

"Every song that they sang this morning, I'd heard.

Every song this morning, hit differently for me.

How do you think that is?

Well, maybe because I was more in tune to hear it.

And I'm telling you that because what I want to share with you this morning is based upon a song. And it's a song I heard a few months ago.

And you know how when you hear a new song, a Christian song, you think, man, that's good. But it never went beyond that.

And then, just this week, I didn't hear the whole song. Here's her piece, the piece I needed to hear when I heard it. And it hit different.

And it caused me to do some digging and some looking. And what I want to share with you this morning, it may be a little bit different than any message I've ever preached here. And that may scare some of y'all if you've been here a long time, because I have preached some irregular messages with all of you."

"But the title this morning of this message is Desperation and Deliverance. And I want to try to show you this morning, if I can at all, why they go hand in hand. Desperation and Deliverance.

A scripture reading is from the Book of Exodus. We're going to read out of the first chapter. I'm going to read you a couple of scriptures out of the second chapter.

If you open your Bible, they're right there together, so it's not a real big deal for you. What is happening here is the children of Israel have been in the land of Egypt for quite some time. The Pharaoh of Egypt is beginning to get nervous that the children of Israel are going to outnumber the Egyptians."

"And if an enemy comes in, and he's afraid they will join them to fight them. So he wants to make them from just inhabitants of Egypt to being slaves, to being worked, to being the ones who are putting forth the effort and building because he finds out early on that they are much better builders than the Egyptians were as far as physical labor. So we're picking up here in the first chapter beginning in verse number 11.

It says, Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens.

He's talking about the children of Israel.

They set Egyptian taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens, and they built for Pharaoh treasure cities in Pithom and Ramses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in bricks, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service wherein they made them to serve was with rigor."

"They put them to work. They began to truly treat them like the slaves they had become.

Okay?

I want to jump over to the second chapter, and I want to read verses 23 through 25. And it came to pass in process of time. Whenever you read this, especially in the King James Version of the Bible, it says process of time, it's telling you that there has been time passed, there has been time go by.

It doesn't tell you exactly how much you've got to read around and try to figure it out, but in the process of time, time has passed by, not just a few days, but I'm led to believe quite a long time. To be specific, I'm led to believe around 400 and some odd years. Okay?

And in the process of time, that the king of Egypt died and the children of Israel died by reason of the bondage, and they cried. And their cry came up unto God by reason of their bondage. They began to cry out to God because they were enslaved and they were in bondage.”

“And God heard their groaning, he heard their cries, and remembered his covenant with Abraham and with Isaac and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them. What that means is God listened to their cries, God listened to their prayers.

God had always known about the covenant that he had with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was just waiting for the children of Israel to remember the covenant that he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now, I got to clarify some things here before I even get into this.

I got to change your mindset on what you think the word desperate means, okay? Because whenever we talk about desperate in a worldly sense, it has a very negative connotation. I'm going to actually give you the definition in the dictionary of the word desperate, and this is the world's definition, not a spiritual definition.

It says, without care of harm, reckless as from despair, regarded as almost hopeless. That's a key word there, almost. Regarded as almost hopeless, critical, past the point of cure.”

“That is the worldly definition of desperate, of being desperate. Now, the spiritual definition, and these are my words. I do not own a spiritual dictionary, okay?

I own a lot of commentaries, but I don't have a spiritual dictionary. I got two or three worldly dictionaries, but I've got a Webster, and I've got the main one, a Funk and Wagnum.

Yep, and that's what they said.

But these are my words. The spiritual definition, being desperate is where you are just before being delivered. Until we're desperate, sometimes we're not really even serious with God, we have to get to that point.

And it leads us to believe in the worldly definition that desperate is almost hopeless, is what it says, almost hopeless. But the spiritual definition is more of not being hopeless, but remembering that there is hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and in His power to save you, to keep you, and to set you free. Now, you know I don't like to deal in what-if, but we're going to deal in one for a moment.”

“What you think about this, what if the extent to what you are being delivered is directly related to the extent of your desperation? Well, I don't want to be desperate. People look at it and say, oh, he's desperate.

We're looking at it like the world is. Because I know you still are, because you can't get past it. You've been this way for all your life, and I'm asking you to look at it a whole different way.

You've got to get to that point sometimes. Let me show you here with the children of Israel.

Okay?

Now, you also need to understand being desperate.

And I've got sticky notes. I've got everything. It says, being desperate is not because something is wrong.

You need to grasp that.

Spiritual desperation is not necessarily because everything is wrong in life. It is the thing that happens right before things begin to get right. That is the desperation I'm talking about."

"All right? Now, you go back in the 41st chapter of Genesis, you find at that point that Joseph, after everything he's been through, he's found favor with the pharaoh of Egypt. And that was all part of the plan that God had.

You know, it had been hard for Joseph to understand God's plan when his brothers threw him in the pit and was going to leave him there to die, and then stowed him into a traveling caravan. You know, he might have had trouble with this, but this is all part of God's plan. And he's at the point now where God can begin to use him as he found favor with Pharaoh in Egypt."

"And what God used him to do, because of a great famine in all the land and the only place, coincidentally, that they had enough food was in the land of Egypt, where Joseph was now like the guy right below Pharaoh. And because Joseph was there, he was able to feed the children of Israel in the midst of this great famine, starting with his family and branching out to all of the other people in Israel. And they all began to come to Egypt because that's where the food was.

And Joseph was in control. And they came in the time of famine, but some of them just began to say that, hey, there's food here. There's famine out there.

There's food here. So maybe we'll just stay for a while.

All right.

Let me read to you from chapter 50 of the book of Genesis. They have decided to dwell there. They stayed there.

There's food and everything there. Joseph was there for a point and for a plan. But Joseph says this at the end of his life.

This is Genesis chapter 50."

"If you're not sure, it's the last chapter of Genesis, which is right before the first chapter of Exodus. Convenient how that worked out, isn't it? All right.

And Joseph says this beginning in verse number 24. And Joseph said to his brother, I die. He knew the end of his life.

And God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land. Bring you out of this land, into the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. They were in Egypt.

They dwelt there. They stayed there. They were in Egypt.

And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and you should carry up my bones from here. Joseph didn't want to be left in Egypt. He wanted to be taken to the promised land.

So Joseph died being 110 years old, and they involved him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt. The children of Israel were just supposed to come into Egypt for a short time, but they began to stay, and they developed some bad habits.

How do I know this?"

"Because if you look in the book of Joshua, the 24th chapter, Joshua was the one who led the children of Israel into the promised land after the wandering in the wilderness with Moses and everything else.

But Joshua said this.

He told the children of Israel in chapter 24, verse 33, he said, Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood and in Egypt and serve ye the Lord.

Why did they stay? Why did they stay? Well, I'm going to give you a few reasons.

Number one, they got comfortable.

They got comfortable there in Egypt. It wasn't, you know, Egypt had all of these gods. It just has had a god for everything you could imagine.

They had all these gods, and the children didn't do it one right, but, you know, they had food, and they got comfortable, and they, once they get comfortable, you know, once we get comfortable doing something, it's hard to change, you know? And then they begin to justify staying there, because, hey, we're better off than we were.

Were they really?"

"They're trading something in the physical for everything in the spiritual, because you're in a strange land with strange gods, and are beginning to embrace it. Otherwise, Joseph or Joshua would never have said, hey, put those strange gods away.

Were they?

They said, well, we know it's not perfect, but we're making it.

We're getting by, you know?

And the last is the fact.

They were willing to settle for less. They were willing to settle for less.

And you think, how could they do something like that? Well, before we get there, let's look at us for a minute. How comfortable have we become in our relationship with the Lord?

How many times are we settling for?

By just getting.

I'm being satisfied with almost.

What do I mean?

Well, I'm almost free in Jesus.

I'm almost whole.

I'm almost healed.

I'm almost well.

I'm almost excited about it. You talk about being excited. I'm almost excited.

See if you can get me the rest of the way excited.

It ain't up to me."

"If it's up to me, y'all will never get excited because I can't excite you. What has to excite you is the promise of the Holy Ghost of God meeting with us in this building. Boy, I'm almost excited, preacher.

I'm almost on fire for God. I'm almost sold out and willing to serve Him in every aspect of my life. And I'm almost willing to live every day for Him.

Almost. Almost is better than not at all, is it?

It sounds like we're like the children of Israel.

We are convinced that the anxiety we feel day in and day out is just part of the world we're living in today. They sang a song. Love that song.

It says, one day, two more.

I'm going to preach about almost every song you sang this morning. There's a line in every song.

That's it. That's it.

That's it.

God put this thing together. You can like it or you can not, but I'm telling you, he did this. We, if we truly want change in our lives, we need to become desperate."

"Let me give you a few examples. Do you remember when David, little David, went to check on his brothers, and they were out there doing battle with the Philistines, and David just happened to show up at the time that Goliath come walking out, you know, and Goliath come out and made that... He'd been making this challenge for days, and nobody was willing to step up.

And he come out and made this challenge, and David heard it. You know, and David made this statement after he heard it. He said, Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?

He said, Defy the Army of the Living God. And then David asked a question. He said, Is there not a cause?

Do we not have a reason to be offended by this attack on God's people, on the Army of Almighty God? Do we not have a reason to be offended? David became desperate and made a desperate cry."

"Is there not a cause? Don't we have something to be upset about? Elijah, when he was speaking to the children of Israel, and when they were, the children of Israel had been comfortable in the kingdom of Ahab, when Ahab was the king.

They had been comfortable living there. And they had gotten so far off base. Ahab served a god named Baal.

And Elijah took them to the mountain that day, you remember, and he began to tell them to... He's speaking straight to the children of Israel because he had Ahab gather them together, and Ahab got them all together. And Elijah said this.

How long haunt you between two opinions?

How long are you going to go back and forth?

He said, if God be God, follow him.

If he has failed, follow him.

You know what he was saying? Quit playing church. If you're going to be in church, be in church.

If you're going to be out of church, be out of church. Make up your mind. How long are you going to haunt between two opinions?"

"What Elijah was saying is, hey, we need to get serious. You need to get desperate before God and get things lined up. We need to make up our mind that we are going to serve God and then serve God.

We got to do it that way, church. Now, we need to become people of desperation and determination.

There were four lepers.

This is in 2 Kings 12 chapter. There were four lepers who stood outside the city gate of Samaria. And they had to sit outside the city gate because they were lepers.

They were unclean. They were not allowed to enter into the city by Jewish law, by Jewish tradition. And there's a great famine going on.

There's death outside, there's death inside. And they began to talk to one of the lepers. They said, Why are we just going to sit here till we die?

If we go into the city, we might die. But if we sit here, we will surely die.

They made a choice.

They made a determination out of desperation. They made up their mind, Hey, we got nothing to lose. We're going to die if we sit here."

"We may die if we go into the city. So let's just go. Let's quit sitting and put something into effort.

You remember in the 9th chapter of Matthew, there was a woman who had been sick for 12 years, had a disease that caused her to be unclean in the eyes of the people, and she had heard about a man named Jesus coming through, and she said within herself, If I can just touch the hem of his garment, I will be made whole. And she knew she wasn't supposed to be in the city, and she knew there would be a great crowd because Jesus always drew a crowd, but she was determined. Why?

Because she was desperate, and she put forth the effort to move herself through that crowd and get to the point that she could just touch the hem of his garment, didn't want to draw attention, didn't want him to even notice.

But Jesus stopped. He just didn't touch it.

Why did he know that?

He said, because I thought she would go out and heal her.

She was whole because she was determined and she was desperate."

"There was a man in Luke 19, he was rich. You know why he was rich? Because he was a tax collector.

Tax collectors at this time were crooked, and they were rich. His name was Zacchaeus. Everybody knows about this story.

And him being a rich man, an influential man, he was the chief of all the tax collectors for everything. When he would walk down the city street, people would look at him and say, Oh, there's Zacchaeus. He is somebody.

He is something. And he heard that Jesus was coming by. And what happened to him?

He can't understand why he went and climbed a tree for goodness sake. He was a rich man. If he wanted somebody to climb a tree, he'd hire somebody to climb that tree because he had the money to do it.

But he himself climbed a tree. Why? Because he was desperate to see Jesus.

Plain and straight. He didn't care what anybody said. He didn't care what anybody thought.

He didn't care how he looked to the world. He wanted to see Jesus, and he climbed that tree. And because he got desperate and was determined, his entire life changed"

"His entire life changed because Jesus stopped under that tree. Now, let me chase the rabbit real quick.

You know what it took.

Do you think that sticky more tree just popped up overnight?

No!

That tree was probably planted because an old ox or a cow dropped a seed out of its mouth, and it rolled to the roadside, and somebody walked around and stepped on it and buried it into the ground. And lo and behold, God watered it and it found nutrients and it sprung up.

Not a huge tree, a little bitty twig.

A little bitty twig.

Sticky more trees don't grow real fast.

So for years and years and years, God watched that tree. That tree, He made sure a camel didn't step on it. He made sure a cow didn't eat it.

He made sure nothing happened to that tree.

Do you know why?

So it can grow up tall enough for one day, a man named Zac is to climb up in that tree and come face to face with Jesus. And if he did it for Zac, he'll do it for me and you.

But you know what he's waiting on?"

"You to get desperate enough to climb a tree. You to get to the point in your life where you don't care anymore what anybody thinks, but you're going to do what God lays on your heart to do, and you are going to chase after that Zac. What about a man named...

He's in Matthew 10th chapter.

A man named Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of a blind man, heard that Jesus was coming down the road. And Bartimaeus had been setting by this road day in and day out for most of his life, because all he could do was beg. Everybody knew...

That's old Bartimaeus.

That's old blind Bartimaeus. You know him. He's the son of Thomas.

You remember Thomas? He was blind too. Bartimaeus, when he heard that it was Jesus coming down the road, the Bible says he began to shout.

He began to get loud.

He said, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

And my question to you, how did he know anything about Jesus?

I mean, he's blind.

He couldn't read.

How did he know anything about Jesus?"



“Somebody, at some point, had stepped down beside a blind beggar and told him about a man named Jesus. Told him with enough excitement, with enough enthusiasm to cause him to want what Jesus had for him.

Remember, I told you, my blessing won't fit you and your blessing won't fit me.

Barney may have had his blessing, and he knew exactly what he wanted. And he began to shout when Jesus was passing by. And you know what the crowd did?

What the hell is this? What kind of nation makes a fool of yourself?

Come on, son.

Have a little pride.

Have a little dignity.

Don't ask, like, if he's a desperate. But he was desperate.

He was desperate for Jesus.

And because he was desperate for Jesus, when they told him to quiet down, he got louder.

He turned it up and off.

You know, he got a little louder. And he was determined to find...

He was desperate to have Jesus talk.

And he did.

And he did.

Now, what if, if Bartimaeus sat there, and he said, He's that passing by.

And he said, Well, that's Jesus of Nazareth.

That was the day.”

“That was the day that his life was forever changed. Why? Because he got desperate enough and determined enough to cry out to Jesus.

All right?

I think I got another one here.

Oh, yeah.

One more, Matthew chapter 14. A man named Peter. They're all out in the boat on the Sea of Galilee.

A big storm comes up, you know. Jesus comes walking on the water in the middle of the night. He scares them all to death.

Jesus told them, hey, it's me, Peter being Peter.

He said, hey, if it's you, let me come to you.

He just said, come on.

Now, he did not just say, Peter, you're the only one that can come. Everybody else had an opportunity to get out that boat, too. Every one of them.

What do you think was going on in the minds of the other disciples when Peter started to throw his leg over the side of that boat?

What would be going through your mind if I had told you that I was going to jump from here down to there? He's going to break his fool neck.

What's going through my mind?"

"I'm not going to do it. If I ever do it, you'll know the Lord's in it. What do you think was going through their minds when he threw his leg over the side of the boat?

He's a dead man.

He's going to drown.

You know Peter can't swim.

He's not going to make it.

We're in the middle of the lake.

Come on.

He was desperate, he was determined to find out. He was determined.

And he got out, and the Bible says, he walked on the water.

Yeah, but please don't read the rest of it.

I am.

But quit taking away from the fact that he walked on the water. No buts.

He walked on the water. But then, and when, he saw the storm. He got afraid.

Let me tell you the number one determinant of faith is fear.

Fear causes a lack of faith more than anything else.

You know what my Bible says?"

"One of the promises, and I'm going to get you a bunch more promises than me, but one of the promises of God is that perfect love casts out all fear.

So many things in life cause you to be afraid.

Doctors cause you to be afraid sometimes.

A lot of times, they bring fear. The evening news causes you to be afraid, right? When you go to the grocery store or Walmart, it causes you to be afraid.

Good night.

Everything in life can cause you to be afraid, or you can know and do and believe.

You can be persuaded that you're still able.

But Peter got distracted by the storm and began to sin.

He didn't.

And the thing, he didn't just, you know, he probably never walked on water, and I haven't either. But I'm telling you, he didn't just go under.

He began to sin, slowly.

He had another miracle.

He had another miracle.

And he cried out, Jesus save me.

Oh, and if you don't have that word underlined in your Bible, that next word in that verse, you need to.

Because that word is immediate.

Immediately.”

“Jesus stretched out his hand, and brought it to himself.

Immediately.

We need determination, and we need desperation.

Richard, I feel like I'm desperate.

But nothing's happened.

Okay?

Maybe you're mistaking inspiration for something else.

Maybe you're just being down. You know what I'm talking about?

Somebody says, how are you today?

Well, I'm just kind of down. I don't really know why. I'm just kind of down.

I'm just having a down day, you know.

I have updates a lot, but they're just a down day.

Maybe you're mistaking just being down for being desperate. Maybe you're mistaking just being disappointed, because there is a lot of disappointment in this world we live in, a lot.

How do I know about the difference? Let me give you some examples here.

Tell me you're desperate.

I'll say, okay, come go church with me.

You need to be around some people who know the power of prayer”  
“And you're scared it is that if you go, you'll get out of your down mood.

And you'll get, with being disappointed, then you might actually get excited, you know, or you, at the very least, you'll get mad if somebody's sitting beside you to get excited.

Yeah, yeah, you know, so come go, ah, I just don't want to be around.

Okay, all right, all right.

Then listen to some Jesus music.

Listen to some, so whether you're into contemporary music, whether you like the old traditional hymns, listen to some Jesus music.

I'm just not in the mood for that right now.

You've got to be in the mood to hear Jesus music.

I'm just not.

I'm just not.

Well, maybe if you listen to the music, your mood would change.

Well, do something about it.

Okay, all right, all right, all right. Don't you read your Bible?

Oh, I'm not in the state of mind right now to read the Holy One.

It just wouldn't do me any good right now.

I'm just not there. I believe in it, but I'm just not there. Well, let me have the church pray for you.

Oh, no.”

“I don't want them knowing my business. It's between me and God. I don't want that bus known.

Do you know how they are?

You don't want to do anything about where you're at because you're comfortable and you're content and you are definitely not desperate, because when you are desperate, you hit crime sites out into action. So you're just going to step there and do nothing.

You listen to this.

The children of Isra were not desperate because they couldn't stay where they were in bondage. They were desperate because they knew they shouldn't stay where they were in bondage. It's not because they couldn't stay, it's because they knew they shouldn't stay.

Well, how do they know they shouldn't stay?

Because God has made them a promise. That's what he said. That's what I read to you.

Okay?"

"Verse 24, Exodus chapter 2, And God heard their groanings, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, and with Isaac, and with Jacob, and God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them. God remembered the promise he had made, because they finally remembered the promise God had made to them. And they cried out, and they cried out, and God began to deliver them, and God sent them free.

Do you have any idea how many promises are in your Bible? Now, I looked it up, and nobody agrees.

Nobody.

I got numbers from 168 to over 8,000. So we're going to leave it at this. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of promises in the Bible.

You know whose they are?

They're strictly reserved for Preachers and Deacons.

Wrong.

The reserved for Preachers and Deacons are Sunday School teachers.

Wrong.

If you know Jesus, and He knows you, they're yours.

They're yours.

Hundreds upon hundreds, thousands of promises in the Bible that are every saved, born-again, man, woman, and child.

They're yours.

And what are these promises good for?

To give us hope."

"And hope, hope, is the result of desperation.

What it takes, what it is, it drives desperation, hopelessness. Hope reminds us, and I've listened to just a few. There's the ones that I just thought of up, up, up the top of my head.

There's, there's, there's, like I said, hundreds of thousands more. But I'm just going to give you a few. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

That's a promise. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. That's a promise from God.

God said we can have life and we can have it more abundantly.

That's a promise from God.

He said he'll never leave us nor forsake us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He says we can have joy unspeakable and be full of glory.

He says that no weapon formed against us will prosper. I looked this one up. I knew it kind of so, but I looked this one up and saw him starting when he was 18.

He will silence every voice of accusation against us.

That's huge.

That's huge.

I love this one.”

“Gator is he that's in me and he that's in the world. That's a promise from God.

Isaiah, God knows what it's like to live in this world.

God knows you have valleys, and then mountain tops to climb. He knows you have crooked paths, you have to walk sometimes, and rough spots you have to get through. But he says in Isaiah, he said, I will exalt the valley if it's too deep.

He said, I'll bring low the mountain if it's too tall. He said, I will make the crooked path straight, and I will make the rough path smooth. I will make a way for you if you will trust me, if you have that hope, if you claim my promise, and if you are desperate enough to seek my face.

All it is, church.

That's all it is.

Now, I told you all of this came to go to hear the piece of the song.

I'm all closed.

We're going to play this song.

We're going to play the video for it.

Uh, we're sure we don't do this song.

Yeah.

So, why is she staying with me?"

"This song is her invitation, because this song, if you will listen to the words in it, if you will listen to the message in it. The lady that wrote this song got saved when she was 12. But she lived in a house where there had been a divorce, and her stepfather allowed no singing in the house.

But when God saved her, he put something in her to sing. But because that parent stomped it, and stopped it, by 16, she moved out on her own, lost, and away from God. You know what she said brought her back?

What Jesus did in her life at 12 years old.

And the message of the muse that he put in her heart at 12 years old brought her back. And this song she wrote at a time, she was carrying a very, very heavy load.

Life gets heavy sometimes, sir.

Sometimes you wonder how much more can I take? What else is going to come my way? She wrote this song at a point in her life that she was destined for God."