

“If you get nothing else out of this service this morning, you get what they just sang.

You're not alone.

Your enemy will try to make you feel like you're alone.

Sitting in a crowd full of people will still try to make you feel like you're all by yourself.

If you are in this building, you're not alone.

You're not alone.

And when you leave this building, you don't have to leave alone.

Jesus will go wherever he steps.

Jesus said, I will never leave you, go forsake you.

Never leave you, church.

You hang on to that.

If you have your Bibles, we're gonna read this warning from the Book of Acts, chapter first verse, Acts chapter one, verse one.

We're talking about the final moment when Christ was on the earth, literally right before he departed into heaven this morning.

Luke wrote these words. Acts chapter one, verse one.

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began, both to do and to teach.

What Paul is saying here, I want to tell you everything he did and everything he taught us to do.

That's important.”

“Until the day in which he was taken up, after that, he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments under the apostles whom he had chosen, to whom he also showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them 40 days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and being assembled together with them, commanded them, that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which sayeth he ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but ye should be baptized with the Holy Ghost, not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

They, after all this time, are still thinking in worldly terms, because they're asking about an earthly kingdom being restored.”

“Jesus answered this, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in his own power. But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and then in the uttermost part of the earth. And when he has spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked on steadfastly toward heaven, as he went up, the whole two men stood by them in wide apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which was taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The very last prophecy to be fulfilled in the Bible is the return of Jesus Christ.

Now, let me ask you a question.

If all the other things the Bible prophesied have come to pass, why do we think this one won't?"

"Well, let me tell you, it will, and it is going to.

It is something that's going to happen. Maybe today, I'm pretty sure I've heard that as long as I've been in church.

Well, then come on.

Obviously, it's closer now than it was then, but it still may be today.

Amen.

All right. Now, are you all familiar with the old saying that what's wrong can be made right, but what's right can never be made wrong?

Anybody heard that before?

Good.

Good.

Now, in the age we live in, the line between right and wrong, and there is a definite line being blurred. We live in an age when wrong seems right, and right seems wrong.

Does anybody like being wrong?

Have you ever come home with the end of the day and said, Whoo, I was wrong six times today?

No, you haven't.

The hardest three words in English language are, I was wrong.

It's tough, man, to acknowledge that.

But we're human, we make mistakes, you know.

We do things that are wrong."

"I want to tell you about just a few things that are right, that are definitely right. Not because I say they're right, but because the Bible says they're right, because Jesus said they're right. Now, the main focus of this church has been for the last 118 years that the Lord tears another 118.

It should always be, the main focus of this church is to save the lost and to encourage the saved.

Those are the two things we should be striving to do.

We should be working for it.

It's to save the lost and encourage the saved.

And we should do it with pride.

And I've got a little acronym for you with pride.

Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence.

Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence. And that's what we should be doing. Well, how do we deliver excellence?"

"You deliver it by telling other people about Jesus. He is the best thing that ever came into this world, or ever will come into this world, and without Him, we have nothing. Now, I want to share, like I said, I want to share these things with you, that in these things I'm telling you this morning, you will always be right.

You don't have to worry about it.

You don't have to wonder about them.

If you will do these things, you will always be right.

And I say that with confidence.

And if you were here last Sunday, I talked to you about confidence.

I actually told you what confidence means in the dictionary, that evidence of confidence is a firm belief or trust, assurance, reliance, faith, a feeling of certainty.

And I told you four things.

You could have confidence in God for it.

The number one thing being salvation.

And the last thing was that you can stay safe. You can live for Jesus if you so choose.

Now, this morning, I want to talk to you about one of the most important things we should be doing as a church."

"And that's telling people about Jesus.

That's what it's about.

It's what we should be doing.

And even though it is one of the most important things that we should be doing, it kind of turns into one of the least things we are doing.

A preacher, that's your job.

Yeah, I won't deny that.

It is mine. But it's not just mine.

It's all of our jobs.

Because before being a minister, a preacher, I'm a child of God, first and foremost. You know, there will be people who have a preacher behind their names that when they walk up to the pearly gate, Jesus is going to say, I never knew you.

Can you imagine that?

They have the title, but they don't have the testimony.

I see a good message to you, by the way.

I've done that message, title or testimony.

Which one of you will be proud of? Your title or your testimony?

That may be next week, but you never know.

Let's do this first one.

All right.”

“What I read to you this morning in the scripture reading was the last message Jesus left with the disciples.

Now, he had been crucified. He'd been buried.

He'd risen from the dead.

He had, according to the scripture, been seen of all of them for 40 days, and now he's getting ready to ascend back to heaven from whence he came. And the last words Jesus chose to share with his disciples could have been something like, hey, guys, be careful out there.

I'm living in dangerous times.

He could have told them, hey, be good examples for people to follow. He could have told them the same thing you should be telling your kids. Make good choices, because we all are a result of the choices we make.

He could have said, keep the faith.

Stand strong in the faith.

But you know what he said?

Be a witness.

I want you to witness after you receive the power. I want you to witness.

The disciples were asking about the kingdom of God in verses six and seven.

Are you going to restore the kingdom?

Jesus said, that's not the time."

"That's not what you need to be concerned with.

You need to be concerned with telling people about me.

That's what he says there in the eighth verse.

He shall be witnesses unto me.

He shall be witnesses.

Witnesses means you should talk to me.

You should tell them.

Now, this is the first thing you can be right about.

All right?

We need to have the right method, the right witness.

The word witness comes from the Greek word martyrs, which means those who bear witness to the truth.

Those who bear witness to the truth.

That's what the Greek word is.

Now, most of the disciples did this for the rest of their life after the anointing and the filling of the Holy Ghost.

They did this the rest of their life.

Some of them even gave their life for it.

That same word, martyr, is where we get our word, martyr, from. Some of them gave their life on behalf of that.

The word witness is used exactly the same way today than it was in the Bible.

To tell what she has seen, and what she has heard."

"A witness tells what they know, not what they think, not what they hope, but what they know.

A witness should only tell what they've seen and heard with their own ears, not secondhand, but first-hand.

We need to be those witnesses.

We need to be those people who are willing to do that.

What are we supposed to tell people?

Let me give you a few things here.

God would have us tell people only what we know.

You should know God loves you.

You should know that God loves you.

You should know whether you're lost or saved. You should know.

The Bible teaches throughout it.

I can give you a scripture to back it up, that we have and can have a no-soul salvation.

I know I'm saved, or I know if I'm not saved. I think so.

I hope so.

I plan on being, you know, it's a no-soul.

We need to tell people, you can know for certain that if something happened to you, you'd spend the rest of your life in heaven.

You've got to know.”

“We should be able to tell people that we know that God loves everyone. Doesn't matter if they're the color of their skin or anything else.

God loves them.

He's not willing to do anything to Paris, but that all would come to repentance.

We know that because it's over and over in the Word of God.

And we know that irregardless of what is being taught or preached in whatever church today, that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

The only way is throughout the Bible.

Well, preachers, are you sure that's the right version?

We'll go all the way back to the original text, and it will say the same thing.

Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Those are the things you know, and what you know, you need to be telling people.

That's what a witness is.

Telling what you've seen and what you've heard.

You say, well, I don't know exactly how to do all this witnessing stuff.

What you've heard is how to be safe, or you wouldn't be safe before.

What you've seen is the difference Jesus has made in your life.

Are you different now?"

"You should be, because Jesus makes us different.

If you, I don't care how many years you've been in church, if you're still acting like you were when you were lost, you're not safe.

How dare you?

How dare me?

It's time in the pastime, church.

It is time we got to what we know.

Not this hope, not this I think so.

You know, these things are right.

And you can stand on them, you can depend on them, you can know that these things are right, no matter what the world, because they are doing their level best to change all of this.

They are doing their level best to say, hey, do the best you can.

Try what, you know, nobody is perfect for goodness sake.

Don't put so much pressure on yourself.

You know, it's okay.

All right, let's, let's, let's, let's chase the rabbit a minute.

Let's go with that, it's okay.

First time I went to that pizza last night.

Look at that little girl. We went to a buffet, and I happened to be standing there and she's brought out a pizza, and it was buffalo chicken."

"I said, you guys ever have chicken?

Don't kick your head in the old man's carry.

Oh.

You know, you know that?

More for me.

All right, what if I had my heart set on this, and they brought that pizza out, and it wasn't done?

Cheese, naughty.

This man, I took that thing, and she's just strong.

Well, that's a good picture when the cheese just springs out.

Have you ever cut into a cake that wasn't done?

Yeah, is it good enough?

I mean, yes, people eat raw cake batter all the time, but it wouldn't be for me.

We are settling for good enough.

We need to stand on what's right, and we need to understand and be able to tell people the difference between what's right and what's wrong, and it not be just our opinion, but it be what just says the word of Almighty God, because God has the first word, and He will have the last word. We understand on His word.

So that's the first thing.

That is the very first thing.

The first thing is we've got to have the right method, and that's it.

Witnessing, telling people.”

“We've got to have the right mindset.

You realize that the battles you fight are physical, but there's greater battles that are spiritual, and go on in your head and inside your mind. That is where the real battle is.

The battle is in our mind.

I've used an example as long as I've been preaching 40 some odd years now. You got the good angel on one side, the bad angel on the other, and they're both speaking into an ear. You choose which one you're going to listen to.

The battle is like, but we've got to have the right mind. You've got to get your mind right.

You've got to get it set, and you've got to get it determined that God knows what He's doing.

Because if you don't, you look at all of this, the world we live in, you think, man, this is a big job.

I mean, this is just a lie.

You know?

He told him. He's been witnessing something to be built in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria, under the uttermost part of the earth.

You know what he's saying?

Start close and move out.”

“Start close and move out.

Had you ever thrown a rock into a pond and the water was still, you made a splash, and then the rain started to move out.

Bigger the rock, bigger the splash, more the rain.

You understand what I'm saying?

You start close and then you start moving out.

What do you mean I start close? You start family.

Whoo, family is the hardest people for you to reach.

Do you know why?

Because family knows you better than anybody else.

You win your family, you win anybody.

Telling you what? You can't.

So start close at the beginning of the move.

Get your neighbors.

I got that cranky neighbor that lives on the other side, and I won't fool with them. They need Jesus too.

All right.

And then you get out your neighborhood.

You get in your workplace.

We can't do that in our workplace.

You might not be able to say a word, but you can live Jesus in front of them.

You can live it.

And by the way, there are more people watching what you do than listen to what you say.

All right?

Yeah. Yeah.

You can do it”

“They do their best to take Jesus out of everything.

They can't take Jesus out of this thing right here.

Let them try whatever they want to do.

I can live it, and I can smile about it, and they can know that they're the one I know, but just by the way I conduct myself. Church, we can do that. But you start it, and you just move on.

You just keep broadening out.

It happens at Walmart, for goodness sakes.

Just smile at people.

I know they're on your nerves, but smile at them.

Tell them, have a good day.

Yeah, they're going to say, what's wrong with you?

You love Jesus. I can't help it.

I just do.

They're going to look at you like you got four eyes and two hips.

But that's okay.

They'll remember it.

They'll remember it.

They'll remember that silly man that was at Wal-Mart, told me to have a good day, and said bless me and all that stuff.

You know, what if they know something like that?

They will.

We must do that.

Do you realize?”

“Do you realize that every single person you come in contact with every day, all day, is either lost or saved?

You ever thought of it as just that simple promise?

We complicate things because we say, well, people are complicated. No, they're either saved or they're lost.

There's nothing else.

Well, preacher, I'm almost saved.

Well, you're almost lost, too.

You can be right in that.

It would be easy if we would just, you know, if we lived in a very technological age.

Why don't we just put on Facebook? Yeah, let's do that.

We could even buy a billboard and put it out there.

Smile.

Just going down the road.

We can put it on every outlet, everywhere.

We can do all the things.

We put our services on YouTube.

YouTube, there's billions of billions of people who watch.

We need somebody to just act like they care enough to take a moment out of their busy, busy day to tell them, to be willing to do that. That is the right mindset.

We've got to, you know, all the activities and all the things, folks.”

“We've got to have the right mindset. It's got to be right in our heads.

Then it gets, it's right in our heart, get it right in our heads, and then begin to share it with people in a manner, you know, and you've got to love people.

That's the other half of this.

You've got to love people.

You can't witness to people if you don't care about them, because it comes off very mechanical.

You need to be saved or you're lost.

Sorry.

You're going to win a lot of people to Jesus for that attitude, aren't you? Because your mind is not right.

You've got to love people.

Well, I don't like most people.

They're in life part of the problem. You know? Well, people get on my nerves.

I'm not saying they don't, but you need to learn to love them. All of them, I didn't make the rules. I'm sorry.

Yes. Yes.

All of them.

All right.

You know what that's going to take?

Oh, it just hurts me to even say it.

We have not to get out of our comfort zone.”

“Because the whole time I've been talking about this, some of y'all have been thinking, ain't no way I can do this.

And it's going to happen.

I'm fine just like I am if they keep knowing my Jesus by just looking at me.

Well, then that's on them.

Is it? It is.

You've got some of those modern-day versions of the Bible you need to get another one.

My Bible don't say that.

We're here to be a witness.

The last thing Jesus told his disciples, be a witness. Be a witness.

Be able to tell people about me.

They were you.

They were God's people.

You are too.

You're God's people. All right.

You need the right mindset.

You need the right motivation.

You need...

Do you know what motivation is?

There are people who are making a lot of money stealing oratory three times this size, being a motivational speaker.

Preacher, is that you?

No.

I'm not here to motivate you.

I'm here to encourage you. I'm here to bring you to Jesus, but I'm not here to motivate you.”
“I'd rather call it, I'm here to spur you, because, you know, sitting in church, Jesus is some settling and it's perfect.

I'm going to leave that there.

What did Jesus tell the disciples in verse 8?

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

Well, when is that going to happen?

If you are saved, it is already happened.

It's there.

It's that you got it at the moment you were saved.

And you got it! You were at the home that while.

It was cloudy, gloomy out there.

I'm switching off.

Amen.

As your kids go ahead of you, have a light in the house.

You have the power right here at your fingertips.

Are you going to turn it on?

You have the power of Jesus Christ at your fingertips.

Are you going to use it?

Are you going to embrace it?

Now, this is the same group that Jesus is talking about. They had been in the upper room, hiding in fear.

They were afraid.

Look at what's happened.”

“They preach the fact, Jesus, this is not what we signed up for.

They were hiding and afraid. Then on that day, when the Holy Ghost fell for the very first time, they found a boldness.

They didn't have it before.

And what happened?

Three thousand souls were saved in one day.

In one day. Why?

Because they witnessed.

They found a boldness.

They didn't have it. Now, let me tell you what they didn't have.

They did not have any more knowledge than they had before.

They were no better seekers than they had ever been.

They were not dressed any better.

They didn't look the part of an evangelist. They were exactly like they were before.

Only one thing changed, the power.

The power and the anointing of the Holy Ghost of God fell upon them.

They had everything.

It gave them boldness. It gave them confidence.

It gave them a sense of urgency.

Do you realize that tomorrow will be the last day for somebody you might know?

It's possible.

We all have a last day.”

“You look at the food you buy, it has an expiration date.

Well, I can cheat a few days.

You can't when it comes to living and dying. We all have that day.

People have it.

People step into eternity every day.

Somebody that knew them knew they weren't ready to go, but didn't let them go. They were planning to.

They meant to.

Folks, we need to sense the urgency, the shortness of time.

Do you know what the Holy Ghost did also?

You know, when I started going to church way back before I ever, you know, back when I was living for the world, I didn't go to church until somebody invited me to come.

He said invited, I said blackmail.

Because you guys heard this story, that's why I was charged, when I got married by the minister.

He said, you owe me a trip to church.

I said, please let me pay you.

He said, no.

If you come to church, I'm paid.

If you don't, you owe me. If you can live with it, I can live with it.

I couldn't live with it.

I was far better than that.”

“I was invited to come to church. And I said, no, we're done.

And two, three weeks I ride back.

Well, somebody reached out to me. Somebody made me feel welcome when I walked through the door.

Had that never happened in my life, I would have probably never found it.

Something is simple as saying, hey, so tell me, are you inviting people to church?

The first time is a little difficult.

Remember I said you gotta get out of your comfort zone? That's what that meant, it's boom, boom, boom, boom.

That's that big a deal.

Let me give you the average, I'm gonna discourage it, but I'm gonna try to make a point here.

You know the average?

You have to invite ten people to get one to show up.

No wonder I get all the time.

And when they come in, make sure they feel welcome.

We must put forth the effort.

Okay.

You gotta have the motivation.

You gotta have the mindset.

You gotta have the right method.

And last but not least, get out of the right message.

You gotta have the right message.”

“Jesus told them in the 8th verse again, you should be witnesses unto me.

About me, Jesus said.

About me.

It is all about me.

He has this whole idea, this whole church thing, about himself.

Jesus is right, because it is.

But we tend to make it about us.

About how we feel sometimes.

I can't tell you how many times I've talked to people.

Hey, I missed you at church.

I don't know how you can feel about it.

You can feel it.

Come to church so you can feel it.

It's harder to feel at home than it is at church. Come to church and feel something.

I've been here. I didn't feel nothing.

I heard Bruce tell y'all if that song didn't like you, fire your wounds with.

It's raining outside.

What's going on out there?

I don't have nothing to do with what's going on in here.

What's going on in here?”

“He said everything to do with what's going on out there.

All right?

We need to take what we find here.

You know?

It's not about whether I feel like it or whether I don't feel like it.

Easiest thing in the world is to do nothing.

Easiest thing in the world.

Yeah.

Remember who you're here for.

It's not about my denomination either.

There's not a section in heaven set aside for the Baptist of any kind.

Or the Methodist. Or the Pentecost.

Or, plug in any denomination you want to name there.

It's not about denomination.

It's about Jesus, first and last.

It's not about church. As much as I love this church, this church is only a device that God can use to reach people. The church should be the place where people can come in and feel the presence of God, and we leave judgment outside the door.

I am so wowed with judgment.

I am.

I am done with it.

But if you want to judge, you need to remember.”

“The Bible says, the same judgment you judge, you will be judged. And judgment is filling this world that we live in.

You know why?

Because everybody thinks they're right, and nobody is seeing what the Word says.

All right.

It's not about the preacher.

It's not about the troopers.

It's not about the choir singing, or it's not about the special music. It's not about any of that stuff.

The message is about Jesus.

It's about His life, His death, His burial, His resurrection, the fact that He's sitting on the right hand of the Father right now, making intercession for all of us.

That's what it's about.

It's about John 3.16, for goodness sake.

That's what the church should be, John 3.16.

It's about Romans 3.23.

All have sinned.

We come short for the order of God.

It's throughout Romans 6 and 23.

The way this is said is death, right?

It's just a god.

I want to get these wrong.

I know, but I want to make sure that I'm telling you the right thing."

"That if thou should confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou might be saved.

Isn't that what it says?

Thou shalt be saved.

Thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart, man believeth under righteousness, and with the mouth, confession is made on the salvation, when was 10 and 13?

We shall wait until the fall of the name of the Lord.

This is the story of the 9th chapter of John, recorded about a blind man.

He was blind from birth.

He had never seen him in his life.

He came to church. Somebody bought him a church.

He came to church, and there was Jesus.

Jesus showed up at the church that morning.

Whoo! I love it when Jesus shows up at church.

Jesus showed up that morning, and he knew the need that blind man had. He knew it.

He knows your need. He knows my need this morning.

He pulled that blind man.

He went and watched the pool of psalms in the deep water.

He did, man.

He came back seeing.

The whole congregation said, What happened?"

"Then there was the name Jesus. He told me to go watch the water.

I can see now.

Couldn't be. Couldn't be.

Big discussion entailed. Couldn't be a man like that.

No.

Couldn't be. Couldn't be.

They went and asked his parents, and his parents were afraid they get in trouble for telling the truth.

So I said, He's a basically a man.

It couldn't be this man. It couldn't be.

It was.

Finally, he got to know. He said, Well, this is what I know.

I'm both blind, now I can see.

One thing I know, I'm both blind.

You can know your head or head.

You can tell if your neighbor's known.

Reaching out to them, encouraging them, helping them along, the church we've got to be.

We've got to be literally the hands of people of Jesus. Stand with me.

And you can stand on these things until the Lord comes back, knowing they're right. But this is taken right from the Word of God."

