

All right, well, if you guys want to get out your Bibles this morning, we're going to be in Zechariah chapter 4 verse 6. And I'll advise you on today's order of service, as we're doing so, because it's a celebration. The youth are going to be in here with us. So we're a little cramped. As you can see. And so if you have any seats beside you and you can scoot in, that'd be great. So we can get the people that are out in the lobby a seat And we appreciate your flexibility. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken So here's what we got going today. It's a little different for those of you who attend. Normally, as you can tell, our current worship band just did three worship songs and then I'm going to take about 25 or 30 minutes to talk about Zechariah chapter 4, verse 6. And even though we covered Zechariah chapter four last week in our study through the Bible, we're going to kind of zero in on the sixth verse of chapter 4 and think about 20 years and all that God does by His Spirit over that time span, not just in the church Parkland Chapel that we attend, but in our own lives. And then when I'm done with the message, we have some of parkland original worship team members. We in-house called them initially the Vintage Band, and they got offended by that. So in-house, they're the legacy band, so they're going to come back up and what they're going to do is lead us in three songs that we did with those that will be on the platform back in the day. So we're going to give you a taste of, of a little bit of what was. And then after that I'll get up and kind of conclude the service, but then we're going to move out to the pond where we have five baptisms. Yeah And what we'll do is I'll go ahead and just pray for the food. So as soon as we're done with the baptism, you guys can foot race up to the hot dogs and whatnot. And then we've got all the stuff out there for however long you guys want to be here with the bouncy house and the water slide and all that stuff. Wiffle ball tournaments. So we hope you guys can stay for at least a little bit. Get a hot dog, meet somebody you don't know, and celebrate what God has done with us. So we thank you for coming this morning. Before I get going in the message, I wouldn't normally do this. So if you're new here, we don't call out visitors and say, hey, stand up if you're new. You know who drove the furthest. That doesn't happen, right? But I do want to recognize some people that by virtue of our relationship, they'll have to endure the embarrassment. So from California, San Diego, where Lucinda and I were sent back to plant the church from, we have visitors that came out to celebrate with us. So Lynn and Steve Holzhauser, if you would stand up and then George and Karla Chiles, if you would stand up, and then Jared Burke, wherever you are, would you stand up? Okay, give these guys a hand.

Thank you. Okay.

So as many of you know, Jared was initially in the junior high group that Lucinda and I assisted at before I became the junior high pastor at Maranatha. Then when I was a junior high pastor, he interned with me and he was a leader of our group. And then when I planted Parkland Chapel, he came out for the first two years and oversaw the children's church ministry. Lynn and Steve and George and Karla, Lucinda and I had their kids in junior high at some point when we were leading, but we became close friends with them and in fact, more like family. And so they prayed for us and supported us and have come out to visit us. And so everything that's going on here has been prayed for by them, for 20 years. I'd like to say one other thing before we get going. When you think about 20 years and you think about anything that God's accomplished in your life, sometimes we can be prone to attribute to ourselves too much credit, which we will talk about. There's always people that go before us that we never even know were doing the dirty work, right? Or maybe lifting the load. So in that case, you guys have never met the holzhauser or the childs. And so I hope you get to this morning and know that they were praying for you before you. Were you assembled together as Parkland Chapel. But then on top of that, I want to mention one person who is, you know, very near and dear to my heart, and that's Katie Cooper, who, if you'll just wave from over there, she won't want to stand up. So she and her husband, Steve. Steve was one of our charter. Even though we don't have members, we'll call him a member in the basement. But Katie came in the first year of Parkland Chapel. When we were over in the factory. And when she showed up, she said, I can't believe you're two blocks down the street from me. I've been praying for a Calvary chapel for ten years. So all right, Zechariah chapter 4, verse six. The angel who spoke with Zechariah said to him, this is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Now to catch you guys up to speed. The context is this in order to rid the nation of Israel of idolatry, and to give the land rest? As many of you know, the nation was carried away captive to Babylon for 70 years. And in 536 BC, when that captivity was concluded, they'd done their time. God had two men lead this little remnant, a small group. Really, when you think about a million people were deported 70 years earlier, only 42,000 came back. And there's a reason for that. Babylon was comfortable. Babylon was home at that point, and the journey was arduous. And when you made the 900 mile journey across the desert, you got to not much, you know, something that was in shambles. But Joshua the high priest or the religious leader and Zerubbabel the governor, led this little remnant back, and their goal was to rebuild the temple. And so the work started in the same year that they got there. And then in that same year, the work stopped and it didn't stop for one year, as you guys know, or two years or three years. It stopped for 16 years. And so 16 years later, in 520 BC, the Lord sent two prophets. We know them or call them minor prophets. Haggai and Zechariah, and

he sent them at the exact same time to get the people back to work, to urge them to rebuild the temple, to start again. And we mentioned this to you, that they ministered at the same time, and they had basically the same ministry, but they were two very different guys. And so Haggai was more practical. Or maybe you'd even call him pragmatic. And his message is simply this hey, stop building your own paneled houses and build the house of the Lord. And if you get to work on the things that God's called you to do, he'll start to untwist the spiritual stuff. He's short only 38 verses for chapters for prophecies. So anyway, Haggai is is short. And then comes Zechariah, and he's a long winded dude, you know, he's long, but he's never winded, you might say. And he has all these. Chapter 14 chapters and he is encouraging the people. But also also it's it's very, very, you might say, mystical. I mean, he goes behind the curtain into the heavenlies and it starts with these visions right in the middle of this string of 8 or 10 visions, depending on how you divide them up. And in the spot that we're at these visions are encouraging these two leaders who have slacked off, they've sloughed off the people, stop building because the leaders stopped building. And so for 16 years, nothing's been happening. And now he encourages these leaders. Joshua, in chapter 3, the religious leader. You can do it. God's going to clean you up and give you everything you need. Put some new clothes on you And in this case, now in this chapter is a rub. A bell is the civil leader. And he's going to tell him, you don't have to do this thing in your power. The Spirit of God is going to do the work. So the work of rebuilding the temple, as we've mentioned, which started again 16 years after it initially had begun in now 520 BC, was still a mountainous undertaking. I mean, there's a reason it stopped 16 years before. Here's Zerubbabel. He's he's now been encouraged to start again. But this guy is understaffed, he's underfunded and he's overwhelmed. And other than that, he's doing pretty good. You know, he's he's just mystified by how this mountain can be moved. And literally, God promises Zerubbabel that before him, this mountainous work is going to become a plain. It's going to be made flat. And his hands is actually going to accomplish that work. He's going to see the thing finished. The temple will be built, and sure enough, from Ezra chapter 6, verse 1015, Ezra 615 tells us that four years later, after the time of this writing, in 516 BC, the temple was finished just like God had promised. And so the thing was completed and his celebration was had. Now I want to zero in on this section, because if I do my math right, 20 years after the temple started, it was completed. It took 20 years to complete the rebuilding of the temple. They started in 536 and they completed it in 516 BC. Which leads me to say what I say all the time, that the Bible always meets us right where we're at. So here we are, just meandering through the Bible. In fact, we hopefully, by God's grace, will complete the teaching of the whole Bible towards thanksgiving. This year and at the same time we actually, as a congregation turned

20 years old right as we're studying the temple, being finished in 20 years. So I want to take just a few moments and talk about the number 20 in the Bible. And before I begin, reminds me that I heard one time that 20 years ago we had Johnny Cash and Bob Hope, and we had Steve Jobs. And now you may have heard this right, we got no, no cash, no hope, no jobs. And then that led somebody to cry out a prayer, Lord, protect Kevin.

Bacon.

We lose bacon.

What are we gonna do? But anyway, biblically, the number 20 represents a cycle of waiting that leads to a new season. So it's kind of a seven is the number of completion. 20 is kind of like seven on steroids with a little bit different twist to it, because 20 represents waiting. That's kind of difficult. It's not that you won't see any fruit, but it's going to be a bumpy ride. But it's going to lead to a new season. And so it conveys the idea of both redemption and then the age of accountability. And I want to talk about those two things briefly this morning. So when I think about 20 and accountability, then in Scripture from first Chronicles chapter 23, verse 24, the Levites and the priests, the Levites who were the deacons and the priests who did the holy work, were eligible to do God's work. At the age of 20 they said, well, you're you're probably old enough that you can be entrusted to get started. At 20, the Israelites were required to give an offering to the Lord. Exodus 31:4. If you can serve, you should give. And then at 20, Israelite males were made eligible for military service according to numbers. Chapter one, verse 3. So when they numbered the people that were available to fight, it was 20 and up. And so I figure at 20 Parkland Chapel is accountable for how much we have been given. We're told in Luke chapter 12, verse 48, to whom much is given, much is required. And yet then there's this idea that if you've been faithful in a little, you will be made ruler over more. And so as a steward, the Bible tells us we only are required to do one thing, and that's to be found faithful over what God has given us. And if you look back over your life individually and you ask the Lord to show you what he's done, then now over that 20 year span, if you have that to look back over, you're accountable like me, in a different way, because God's blessed us. He's worked in our lives and we're not who we once were. We should be more mature. When I think about 20 in redemption, then according to Genesis chapter 31, verse 3, for 20 years Jacob, patriarch of the Israelite nation, served Laban for his daughters Rachel and Leah for 20 years. And that's quite a story, because if you know anything about that story, Jacob is his name means heel catcher or deceiver. So he swindles his brother out of the birthright and his brother wants to kill him.

So he runs off. He thinks he'll only be gone a couple years. He's gone for 20 years. He runs off to his uncle Laban. And here's how God often works in our life. He takes a deceiver and he lets that deceiver meet his match because his uncle Laban knew more about swindling people than Jacob would ever learn. And so by the time 20 years were over, then God allowed him to be released and he was ready as a new man, Israel, to be redeemed. And so the work of God then became fulfilled as he went back to the Promised Land. Israel in the tabernacle. When I think about 20 and redemption, as I have here for you, the tabernacle is unique in that while we're studying the building of the temple, which succeeded the tabernacle God in the New Testament, for the most part refers to how he dwells with man, not by referring to his dwelling with them as a temple, but as a tabernacle. The Lord tabernacles with us. He dwells in us. That's the word. And so just as the Tabernacle was portable in the middle of the nomadic people of Israel, so God at salvation, he enters us and he dwells with us. He tabernacles with us. And so this tabernacle, when you're reading through Exodus chapter 25 and 27, if you can hang in there, you'll find there are 20 boards on each side of the tabernacle, and there are 20 pillars that anchored the outer court wall. And when you think about the construction, then the number five, which the number 20 is divisible by is the number of grace. And so all this was done by the grace of God. 20 it's the thing that held up literally the work of God. And when the tabernacle was instituted, then the sins could be covered. So redemption was had. And then we find ourselves studying the story of the Second Temple. Solomon's temple was beautiful, but torn down by the Babylonians. And then the Second Temple. Actually, as I mentioned early on, took 20 years to finish. And then they could reconnect with the Lord again. Redemption would be had. Is the idea. So getting to 20 years, the work God calls us to is I have here for you and the temple or the tabernacle that he is building in. In me and you is accomplished not by might and not by power, but by God's Spirit. So not by might. We looked at this last week. Might is literally in the Hebrew armies. It's corporate power. Okay. And he says here to Zerubbabel through the pen of Zechariah, guess what? It's not by might, not by power, but by my spirit. Says, what? Says the Lord of hosts, the Lord of hosts actually means the Lord of heaven's armies. So he's saying, the armies at your disposal won't complete this task. It's the Lord of heaven's armies. And that phrase, Lord of hosts is used 18 times in the book of Zechariah. He goes on to tell Zerubbabel, it's not by your power. That's individual strength, but he says, in contrast to that, and you know this if you say, but, but cancels out everything that goes before, not by might, nor by power, but, but by my spirit, says the Lord. Which reminds me of Psalm 127, verse 1, that says that if the Lord doesn't build the house, he who labors, labors in vain. And so we have this interesting dichotomy where God chooses to condescend and partner with us, whether it be Zerubbabel in this story or you and I here today

to accomplish the works that he has prepared for us beforehand and Ephesians, I'll refer you to chapter 2, which many of you know, and I'll read from verses 8 through ten. It says just that. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this not of yourselves. It's the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship or his poem. We're created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. And so God calls us into good works. And sure enough, the works that God has to be completed by us don't happen if we don't step into them. He wanted to use Zerubbabel. He wanted to use the armies or the 42,000, but it wasn't because of their strength or ingenuity or their unity that it was going to happen. It was going to be by his spirit. So that leads me to the last bullet point I have here for you on this slide. And that's God's work always is bigger than we can accomplish on our own, because God's work is a work that requires faith. And if you can plan it out, or you can get to the end from the beginning and you can make it all happen, then it's not a work of God in your life or mine. God's work is always one where he calls us to a step of faith and we take that step before we get the next step. And then often between steps are a mountain that we can't move no matter how we try. And so God's work then has to transcend human limitations. And it's achieved only through his supernatural intervention by his spirit. And that's how it works in partnership with God. Romans chapter 9, verse 16 speaks of how God works within us for salvation, and that it implies what he wants to do through us after salvation. And he says, so then it's not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. And so God partners with us. But it's always the thing that we should boast about and rely upon is his grace and his mercy, and it's his spirit. 20 years E.W. Bullinger said this of 20 years. When I think about where we are and where we may be going, 20 years marks the end of the beginning that God is getting ready to do something. I like that when they were celebrating the temple being finished. It wasn't a celebration. It's finished and we're finished. It was. It's finished. So now we can do something. 20 is a reason to celebrate, but it's not a reason to dial it back. And by the way, in any season, we know we shouldn't dial it back because Ephesians chapter five, verses 15 and 16, Paul says, hey, I want you guys to walk circumspectly or wisely knowing you need to redeem the time because the days are evil and so don't dial it back. And then I should also go ahead and say no amount of success or stuff. If you see God do something over a span of time. If you get to your 20 year mark and you see that God's done some things, you might have a little success or you might have more stuff than you had in the beginning. But none of that can be substituted for wholesale reliance upon the Spirit of God. And Paul wrote to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 3, he said, hey, foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you that you should, having begun in the spirit, try to perfect this thing in the flesh Truth of us. Truth is, all of us are tempted to do that from time to time. But the Spirit of God is

the way his work is accomplished early or late And I'd just like to say this as I start to head towards the conclusion here, that each person here, no matter when you joined Parkland Chapel at the beginning, towards the middle, or maybe towards the conclusion of 20 years each person here, whether you know it or not, is laying a foundation. You might say, laying cornerstones or foundation stones for those who follow to build upon later. And sometimes we don't see that work till much later. One of the benefits of sticking around in a fellowship. And by the way, if you stick around for any length of time, you will become offended. You will be let down, you will trade, paint. Look, no relationship is worth squatchy unless you trade some paint. Okay? And yet if you do that and you stick around, you'll get to see some glimpses. You'll get to see some fruit, but we just see a little bit because God does things. On his timing. We plant and we water, but God gives the increase and he does it when he wants to. But when we get to heaven, we're going to see in full. We'll know just as we are known. The Bible tells us. So. Look, each person here, no matter what part you play or when you arrived, is laying a foundation and the cornerstones that you're laying people are going to build on and follow later. And I want to take a few minutes and illustrate this by talking about the legacy band. Okay? Because initially our worship team consisted of me. If you have children in here, this is one of the reasons we ask you to take them out. This is going to get PG 13 because when God redeems people, it's PG 13. You know, I mean, he's bringing people to Christ. And even in Christ we're untwisting stuff. And it's not the cleaned up church version, you know, I mean, it's it's a messy it's a beautiful mess. What God does in us. Right? So anyway, I was the original worship leader. It was me with a below average voice and below average guitar playing abilities. And at the first service in the basement, everybody's there and I finish the leading worship, and I set down the guitar. And then I teach, and then I pick back up the guitar and I'm done and Todd Mckinney is sitting in the front row, which is about from me to that monitor right there. And if you know Todd, this is how you know he's going to say something. He goes And so he goes.

Mike.

you didn't suck. Too bad. Really? Over all the years I led worship. That's the best compliment I ever got.

You didn't suck. Too bad.

Well, I led worship for a while, and the first convert at Parkland Chapel will be playing the drums today. And his name is Lance Calvert, and I had worked with him at US tool seven years before, and I'd prayed for him all the time. I was in

California. When I came back, he had he really was unchurched and he said, I'll come to your church if you start one. And before we even started the church, we went fishing and on the tailgate of my truck, I led him to a Lord and he was our first convert at Parkland Chapel. And so he said, hey, you know, would you teach me the Bible? And so I said, yeah, start coming over on Tuesday evenings.

Lucinda would feed him. I said, what do you want to study? This is a typical new convert. Revelation. So we're studying Revelation and we're talking and he tells me that he used to play the box or the drums in high school. He's like, I used to drum. So that week I got on the world wide interwebs and I ordered a cajon or a box. And the next week he came over to my house, and after dinner, we sat down. I said, hey, sit while we're doing this Bible study, sit on that box. He didn't know what it was. I said, hey, hit that thing. He hit it and I said, You're Parkland Chapel new drummer That's how. So then then we had a drummer right? So he and I started, I would play and he would drum. Well, it wasn't very long till Gary and Donna Silbert showed up. Where are you guys? I can embarrass you. Where are you at? Okay, so. And look, I want to say something about Gary and Donna before I go on. They. Steve and Katie Cooper, the Dave, Jack and Ria Davis, they were all, like, 50 years old when all of us starting the church were 30. And one of the things that we found was when we were young, 50 year olds would show up and they were like, we don't want to go to church with all these kids. They can't know what they're doing. And we didn't know what we were doing, but they were gracious enough to serve with us and cheer us on and let us make mistakes and let us act like leaders, even when we weren't. And so Gary and Donna showed up and they were unique in another way, because when you think about 20 years, a lot of people do something for 20 years and then their goal is, I did that for 20 years and I'm never doing it again, and we would get people that were 50 years old and if they stayed with us for any length of time, they would do nothing. You'd say, hey, you could use some help over here. We did our time, Gary. Donna showed up and served from the very second they were here, and I don't know if they had the same stamina as us as 30 year olds or not, but they got it done. So anyway, Gary showed up and he had led worship at a vineyard. And so he and I started playing music together and they lived in Terre Du Lac, and I was driving a school bus for North County And so between bus routes I would go up one day a week and we'd play and practice worship. Donna would make us soup, sandwiches and whatnot, and that's the first Parkland Chapel worship practice. That's how that happened. And we had Gary playing lead guitar, and sometimes he would sing and do rhythm. And so now we had, you know, a little bit of a band going on about that time. And all this happens with this within 6 or 10 months of the church starting, Lance and I start saying, we need a we need a bass player. And we didn't have anybody in our little church at 20 people that played bass. And he said, you know, I know this guy

at us, tool, and he plays bass, but he's not Christian. I said, well, let's pray for that guy. We need a bass player. So we start praying for this guy. And about a month later I said, how's it going with this guy? And he goes, this guy's reading his Bible. I said, praise the Lord. Like, we're going to have a bass player. God's going to bring him to us. Well, it was about a month later. I still remember it right out where the gym is now. We were standing there and I said, Lance, we'd got done praying. I said, how is this guy doing that? We've been praying for? He goes, we've had a little bit of a setback. He said he quit reading his Bible because he's stuck in F and Exodus. And I thought, well, most of us have felt that. We haven't said that maybe in those terms, but we've felt that. But about two months later, he and his wife showed up and Dave Talley became our bass player. So we had a bass player. So then we were like a little bit of like a folk band. We were all acoustic, but we were doing what we were doing and we decided, boy, it'd be nice to have a female singer, you know, especially, you know, to cover me up and to help Gary out. So Dave Williams and I at that time were praying in my basement. We'd lay flat on my floor and my labradoodle would lick his ears and we'd, we'd he loved it, man. He loved it. And so we'd, we'd we'd pray and we were praying for female worship leader. And about that time, Rhea Davis, she said to me, she said, hey, I don't know if you know this, but my daughter Krista can sing like a bird. And so I said, Dave, we got somebody to pray into the worship team. So we started praying and I don't know, it wasn't very many weeks later, maybe a couple months, that after one service, Krista was kind of loitering back in a little lobby and she said, hey, you know, I don't know if you'd need or want somebody to sing, but. So then we had a female singer, and so we, we were pretty, pretty happy about that time or a little bit thereafter. Kellie Brewer, who had been in the basement with us. She's now Kylie Minogue. She and Mike planted Arcadia Valley Chapel. She came back from Branson. She had left us as soon as we started, went to Branson. She came back, joined the worship team. Now we were Branson good. You know, and she had that smile too, like she's like, I'm happy. Even though I hit the kids on the way in and the minivan. Jesus loves you, you know, that kind of thing. So we really she was talented and happy. And that was a big deal. So then we were, you know, we were praying about it all, and we found out that Mandy Talley, Dave's wife, she sings like a Bird as well. And her parents used to be like regional traveling southern gospel musicians. And we said, hey, Mandy would would you want to sing on the worship team? And she said, I will never, ever sing in public, ever. So she was on the worship team. It took a while. But look, if you say never God's like, that's funny, right? That's that's funny. So then she was on the worship team and then later, several years later, I was kind of, I guess, burnt out, I was exhausted, I was leading worship and we had two services and the church was growing a little bit, and I really had nothing else left. And God brought Jared and Deanna tune and

Jared had been in ministry for, you know, a long, long time. And he came here to rest. And as soon as he got here, I said, man, I got nothing left. Could you bail me out? And he's been our worship pastor ever since. And yeah. So all these people will be up here. Plus, I just want to mention on lead guitar will be a little David Talley, and I mention him because he is a glimpse of the fruit of people being faithful. For years, the people up on this platform in a minute shaped his life, and he is now the next generation that leads us in worship every week. And when I think about 2022 being 40, Rhea Davis told me when I turned 40, you know, she said, I know you know what I love about 40. I said, I don't know what she said. 40 in your 40s, you'll learn that you're in your 30s. The mistakes are are not irreversible. God can untwist the stuff that you've that you've done. God untwist stuff. So when I think about all that and I just want to say that when the the legacy band comes up here, I don't know if you'll know any of the songs or they'll be like your style, but what I want to say is that in ten years, nobody will know the songs we're doing now, and it probably won't be their style. But what happened was the band that was faithful for so many years and played the style that we were then, which I'm excited to give you a glimpse of, because I think you're going to be blessed. They laid the groundwork for all that we have now and and what we have now is almost always somebody says, hey, I heard that song. Our band is does on the radio, and I like what our band does better. Right. So that's that's what God's doing in each of our lives, whether we know it or not. And so when we think about the Lord over a series of years doing work, God does work in community. We're not Lone Ranger Christians. God uses us individually, and he puts us with a group. The Bible talks about it like this, where each living stones that are fit together for that temple, and we're doing our part, but we do it in such a manner that God gets the glory. And so how it works is that we show up and we're available. But God's going to use our contribution, and His Spirit's going to do the work. And what I like about it is this we are not for everybody in Farmington, but we're for somebody. And so God, by His spirit, doesn't. I don't think, do it in such a way where the pastor or the leaders get to decide, we want our church to look like this. We become available, and then God takes the people who are available, and he molds a group into his profile for that certain community. And he does that in life together, in community. So our worship team in 2005 and following reflected who we were then and who we have now, reflects who we are now. And that's the best way for God to do it. And we don't have to strive or we don't have to strain. We just get to show up and do our part. And so when I think about where we're at and where we're going, and I want to leave you with a quote from A.W. Tozer, who most of you know, I love deeply as a writer and one who's gone on before us, and this is from the fire of God's presence. And he said, this if any church is a real church, it is a Communion or that's community or fellowship, Koinonia. It's two

people in a boat rowing in the same direction. So if any church is a real church, it's a communion, not merely organized and established. Anybody can set up a church, get a pastor, elect a board. But unless that institution is also a communion, it is not a New Testament church, a New Testament church must be a company of people drawn together with the fascination, the desire to seek God, to feel God, to hear God, to be where God is. Heavenly father, as the worship team comes up, we pray that you would do that work in our life. And we pray that you would create a community that reflects God to reach others for God and Jesus. We ask that you would pour out your spirit and bless us today, and we pray that you would be glorified. We sit here today, or maybe we stand here today and we proclaim grace. Grace to it. It's all by your grace, and so may you get the glory in Jesus name, Amen. We're going to do three more songs before we close and go to baptism. So if you guys would stand.