

For Such a Time as This (Week 2)

“Get Ready for Jesus”

For this month of August we're in a series called “For Such a Time as This”, where a bunch of us young people on fire for God are sharing a timeless message for our generation and yours.

Our series verse is found in Esther 4:14 (NIV) which says “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

This verse is when Esther was queen. God had placed and called her there so that He could use her to bring freedom for His people at that time. For such a time as that

And we believe that God still calls us, God still positions us so that He could empower us for such a time as this.

We are living in a world that has a God-shaped hole and we are seeing the effects all around us and God has uniquely and strategically placed you and me so that we could bring the hope, joy, and freedom that we find in Jesus to those who need it

Before I continue, I want to make sure I don't say anything outside of God's will today so I need you to pray with me and pray for me

So Elizabeth and I's wedding day was a little over a year ago at this point, and that day was truly a day to remember. I mean first of all, we got married, duhhh...literally the best day ever, but we had so much fun, got to spend time with the people we love

And we also got to feel rich when we got home and opened those gifts!!

That day was so crazy I remember feeling all of the emotions you could ever feel all at the same time

But I wasn't alone. I had to give a couple pepto bismols to my groomsmen too because a few of them were feeling nothing but one emotion...and that was straight up nervousness

Before Elizabeth arrived, I was walking around saying hi to everybody and having conversations as I tried to push the nerves away, but let me tell you, hearing someone say "Elizabeth is about to be here" instantly made me want to melt on the spot.

All that effort to push my nerves down went straight out the window and instantly I felt like the world just got put in slow motion and every second felt like years. Walking up to the altar and waiting for her to come through the doors had me feeling like I was walking on two chopsticks instead of my legs.

I stood up there, waiting for the doors to be opened, and one by one the ceremony started. My groomsmen and her bridesmaids started to walk in, each person making me more nervous than the last. Then our ring bearer came in (shout out to my grandma!), then her mom, then my parents, and to be honest I don't even know if i said that in the right order!!

My head was rushing, heart beating a thousand miles an hour, thoughts racing, and then...the doors closed. It was time for her to walk in. And all of a sudden, the only thing I cared about as the groom, was to see my bride looking spotless, beautiful, and styled in her white dress

The doors opened, and someone must've turned the lights up because she was **radiating** as she walked towards me, and when we met at the altar, our new story began.

But why say all this? You came to hear about Jesus, not my wedding. And that's **exactly** why I shared this story with you

Because the Bible describes the church's relationship with Jesus as a marriage. Jesus being in my spot as the groom, and the church, that being God's people not the building, standing in the place of Elizabeth

And our wedding **day** was exactly that, just one day. Jesus, the groom, will return for His bride on one day, the hour unknown, but how do we get to that point at the altar where we stand face to face with our groom looking spotless and ready?

I can tell you that the personal preparation for our wedding day was a lot different for me vs for Elizabeth. We worked together on all the logistics and all that, but personally? Very different stuff

If you want the breakdown, all I did was get a haircut the day before. Day-of I set a few things up at the reception, put them in their proper place, put my suit on and waited for the time when I'd see her.

That's Jesus. He is moving the pieces of the world into their proper places so that he can put his suit on and return for His bride.

It's often that the *bride* has a much more exhaustive list of things to do before she sees her groom. And it was no different for Elizabeth.

As the church, as God's people, there are things that we need to do in preparation to see Jesus.

I have three things that Elizabeth did to get to that point at the altar and these are things that every person needs to do before they meet Jesus

If you're taking notes, the first one is relation

RELATION

By the time of our wedding, Elizabeth and I had a relationship spanning 7 years.

It all started with a mutual friend. He was really close to both of us but we barely knew each other. We'd both call him all the time and eventually it got too chaotic trying to figure out who to answer so one day he said you know what? I'm merging the call and we're doing a 3-way call from now on.

Those 3-way calls happened almost every night, and then one fateful week, he took a trip to Massachusetts with his family...and that was my time to strike!

As it just so happens, those calls went down from 3 to 2.

And let me tell you, when he came back we still had our 3 way calls, but there wouldn't be a day when i'd miss our 1 on 1 calls

We talked all day every day, went on dates, hung out at the movies, at the mall, at the park.

Our love grew from a curiosity, "hey this girl's pretty cool"

To a pursuit, "man, i want her to go from this girl, to my girl"

To quality time, having deeper conversations and doing fun stuff together

To a love that will last forever

It was 7 years of going through our highest achievements, and our lowest falls

7 years of laughing, crying, talking, and everything in between

Through those years we faced doubters, people who said we'd never make it to marriage because we were too young, we faced people who didn't treat Elizabeth how she should have been treated, and so much more but we stayed strong because of the love that grew from truly knowing each other

This is what a relationship with God looks like

If you know Jesus today maybe you had that mutual friend that introduced you to one another. A friend that said "hey this is Jesus, you should get to know Him."

Then that will grow into a curiosity, "hey this Jesus guy is pretty cool"

To a pursuit, "man, i want Him to go from someone my friend knows, to someone I know"

To quality time, having deeper times of prayer and studying His Word, listening to worship music, and having fruitful conversations with other believers

To a love that will last forever

Just like Elizabeth and I faced doubters and mistreatment, you might have faced people who question your faith or mistreat you because of it.

But in a relationship, every aspect, the highs and the lows, are a part of it

Our relationship with God is dynamic, active, and super important just like any other relationship, especially with your spouse.

Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV),

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive

out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, '**I never knew you**. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Jesus didn't say you lied, cheated, stole, killed, he says I never **knew** you.

We've seen through our last series in the book of Judges how God can and will empower anyone for the completion of His will, both saved and sinner, both child of God and orphan of the world. Many of the judges were empowered by God so that in His sovereignty, His will would be carried out, yet they did not truly know Him.

Lord Lord did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles.

Yeah that's cool and all but you're not saved by what you've done. You're saved by the gift of salvation offered by Jesus on the cross. By your relationship with Him.

I don't know you because
1 Corinthians 8:3 (NIV) says

"...whoever loves God is known by God"

I know too many people who say they know God, who say they're Christian, but in the next second prove it's not true

How can I say that with confidence? Because someone with a real relationship with God will firmly stand for truth, flee from sin, and will display the fruit of the Spirit.

Let me put it simply for you, 1 John 2:3-6 (NIV)

"We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made

complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did”

“Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did”

Jesus stood firmly for the truth, did not sin, and displayed all the fruit of the Spirit

You see we live in a world of acceptance and tolerance...uuuuuuntil you disagree with me.

Then you hate me

And because of this culture, there are so many people who claim to be Christian but don't stand for truth

I've had conversations regarding all kinds of Biblical truth with all kinds of people before and you wouldn't believe that on multiple occasions, the “*Christian*” in that group was the one who opposed me the most

Someone with a real relationship with God will stand firmly for truth

This world will try to push you in every direction from every angle but as a true follower of Jesus, you have to do as He did.

Jesus hung out with sinners, He spent time in their homes, ate meals with them, laughed with them, cried with them, but what He never did was affirm their sin. He spoke the truth in love and THIS is how we should live.

We cannot be afraid to stand for the truth because the truth is what sets people free

You ever seen those rescue and release videos where they'll rescue...let's say an alligator from someone's backyard lake.

That alligator is back there like man this is nice, i got no competition for food from my other alligator friends, water's nice, im in a quiet neighborhood, there's no alligangs running the streets. I can live this life.

And they feel comfortable but little do they know that they're in the backyard lake of the most dangerous creature in Florida...a FLORIDA MAN

A Florida man feels no fear. He's been catching gators and shootin guns since before he could read or write and if you step near his property he'll fill you up with some good ol fashion american bullets, go up to you while you're on the ground lookin like swish cheese, and THEN ask what business you have on his property.

So what animal rescuers will do is they'll go to the backyard lake, catch the gator and relocate it to a safer place where it'll thrive and live as it should.

But it's never a quick and easy release. For some reason, these gators will fight, roll, smack its tail around, and do everything but leave and go into its natural habitat

It doesn't realize that it's actually being set free but when it finally comes to that realization, it goes into the swamp and lives a life that an alligator should live

People can be like these gators, they'll fight you, yell at you, disrespect you, and try to run from the truth when in reality it's the truth that sets them free
Jesus said "I am the way the truth and the life" so with Jesus you realize the truth and follow His way into everlasting life

We can't afford to be afraid and fold under the pressures of this world because people are in desperate need for truth

People are searching everywhere and trying everything to discover truth so no matter what happens, if we face adversity, persecution, or even come face to face with death itself, a true follower of Jesus will stand firmly in the truth because

“Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did”

Someone with a real relationship with God will flee from from sin

The Bible says in 1 John 3:6 (NIV) “No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him”

So Sammy you’re saying nobody knows God then. Everyone sins so that means we’re all doomed to hear Jesus say depart from me I never knew you.

Without a real relationship with Jesus, yeah, you’ll hear depart from me I never knew you, but one chapter earlier in 1 John 2:1-2, John says

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.”

Now here’s the peace of a true believer,

“But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins...”

1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)

We are freed from sin when Jesus is king of our hearts

And He never sinned, so that should be our goal

Will we ever hit that goal? No. But a goal is something you strive towards no matter how hard it gets and no matter how many times you fail

When I play basketball my goal is the hoop. If I go out and practice, will I hit every shot I take? No! I wish I did, I'd be in the NBA if I did. But just because I miss, does that mean I'll stop trying? Absolutely not! I'll grab my rebound and shoot it again, each time aiming for my goal. The more I practice, the better I get.

But hear me church, the day my goal shifts is the day i will never make another shot

If my goal becomes anything but the hoop, I will miss every time.

Do not let your goal shift, but let it always be Jesus no matter how many times you fail

Here's the difference between someone who truly knows God and someone who just claims to: Proverbs 24:16

"The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked" Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)

If you need just one verse for dealing with sin, look at Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

When you fill your heart with the Word of God, sinning tastes a lot more bitter

Get to know the Word of God in the same way you know every single stat for your favorite team, or the way you know every single brand of makeup and skincare and how to use it.

For example, my favorite verse in the Bible is Jude 2:11

Now some of you are thinking, wait a minute is he good up there? Jude 2:11?? And some are thinking what's wrong with Jude 2:11? Then there's a few of you who said wait...what's Jude?

The problem is Jude 2:11 doesn't exist, there's only 1 chapter in Jude and if you didn't know that, or you didn't even know Jude was a book in the Bible, now you know you gotta get in that Word more.

We all do, because there's always gonna be something we don't know or don't understand yet and that's the beauty of storing God's Word in our heart. We are always learning and seeking God and growing closer to Him as we study and that's what keeps us from sin.

As we move closer to God we move farther from sin

"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did"

Someone with a real relationship with God will display the fruit of the Spirit

You can find the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) which are "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control..."

These are not a pick some leave the others kind of thing, every person who claims to know God must display every single one

If you struggle with one, work together with God to make it happen but every person who claims to know God must display every fruit of the Spirit because the fruit identifies the tree

If i see apples on a tree i know it's an apple tree, if I see mangos on a tree its a mango tree, if I see the fruit of the Spirit in a person, i know they're a Holy Spirit filled believer

What fruit do people see in you? What fruit do people NOT see in you?

If you were to tell someone you're a Christian how would they react? Would they say "yeah i knew you had a different kind of love for people, yeah i noticed you

always had an unbreakable joy, i noticed that when im around you I always had a sense of peace, you were always patient with difficult people”

Or would they say wait...really? I didn't even know you were a Christian

The day someone tells me I couldn't tell you were a Christian is the day I need to look in the mirror and reevaluate every aspect of my life because “Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did”

Now this is relationship, and that’s one thing that led to the moment on the altar between Elizabeth and I.

But there was more to it

Before the day of our marriage, she got her eyelashes done, did her hair, went to her nail girl, got some new perfume

And so we had relation but if you’re taking notes the next step was preparation

PREPARATION

Before the day even came, there were things that she as the bride needed to get done

Lean in close now,

If she waited for the day she met her groom, she would’ve been found unprepared and not ready

As the bride of Christ, His people should be preparing for when He arrives before He does or we will not be ready

There’s a great parable of Jesus found in Matthew chapter 25 starting in verse 1 so lets read it together. It says

““Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’ “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ “But he called back, ‘Believe me [The NIV says ‘truly I tell you’], I don’t know you!’

[and Jesus ends with this] “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.”

Matthew 25:1-13 NLT

So in this culture, when a man and woman wanted to get married, the groom's family would first negotiate with the bride's family and a marriage contract would be signed legally binding the two.

A bride price was paid and the groom would then go back to his father's house and prepare a room for them

Now pause, let's consider the culture and the time this was written

This was not a room in the way that you think of your room in your apartment or your house.

The homes at this time were a small single story kind of home made of stone or some similar material. The groom would add an extension to his father's home,

either upstairs or to the side and this was a custom where the sons would often build on their father's land and carry out their family name there.

Let's pause again, this is the part of the parable that we are currently living through in the present time

2000 years ago Jesus gave the contract and paid the price for his bride the church. Our contract is if He is King and Lord of our hearts, we will be saved

and the bride price was paid by Him on the cross

Now we are in the time where the Groom has gone to His Father's house to prepare a place for His bride

Jesus said in John 14 "There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

John 14:2-3 NLT

Whenever the groom finished his preparations and the house was ready, he'd return for his bride and his arrival was usually announced with a shout or a trumpet.

Usually he'd arrive at night, and this is why the bridesmaids in the parable had lamps

The bridesmaids would stay with the bride at her father's house until the groom came and when he did, they would meet him outside with their lamps lit and the wedding procession would begin

They would all walk to the bride and groom's new home and anyone in the village who saw would join the group to celebrate, each carrying their own lights

This is similar to when there is a funeral and all of the cars following behind the hearse turn their hazard lights on indicating, "im with them"

Once they got to the house, everyone would enter and the door would be shut so that they could begin the seven day wedding celebration feast

Anyone not with the group when the door was closed would miss the entire celebration

These lamps were something more like torches and not what we would think of a lamp now in modern times and they required a constant renewing of oil for the fire to stay lit

So back to the text, we see that out of the 10 bridesmaids, 5 were wise and 5 were not. Why?

Because 5 had sufficient oil and 5 did not

The time came when the groom finished his preparations and he set out to get his bride

when he arrived the bridesmaids all heard the announcement, but only 5 were found ready

And this is where we really get into it

Verse 7:

“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’”

Matthew 25:7-9 NLT

This is a quick point but you can't borrow somebody else's salvation

Your salvation is individual and a choice so consider for yourself if Jesus is King and Lord of your heart

But for the fire of these lamps to stay lit, they required oil. The 5 wise bridesmaids chose to bring extra oil so they were prepared for when the groom came and sometimes we forget to fill up our oil jars

In order for our fire for God to stay lit we need the oil of the Holy Spirit but sometimes we are unwise and don't seek after His Spirit

So we wonder why we're feeling down and depressed and stressed and anxious and God it feels like the world is closing in all around me like there's no way out and i feel like im drowning and i cant breath and God i don't-

Your fire for God is going out because you haven't refilled your Holy Spirit oil jars

Maybe if you would take time and pray, maybe if you would take time and read God's Word, maybe if you would take time and truly seek Him, then you would feel empowered, and restored by the Holy Spirit

We spend so much time preparing for when we're expecting guests. We'll clean the house, put everything in order, go back and wipe the same counter again just incase,

Yet even though we're expecting to see Jesus,

it's "ahhhh i'll do it later"

"Im kinda tired today, God tomorrow i gotchu"

"God but i just don't have the time"

“God i just don't understand your Word”

Come on man, Isaiah 55:6

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

Isaiah 55:6 NIV

James 4:8

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you...”

James 4:8 NLT

Look at verse 10 of the parable

““But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’”
Matthew 25:10-12 NLT

Because they did not prepare, the 5 unwise bridesmaids weren’t ready for when the groom returned and they could not join the celebration

Their lack of preparation harmed their relationship with the groom, so you can see how so far relation and preparation are connected

Your preparation actively affects your relationship with God

But notice something, these are bridesmaids, they aren't random people from a far away village. These are specifically invited guests either from the bride or groom.

Salvation is available to all people and the whole world is invited to the wedding feast in Heaven

But not everyone is preparing for that day so when the time comes, not everyone will be welcomed in

Are you preparing?

Jesus said one chapter earlier in verse 13

“but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Matthew 24:13 NIV

It’s not just about how you start its about how you finish

Now when we go back and consider the moment between Elizabeth and I at the altar, there’s one more thing that got us there.

It was relation, preparation, and now, demonstration

DEMONSTRATION

As I stood there waiting for my bride, her demonstration that she was ready and wanted to marry me, was when she took action and walked down the aisle

Romans 5:8 (NIV) says

“...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8 NIV

He has already demonstrated his vast love for us by dying for us before we could even live for Him.

This was the most one-sided trade in history. I am the infinite God who has no equal but I'll take all your sins, you literally don't have to pay for a single one, I'll die in a way that is brutal for even the worst criminal, AND I COULD GO ON.

And you receive eternal life with Me where there will be no tears, no pain, and all you gotta do is literally just believe in me and let me take the lead in your life

(WHICH IS A GOOD THING ANYWAY BECAUSE I AM LITERALLY GOD)

The most unfair trade ever, and yet He still went through with it because even when you were at your farthest from Him, Jesus thought you were worth dying for.

And so now Jesus the Groom stands waiting for us to come close, like i waited for Elizabeth at the altar

Jesus says in Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

Now we can either demonstrate that we love Him or that we don't

There's no in between, you can't kind-of love someone

And that demonstration comes out by our works, our actions

Again, we are not saved by our works, we are saved by God's grace, through faith in Jesus alone

But our works are a display of that faith

Our works can be divided into two categories

The fruit of the Spirit, which we mentioned earlier, and the works of the flesh

Remember the fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

And these are the works of the flesh found in Galatians 5:19-21

They are:

“...sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery [or witchcraft], hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.”

And Paul says

“Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21 NLT

I want you to notice something here, right now you're sitting in church so you're like yeeeah, sin SUCKS. Get those works of the flesh outta here!!

But take a second and consider how these things can actually be pretty tempting, and might even feel good in the moment.

For you it might not be every single one but im sure every person here has at least one that apart from Jesus, doesn't look so bad

Sexual immorality, man I can just go around doing whatever I want with whoever I want??

Idolatry?? So you telling me I don't actually have to have faith in God? I can just put my faith into whatever feels most comfortable? My money, my job, myself...ANYTHING? Yeah because placing my faith only in God is too uncomfortable for me

Or maybe witchcraft. I get to feel like I have the power, and I control my circumstances, and I don't only have to worship ONE God? One God is so boring

Outbursts of anger? I mean...if they did me wrong I just cant let that slide. My feelings are valid they should think before they act next time

You see the picture

I've seen this quote said in different ways by different people so I couldn't tell you who originally said it, but it says "Sin feels like freedom until it's time to quit"

Sin feels like freedom until it's time to quit and that time will come

There will be a day when you realize all those women or men around you brought you nothing but a few minutes of false pleasure and now you wish you had found one person who you would've **built** something with

There will be a day that those idols you put your hope in will fail you and you will find yourself hopeless and lost

There will be a day when you realize the powers of darkness in witchcraft hold no true authority and lead you farther from God. And when that day comes you will find yourself abandoned by the same devil who drew you in

There will be a day when you'll find that you have caused more harm than you meant to and never felt a day of pure joy, because anger became your first response instead of pursuing self-control

How could you demonstrate your true and proper worship if not by giving yourself to God and living for Him? Each day denying yourself and embracing Him, picking up your cross and following every footprint that Jesus left behind

Our goal should be that when we meet Jesus, He would see a tree flourishing with every fruit of the Spirit, and not a tree empty of fruit

The fruit of the Spirit are not just in direct contrast to the works of the flesh, but they are also the solution

Sexual immorality, meet love, meet faithfulness, meet self control

Idolatry, meet peace

Witchcraft, meet peace

Outbursts of anger, meet joy, meet peace, meet patience, meet kindness, meet self control

In reality, a combination of every single fruit of the Spirit is needed for each work of the flesh

But you can't do it alone

They're not the fruit of the Sammy, not the fruit of the Abby, but the fruit of the Spirit

You can't expect Holy Spirit power when your oil jar is empty

Why does any of this matter?

Why care about relation, preparation, and demonstration? What if you came today and you don't even care about God. Why should you care? Why care about God right now? Why not later?

Turn off lights

Because you need to be ready

Pull out flashlight

Nobody else was ready for that right? Why? Because it wasn't on your mind.

You've experienced blackouts before yet you don't carry a flashlight and a generator on you all the time

You've hit low times and have seen where sin leads you but you never gave it a second thought

Or maybe the reverse, you've experienced God in your life in some way, maybe through someone talking to you or praying for you or whatever else.

But that experience never carried over into the day after

Turn the lights back on, as the worship team comes up

I want you to think, if instead of the light turning off, that was actually Jesus and He returned for His people, where would you be seated right now?

Would you be seated at a table in heaven celebrating? Maybe sitting next to Jesus trying to make him laugh, or sitting on the floor playing with a lion? I don't know, that's what I'd be doing.

if you're ever trying to find me in paradise just check either next to Jesus or next to a lion because I've been waiting to hang out with both of them for my whole life

Or would you be sitting in the same seat you're in right now wondering why some people in your row just disappeared in an instant? Maybe wondering why you're getting texts and phone calls saying there's world-wide panic and chaos and the aliens finally invaded.

Where would you be sitting?

Where you sit later, is determined by where you stand now

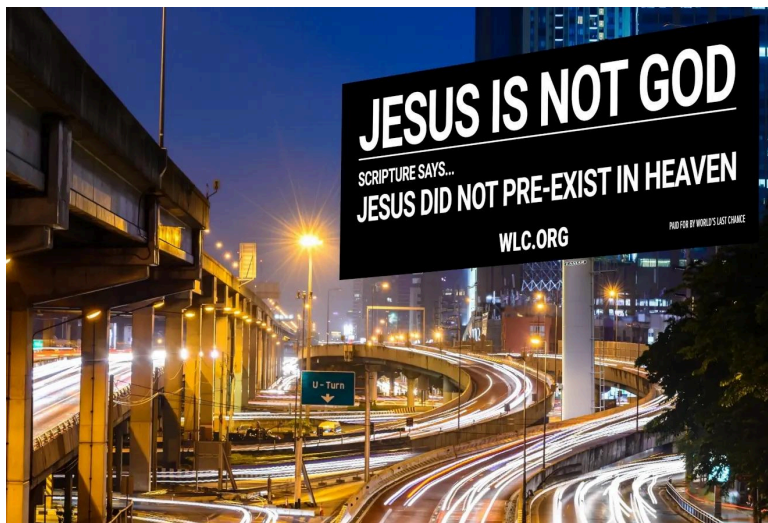
So please stand with me as we close up

Will you stand on the Word of God, will you stand on Truth, will you stand on the foundation Jesus Christ? Or will you stand on the sinking sand of the world? The lies, the deception, the hate, the false pleasures.

Where you sit later, is determined by where you stand now

I would say the time is coming, but it's already here, where Biblical truth and twisted scripture will be nearly indistinguishable without a genuine relationship with God that's filled with preparation and a demonstration of what you claim.

I was driving with Elizabeth a few weeks ago and we saw a big billboard down in Brooklyn that really caught us off guard. I think we have a picture coming up on the screen.



We weren't able to get a picture of it and the video we took doesn't look great so I found the same billboard on the organization's website

And it said in big bold capital letters, "JESUS IS NOT GOD". And listen to this "Scripture says...Jesus did not pre-exist in heaven"

Oh man if you really know God and His Word right now you are almost jumping out of your seat like I was in that car.

Not even just because they're completely wrong, John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And if you don't already know, the Word is Jesus! So Jesus is God and is eternal! Boom, billboard disproven in 7 seconds

But you probably wanna jump out of your seat because that billboard sounds EXACTLY like the devil when he tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness

satan's format was literally to say something that goes against God, followed by "scripture sayssss"

"Well Jesus, I triple dog dare you to throw yourself off this ledge. Because scripture sayssss"

The people who made the billboard are called WLC, or World's Last Chance. And on the front page of their website, it says "At the heart of WLC is the true God and his Son, the true Christ — for we believe eternal life is not just our goal, but our everything."

Be so very careful with these wolves in sheeps clothing who teach a false gospel

This is why you cant just be like yeah I go to church every once in a while, yeah I talk to the man upstairs from time to time

You gotta have a real relationship with God full of preparation and demonstration because if not...you will be deceived

And listen, if you're feeling kind of hopeless after all of this talk about having a true relationship with God and preparing for Him and demonstrating that love.

If you're feeling like man, I don't have any of that.

I barely have a relationship with God

I haven't done anything to prepare for Jesus, im one of the unwise bridesmaids,
my oil jar is running empty

I don't have anything to show for what I claim.

Or maybe you don't even have a relationship with God to begin with.

I want you to know that God is patient with you, God loves you, and He is a good
father and friend

The first step in this process is relation, it doesn't start with preparation or
demonstration

God just wants to go back to how it was in the garden of Eden, where He can walk
with you, talk with you, and spend time with you

Don't feel like you haven't done enough, like you aren't worthy, like you're too far
gone, or you've done too much wrong

He is patient with you, He loves you, and He is a good father and friend

ALTAR TIME