

I. Introduction: The Same Jesus, the Same Mandate

- A. The American church has changed, but Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever
- B. Calvary is committed to being known for preaching the Word
- C. God's mandate from 24 years ago has not changed, and the assignment is not finished
- D. Anchor text: Jeremiah 29:11-13
 - 1. God's thoughts toward us are peace, not evil, to give an expected end
 - 2. Seek Him and you will find Him when you search with all your heart

II. Confirmation: God Is Restoring the House

- A. Prophetic words spoken over the church
 - 1. Sister Sandy's word: fruit of first labors returning
 - 2. Brother Lindsey's word: the house filled with those who had forgotten the Word
 - 3. The 2017 prayer service video: restoration is coming
- B. Living evidence
 - 1. Desiree and Zachary return after roughly 15 years
 - 2. Samantha preached in 2017 and was installed as youth pastor after years on the mission field
- C. God honors His Word by bringing our past into our present

III. Presence Requires Preparation

- A. Every plan is "Plan B" to the move of God, because the Holy Spirit leads
- B. Illustrations of planning and implementing
 - 1. The meal: ingredients must come out of the cabinet
 - 2. The boots: a plan started but not finished until God met the need
- C. Three requirements for entering His presence
 - 1. Desire: seeking His face
 - 2. Decision: choosing to be part of the plan
 - 3. Surrender: yielding to God's will
- D. Preparation comes before ministry
 - 1. Submission
 - 2. Unity in the Spirit
 - 3. Respect for appointed leadership
- E. The Spirit's charge: stop *talking* about His presence and start *preparing* for it

IV. What Hinders the Spirit Is Within Us

- A. God has not changed, so "back in the day" is not an excuse
- B. Illustration: pouring the Word into a vessel
 - 1. The Spirit pours in through the Word
 - 2. Busyness, phone calls, gossip, and division empty us out
- C. We cannot minister on empty or on yesterday's word
- D. Hear the Word and *live* it, not just teach it
- E. Illustration: the YouTube mechanic
 - 1. Secondhand knowledge is no substitute for getting in the Word yourself
 - 2. Test what you see on TikTok and Facebook
- F. Judgment of others can undo what the Spirit poured in

V. Amend Your Ways (Jeremiah 7:1-3)

- A. Preparation was required to enter the house of the Lord
- B. In this hour, we go the way of the cross, not the culture
- C. The promise: God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh
- D. Practical steps
 - 1. Leave the gossip centers and false doctrine
 - 2. Spend time alone with God in the Word and prayer
 - 3. Check whether the teachers you follow believe the core of the gospel
- E. You cannot build a ministry on someone else's experience

VI. Overflow

- A. When we are full, the Spirit overflows onto those around us
- B. The reverse is also true: what is ungodly overflows too
- C. Illustration: the corn dog incident
 - 1. A bully harms a defenseless child
 - 2. Actions carry consequences
 - 3. A Spirit-filled person will not cause harm, injury, or division in the kingdom
- D. Redemption of the scar
 - 1. The wounded boy became a law enforcement officer
 - 2. God uses our scars to help others with the same wound

VII. Desert Seasons

- A. Illustration: the broken bus at Lake Havasu in 126-degree heat
- B. In a spiritual desert, a sip will not do; we need living water
- C. Know the source
 - 1. Know the spirit behind the information you receive
 - 2. Know who you sit under
- D. The Holy Spirit knows the real story, so do not rely on partial accounts
- E. Do not take conviction as an attack
 - 1. Pastors get 30 to 45 minutes a week
 - 2. Your character is built by what you do the rest of the week

VIII. Living in His Presence, Not Just Visiting

- A. Illustration: a child's appearance reflects on the parent
- B. We were created for communion with God
 - 1. Made in His image and filled with His breath
 - 2. Sin in Eden separated us, so we must invite Him in
- C. No one can walk this out for you
 - 1. A pastor can preach, teach, and model it, but you must decide
 - 2. The choice is to be filled or to hand the Spirit back
- D. There is room for repentance
 - 1. Pray through and start over
 - 2. Follow the biblical process when offended: go privately, take witnesses, then walk away
- E. Live in His presence rather than play in it
- F. God has revealed Himself as Creator, the I AM, the One who gives rest, and the Spirit poured out at Pentecost

IX. Conclusion: Full and Used by God

- A. Illustration: five-year-old Riviana prays at the altar for a grieving mother
- B. If God can use a child, He can put each of us in the perfect place
- C. Closing charge: if you are full of the Spirit of God, you can be used by the Spirit of God