationalize and delay? Develop sensitivity to immediate conviction rather than hardening your heart through repeated rebellion.

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Day 5: Holding Fast to the End

Reading: Hebrews 3:14; Philippians 1:6;
2 Timothy 4:7-8

Devotional: Salvation isn't proven by how you start the race but how you finish it. "We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end." This doesn't mean you earn salvation through perseverance—it means genuine salvation produces perseverance. Paul declared, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race." True conversion results in transformation that endures. If you prayed a prayer at eight but show no evidence of loving Jesus today, question whether that prayer was genuine salvation. Conversely, if you're walking with God now, your past struggles don't disqualify you. What matters is your present relationship with Jesus. Are you holding fast today? Is Jesus still your first love? Examine not just your past religious experiences but your current spiritual vitality.