

Jesus Only

by Brian Long

The sermon emphasizes the importance of focusing on Jesus and surrendering to God's glory, and warns against prioritizing human ambitions and plans over God's purposes.

Duration: 55:37

Scripture: Psalm 133, Matthew 17:1, Matthew 17:4-8

Topics: "Jesus"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares a personal experience of attending an open air meeting where two young girls were preaching and singing. Initially embarrassed, the speaker joins them in prayer and experiences mockery from the crowd. However, this moment leads to a realization of running from God and a surrendering of one's own will. The speaker emphasizes the importance of surrendering to God and glorifying Him in all aspects of life.

Transcript

Amen. Well, it is so good to be with you, friends, tonight. This is my very first time in the state of Wisconsin, and I can say you live in a beautiful, beautiful country, and I think I got to see a lot of it today.

But beautiful country, and I've been blessed already. I thank you so much for your hospitality and your kindness. I've had wonderful fellowship with Matt on the road today, and what a precious time of prayer earlier in the prayer room with a few of you brothers and sisters.

So good to be here. I'm going to invite you to turn tonight to Matthew chapter 17. Gospel of Matthew chapter 17.

My message tonight is Jesus only. Jesus only. We'll begin reading in the first verse, Matthew chapter 17, verse 1. After six days, Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them.

And his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him. Then answered Peter and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here.

If thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold, a voice out of the cloud which said,

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Hear ye Him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man save Jesus only. Let's pray together. Father God, I believe that you have given me a message, Lord, to deliver tonight.

And I'm asking you, Father, for the anointing of your Holy Spirit, that your word would go forth in power. And Lord God, that you would speak to every one of our hearts. Give us ears to hear what your Spirit is saying to us tonight.

Lord Jesus, be exalted, be lifted up. As we sang earlier, Lord, open the eyes of our heart, that we may see you, that we may see you high and lifted up, Lord Jesus. And I pray, God, that you would get a hold of every one of our hearts.

Speak to us tonight, change us, that we will never be the same. In Jesus' name, Amen. Did you know for years man thought that the sun revolved around the earth? Man thought that the sun revolved around the earth and that actually the earth was the center of our entire solar system.

But for years man was wrong. It wasn't that at all. It was just the opposite of that.

In fact, everything was revolving around the sun. The earth revolves around the sun. Our entire solar system, all the planets revolve around the sun.

Man had it wrong. You know, in the same way, many of us can be mistaken into thinking that life is all about us, that the church is really all about us and that it's all to revolve around me. But it's not the truth, brothers and sisters.

Our whole purpose for God creating us, for God redeeming and saving us is to glorify the sun, not S-U-N, but S-O-N. We are to revolve around Him. Jesus is to be the center, the very center of our life, the center of all that we are, the center of the church.

And I only have one agenda tonight. I really only have one agenda throughout this entire week. God has made it very clear to me.

And that agenda is the Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus only, Jesus ever. That's the message. Of course, my message tonight comes from the eighth verse of this text.

And when they had lifted their eyes, they saw no man save Jesus only. And I want to call you to lift your eyes with me tonight and to fix them on Jesus only. It's not about our ambitions and our hopes and our plans.

It's not really even about our dreams, anything like that. It's all about one, the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. Jesus only.

That is the message. Now, Peter, James, and John have just witnessed something here upon this mountain that they had never seen before in their life. Jesus Christ pulls back the veil of His humanity.

And for one moment, He is transfigured before their very eyes upon this high mountain. They see Jesus. And they see Him transfigured.

They see His clothes become wider than the widest light. The face of Jesus shone brighter than the noonday sun. It was an awesome sight.

They saw Him in His glory. And at the same time, the Scripture says Moses and Elijah also appeared on that mountain. And Peter, as he was so prone to do, spoke really before he thought.

He saw Moses. He saw Elijah. He saw Jesus.

And he said, Lord, it's good for us to be here. And if it's good with You, let us make three tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Peter had seen Jesus, but he had not yet really seen Jesus.

He had not seen Jesus only. And so he was putting Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah. He was just as much taken up with Moses and Elijah as he was Jesus.

And that is why, as soon as Peter uttered these words, Almighty God thundered from heaven and said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him. In other words, Peter, you don't put Moses and Elijah on the same level as My Son.

This is My Son. This is the only one worthy of glory and honor and reverence and awe. Jesus and Jesus only.

Moses was there. Moses was a great man of God. He's referred to in the Word of God as the meekest and most humble man on the face of the earth at that time.

He parted the Red Sea. He spent 40 days on the mountain with God. Moses' face shone with the glory of God, and he didn't even know it.

Moses was used by God to take the holy law of God, the Ten Commandments, and to bring them to His people. He was a mighty man of God. But Moses is not the Savior.

Moses is not the King of Glory. Peter, this is not about Moses. This is not about the law.

Moses represented the law. And what about Elijah? Elijah was a mighty man of God. He was a prophet who called down fire from heaven.

He prayed once that it would not rain for three and a half years, and it did not rain for three and a half years. Then he prayed again that it would rain, and it did. Elijah was a mighty prophet of God.

He represents all the prophets. But are we to be taken up with the prophets? Are we to be taken up with the law? No, God is saying it's not about Moses. It's not about Elijah, nor is it about any other man.

It is all about My Son. The Holy Spirit never comes to glorify a man. The Holy Spirit comes to glorify the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He's the only one worthy of glory. He's the only one worthy of honor. And so, up on this mountain, we have Moses who represents the law, Elijah who represents the prophets, and you have Jesus, the Son of God.

Do you know how many churches, brothers and sisters, today major on the law? Is the law good? Yes, the law is good. Paul says, if a man use it lawfully. Is the law of the Lord good? Yes, it is perfect in every way.

But what is the purpose of the law? The purpose of the law is to show us our wretchedness so that we will run to Christ, run to a Savior. The problem is many people are taken up with the law, but they're not taken up with Christ, who is the fulfillment of the law. Many are taken up with the prophets, the prophecies, and they're missing Christ.

It was an exact description of the Pharisees in that day. They were taken up with the letter of the law, and yet they miss the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is standing right before them. And they even shouted, crucify Him.

It's not about Moses. It's not about Elijah. It's not about any other man.

It is about Jesus and Jesus only. Everything is to revolve around Him. Peter was wanting to build three churches.

Is it any wonder that God Almighty spoke from heaven and said, Peter, this is My Son, and whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him. Now, if it's all about Jesus and Jesus only, then only Jesus is to receive the glory.

Only He is to receive honor and reverence and praise. Isaiah 42, verse 8 says, I am the Lord, that is My name, and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images. Isaiah 48, verse 11.

God says, for My own sake, even for My own sake will I do it. For how should My name be polluted, and I will not give My glory to another. And the moment that any man, you or I or anyone else, dares to touch the glory of God or begins to receive the glory and the honor and the praise that only God is worthy of, at that very moment, brothers and sisters, the glory of God will depart.

God will not share His glory with another. It's Jesus only who is worthy of glory and honor. This is My beloved Son, He says.

But the truth is, until we repent, until we have truly been crucified with Christ, if we were all to get honest tonight, there is something deep within the sinful nature of us all that desires honor, that desires praise, desires to be recognized, even desires glory. And you and I have to see how it is rooted in pride. It is devilish.

It's the very same thing that caused the most glorious of all the angels, Lucifer, to become a devil. He had in his heart this pride that said, I will be like the Most High God. I will ascend above the stars of God.

I will make myself like the Most High. Ultimately, Lucifer wanted to be worshipped. He wanted to be glorified.

He wanted to receive glory and honor. And we have to see how devilish this is to touch the glory of God, to seek honor and praise. Can I ask you tonight, do you get upset when someone forgets about you or when you go unrecognized or unnoticed? Do you get upset when someone else gets the credit for something you did? Jesus has called us to be humble servants who are always giving all the glory to Him alone.

Do you know how to know if you're really a servant of God? It's how you respond and how you react when you're treated like a servant. Then you know if you're a true servant. It's humility that God wants.

And God is looking for a people today who will be like John the Baptist and know that we are not even worthy to stoop down and unloose the sandals of the glorious feet of our Lord Jesus Christ. A people like John the Baptist who will cry, he must increase, but I must decrease. And the reason that Jesus Christ is not increasing in so many churches today is because man refuses to decrease, to humble ourselves before God and give glory only where it's due.

And that isn't the person of Jesus Christ our Lord. D.L. Moody used to say, no one goes away empty except for those who are full of themselves. Did you know this is the key? I believe this is the key to all true humility.

It's all of Jesus and none of me. The key to true revival is all of Jesus, none of me. We were praying earlier in the prayer room about unity and our brother shared from John chapter 17 how the heart of Jesus Christ is for all of us to become one, one in Him.

Can I tell you the secret to true humility? All of Jesus, none of me. When we get our eyes fixed upon Jesus and Jesus only, it brings about a unity in the body of Christ. Let me give you an example brothers and sisters tonight.

On the count of three, I want you all to shout out loud your name. All right, everybody at the same time, you shout out your name. One, two, three.

Did anybody understand anything? You hear chaos, you hear confusion, disorder, disarray. That's what it's like when man is out for his agenda, when he's got his own agenda. But now on the count of three, I want you to shout out his name.

The name above every other name. The name of Jesus. One, two, three.

That's unity. That's perfect unity. We're not talking about an ecumenical movement that all these so-called churches come together at the expense of truth and Christ is not exalted.

We're talking about a body of Christ who is in love with the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who has given Him their whole heart and who desires for only Him to receive glory and honor. A people who no longer have their own agenda, they no longer have their own ambition, their own plans, their whole heart, their whole passion in life is to glorify the risen Christ. And when our eyes are on Jesus that way, you will have true unity.

And that's what pleases God. It's that kind of unity that blesses the heart of God. In fact, Psalm 133, maybe you're familiar with this passage of Scripture.

He says in Psalm 133, in verse 1, Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garment as the dew of Hermon and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.

It's in that kind of unity that the Lord commands the blessing. But there is no unity without humility. And there can be no humility apart from fixing our eyes on Jesus only.

Now, if it's all about Jesus only, and it is, not only must Jesus only receive all the glory and no man is to touch it, but Jesus only must have the preeminence in the church, in our lives, in our homes, in everything

we do, everything we say, everything we are. Turn with me to Colossians chapter 1, please. Colossians chapter 1, and begin reading in verse 13.

It says, Who has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. He's talking about Jesus. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created by Him and for Him.

And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence. Now, that word preeminence simply means first place.

Jesus Christ is to have first place in the church, first place in your heart, first place in your life, first place in your home. The question is, does He? Does He sit enthroned as King of Kings in your heart? Or does self? Paul said it this way in 1 Corinthians chapter 6. In verse 19, he says, What? Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians chapter 6. I've got 2 Corinthians here. 1 Corinthians chapter 6, verse 19.

What? Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which you have of God, and ye are not your own? You're not your own, for you've been bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. Ye are not your own.

Jesus Christ must have preeminence. We belong to another. It was about 6 years ago that that scripture came alive to me in my own heart and life.

About 6 years ago, I had made a decision to leave the ministry. I'd pastored a church in the panhandle of Oklahoma for 5 years, and the Lord had moved among us in a mighty way. But at the end of that 5 years, I didn't realize I was allowing bitterness to get into my heart, and there were other issues, and I made a decision to walk away.

And I made a vow that I would never again pastor another Baptist church. And you remember when Peter denied the Lord 3 times? You remember what he said? I'm going fishing. I'm going back to doing what I know I can do.

I'm going back to fishing. The only problem was he fished all night long, and he never caught a thing. I said, I'm going back to the ranch.

There's one thing I know how to do, it's to work on a ranch. I'm going back to cowboying. And I went back, and I walked away from the ministry, and I entered into some of the darkest days of my entire life.

And this went on for several months. And one day, my son Luke and I, he was just a little boy at the time, we were driving down a steep canyon road. It was iced over with snow and ice, and we slid off of that road, and the truck went on to an iced over creek, and slowly it started to break through the ice and fall through and sink into the water.

By the grace of God, I got Luke out of the truck before he got too wet, dried him off, wrapped him up in some coveralls, put him up on a high point, and I went for help. Jonah was in the belly of the whale. That's the way I felt.

I felt that I was in the belly of the whale. I felt that I was running from God in disobedience to God. And as I ran for help, the Lord spoke to me ever so clearly.

He said, He spoke to my heart, and He said, How long will you run? How long will you demand your own way? How long will you do your own will? And I fell on my face before God, and I cried out to God for mercy. I cried out in repentance. I said, Lord, I'm through running.

I'm through going my own way. I'm through demanding my own will and doing things my way. Now, Lord, it's all of You.

And I surrendered my heart to God completely, the best I knew how to do it. Lord, I'm through running. I give all that I have to You.

And when I stepped up, got up off the ground, as clear as I ever heard the Lord speak to me, I heard the Lord say to me, You are not your own. You've been bought with a price. Now glorify God in your body and your spirit, which belong to God.

You're no longer your own, Brian. You know, brothers and sisters, from that day forward, God has opened one door after another door after another door after another door. You will never regret surrendering your whole heart to Christ.

God has purposes and plans for each and every one of us. He's got a purpose and plan for this church. And none of us can improve on that plan.

He's waiting, though, for a people who will surrender all, who will live like they are not their own, who will live like they belong to another. Who will live like they've been bought with a price. The precious blood of Jesus.

Isaiah 43 verse 7 tells us that we were all created for His glory. Listen as I read verse 7 of Isaiah 43. Even everyone that is called by My name, God says, for I have created him for My glory.

That is our whole purpose for being, brothers and sisters. That's the purpose for which we were created. This is the purpose for which we are called and which we are saved.

It's to bring glory to God. And until we lay hold of that purpose and believe that, life has no meaning, it has no purpose. When you lay hold of that, that you were made for the glory of God, you were created for the glory of God, life takes on a whole new meaning.

We are created to glorify God. And God is most glorified in us when we are most surrendered to Him. Can I say that again? God is most glorified in us when we are most surrendered to Him.

I want to ask you tonight, are you absolutely surrendered with an unconditional surrender with your whole heart to the Lord Jesus Christ? Does Jesus Christ rule and reign in your heart tonight? Does your life declare that? Not just your words, but your life declare that you belong to another, that Jesus is King of your heart, that you've been bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ and you're now living under the Lordship of Christ alone. You remember the words of the Lord Jesus to that Laodicean church. What

did He say to them? I would that you were either cold or hot.

I would that you were either cold or hot, but because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I'm about to spit you out of my mouth. The words of Christ, I wish you were cold or hot, but because you're lukewarm, because there's complacency, because there's a half-heartedness, I'm about to spew you out of my mouth. He said to the church of Ephesus, He commended them for all their works, but He says, I have this against you.

You have left your first love. You have left your first love. Do you know when the fire of revival falls upon a people and the Holy Spirit sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts, there is a fire that is kindled in our hearts, a love for Jesus and a love for one another.

It's a fire that cannot be quenched. That first love is a fire that burns for Christ, that loves Him supremely. And the evidence of that love for Christ is that you're willing to surrender everything to Him.

You're willing to go wherever He tells you to go. You're willing to do whatever He tells you to do. You're willing to surrender whatever He tells you to give up because you've met this Jesus.

What happened when Peter, after having heard God thunder from heaven, This is my Son whom I love, in Him I am well pleased. What did Peter do? He fell upon his face. And when he got up, he had no sight of Moses or Elijah.

He had no sight of himself. He had no sight of anybody standing around him. He was captivated by Christ.

That's the place God wants to get all of us. Where it's no longer about me. It's no longer about any man.

It's only about Jesus. And when you see Jesus like that through the eyes of faith, and you see how much this One has loved you, He gave His life for you. When you see His glory through the eyes of faith, what will you withhold from such a Savior? What would you not surrender to such a King? But that's what He waits for.

I wish that you were hot or cold, but because you're half-hearted, complacent, because you have your feet in two different boats, He said, I'm about to spew you out of my mouth. Christ will not be taken half-heartedly. He is worthy of glory.

He is worthy of all of our heart. He is worthy of absolute, unconditional surrender. It's like the little African girl I heard about one time.

True story about a little African girl who was at a tent meeting. And she loved Jesus Christ with all of her heart. And the time came during the meeting when they were going to take up an offering.

And she watched them pass the plate. And her eyes began to well up with tears, and her heart was breaking because she loved Christ. And she had not one single coin to put in the plate.

She thought, what will I do? Jesus, I love you, but I have nothing to give you. And she thought, and the plate got closer and closer to her. And when it came to her, you know what she did? She put the offering plate on the ground, and she stepped inside of it, and she said, Lord, here I am, I give you myself.

That's what the Lord is waiting for. Absolute, unconditional surrender. Complete obedience.

Hearts that will hold nothing back from Jesus, because you love Him. You love Him who first loved you. Now, notice the context of Peter and James and John receiving this incredible revelation of the glory of Christ.

Back up to the 16th chapter of Matthew, and notice what Jesus Himself says. Because this is part of surrender. This is part of Jesus having the preeminence in our lives, and all the glory.

Verse 24 of Matthew chapter 16. Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. Here's the question tonight.

Will you love Jesus more than you love yourself? Will Jesus or will self sit enthroned in your heart? That's the issue. If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it.

And whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it. For what is a man profited if he gained the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Many will ask today, do you have the Holy Spirit? Brother, do you have the Holy Spirit? Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? It's a good question. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Paul says to continually be being filled. But I have another question for you tonight. Does the Holy Spirit have you? Does He have every part of your heart? Is Jesus Lord of every part of your life? Every relationship? Everything that goes on at home? Everything that goes on behind closed doors? Everything that goes on in the workplace? Does Jesus Christ have the preeminence in your heart and life? Does the Holy Spirit have you? Alan Redpath told a story one time of how he was away preaching, and he preached a lot of revivals and meetings.

He came home one day, and his two little girls were waiting for him. Two precious little daughters. They heard daddy come to the door, and they did like most of our children do.

They run to the door to meet daddy. And the older outran the younger. And she grabbed a hold of her daddy's leg, and she looked back and she said to her younger sister, I have all of daddy.

I have all of daddy. As if you can't have any of him. And the little sister pooched out her bottom lip and tears began to well up in her eyes.

And she looked up at her daddy, and he held his arms out like this and said, come on. And she ran up into his arms, and he picked her up. And she looked down at her older sister and said, daddy has all of me.

You say, do you have the Holy Spirit? Some will say, yes. I ask, does the Holy Spirit have all of you? Does he have every part of your heart? Every part of your life? A few years ago, I was privileged to go to Wales and preach unexpectedly in the Mariah Chapel where the 1904 Welsh revival broke out. And God used young Evan Roberts in 1904 when he came in revival to that country of Wales.

I remember on a Sunday, I was actually just going to take in a service there before I caught the plane to come home. And I walked in the doors and the pastor there, Brother Diefrig, came and said, Brother Brian, you're going to deliver the word today. And I was shocked, but I was also excited.

But I'll never forget this. Before I got up to preach, he was sharing a little bit about Evan Roberts, and he stood and he said this. He said, people said that Evan Roberts had the Holy Spirit.

He didn't. And everybody gasped and paused. He said the Holy Spirit had him.

The Spirit of God comes to indwell the heart of a believer. And God calls us to seek Him to be filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit, brothers and sisters, simply means this.

Does the Holy Spirit have all of you? You are only as full of the Spirit of God as you are surrendered to Him. You're only glorifying God to the degree that you're surrendered to Him. Unconditional, absolute surrender and complete obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anything less than that is not New Testament Christianity. I want to share one final story with you about W.P. Nicholson. He was probably one of the greatest evangelists that Ireland had ever known.

W.P. Nicholson was used to lead many, many souls to Christ. But it wasn't until he came to an absolute surrender to Christ, until he came to this truth, Jesus, only Jesus ever. He got saved at a fairly young age, but he described the first part of his Christian life as up and down.

Many of us have experienced this. Up on the mountain, down in the valley, most of the time down in the valley. He said, I knew I was saved.

I had the witness of the Spirit. I knew I was born again. He said, but I was defeated in so many areas by particular sins.

He said, I'd never led a single soul to Christ. And he said, what my heart ached for is what I saw in other believers who were full of the Spirit of God, who were leading souls to Christ, who were overcoming sin and living the victorious, joyful life in Christ. I hungered for what they had.

He said, my brother came to town and they held a convention. And the convention was called The Deepening of the Christian Life. He said, I attended the first night.

And after the first sermon, he said, I became so angry that I told myself I will never come back. But the next night came around and he said, I always came back. He said, I continued to hear messages about how I could not live this Christian life apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.

He said, I heard the message that said that Christ was God's unspeakable gift to the world. But the Holy Spirit was God, was Christ unspeakable gift to his church. My heart ached for such a life, he said, but I was also afraid of it because I didn't want to be anything or say anything that a good Presbyterian wouldn't be or wouldn't say.

He said, so I tried my hardest to convince God. And he said, as hard as I tried to make God a Presbyterian, I couldn't make him a Presbyterian. I couldn't make him fit into my little box.

He said, the Salvation Army came to town. And the Salvation Army, this corps was composed of two young girls who were dressed in funny looking uniforms and they played the tambourines. And he said, it was these two young girls and a young man named Daft Jimmy.

He said, Daft Jimmy didn't have hardly enough brains to give him a headache. And Daft Jimmy would lead these two girls with the flag. And he said, I was so afraid knowing that I must surrender my all to Jesus if I'm ever going to live the victorious life.

If I'm ever going to be full of him, I must surrender all to him. But I was so afraid that if I surrender all to him, he would have me join somebody like this. Daft Jimmy, who didn't have enough brains to give him a headache and the two girls that played the tambourines.

And he said, God showed me that my problem was pride. He said, I went to the convention every night. And by the last night, I was so hungry for God.

I made a decision then and there. I knew it was now or never. The Lord was confronting me.

Just like he may be confronting someone tonight. All for Jesus or none of him. There is no middle ground with Christ.

All of your heart or none of it. He said, I made a decision that night. I went down to the shores under the starry night sky, fell on my face before God.

And I said, Lord Jesus, you can have it all. Take my life and let it be consecrated. Lord, to thee.

He cried out. He said, I prayed, come in, come in, Holy Spirit. Thy work of great blessing begin.

By faith, I lay hold of the promise and claim complete victory over sin. He said, the Lord did come in. And I began to weep and I began to sing.

And he said, all fear of man was gone. I'd come to an absolute surrender. But the next night, Saturday night, I heard there was an open air meeting.

I walked down the street to see what was going on. He said, that night, I think every one of my friends and all of my relatives were on the street that night. And lo and behold, I come to the open air meeting.

And it's the two young girls playing the tambourine and daft Jimmy holding up the flag. He said, I nearly turned back. But I knew I couldn't.

I'd surrendered all to Christ. So I stepped into their ring there where they were sharing the gospel. And one of them looked at me.

And he said, the people are not stopping to listen to us preach and sing. We must get on our knees and pray. He said, I was embarrassed to do it, but I knew I couldn't run.

So he said, I got on my knees and I bowed my head. And I was thinking, oh, I hope he prays a long prayer, a prayer as long as the 119th Psalm, because I don't want to lift my head. He was ashamed.

He said instead, daft Jimmy prayed a very short prayer and he could hear everybody mocking him and laughing at him and making fun of him as he was there on the streets, kneeling in prayer. I lifted my head, W.P. Nicholson said, and I was blushing. I was embarrassed when one of the young girls looked at me in the eye and handed me the tambourine and said, here, brother, you lead the march down the street.

He said, I grabbed the tambourine because I knew I couldn't run. I began to play and sing and march down the street singing praises to God. And when I did, my shackles fell off.

I lost all fear of man. He was afraid of losing his reputation. What is it in your heart tonight that you say, Lord, anything, you know, W.P. Nicholson said, he said, Lord, I'll go to Timbuktu, I'll go to Hong Kong, anything, but don't have me join this Salvation Army band.

Anytime you and I give the Lord a stipulation and we say, Lord, anything but that, just like I said, I'll do anything, but never again, pastor. Anytime we say but, we've drawn a line and what we're really saying is, Lord, I don't love you enough to surrender all. Jesus asked Peter on the shores of Galilee three times.

And I believe Jesus is asking us that tonight. Brothers and sisters, as I close. Hear me clearly.

One day you and I are going to stand face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ. The scripture says that we must all appear at the judgment seat of Christ. And when you and I stand there, it won't be, you won't be captivated by Moses, and Elijah, and whoever else.

What's it going to be? Jesus only. You will stand in His presence. And at that moment, I want to ask you, because we're all going to do it.

We're all going to stand face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ. And when we do, Jesus only. What's going to matter on that day? Who won the game? The scratch on my new car? The cow that went dry? That person that said something that hurt my feelings? What's going to matter on that day? I'll tell you only one thing.

Did you give your all for the one who laid down His life for you? Did you give Jesus Christ every part of your heart and hold nothing back? Did you love Him enough to surrender all? To bow your heart before Him and let Him rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords in your heart and life. That's all that's going to matter on that day. And I simply want to ask you again tonight.

Have you come to that complete, absolute surrender? Have you seen the glory and beauty of Jesus? So much so that you're not willing to hold anything back, like the little girl, here I am Lord, take all of me. That's what He's waiting for tonight. Will you stand with me as we pray? And I'm going to ask the brother to come forward because I want to have an altar call tonight.

I want to have an altar call tonight. You come, brother, and I want you to lead us in a song. This is what we're going to do, brothers and sisters.

I don't sense that the emotions are stirring tonight, and that's okay. I've not come to stir up your emotions. I've come to proclaim one truth.

Jesus Christ is worthy of all of your heart. He is worthy of all of your heart, and it's all about Jesus only. And I'm simply asking you to make a decision tonight.

First of all, I want to ask you, are you holding anything back from Christ? Are you giving Him the glory that only He deserves? Are you living for yourself? Are you living for Christ? And if there is any part of your heart tonight that you've not surrendered to Christ, anything that you're holding back, I'm going to ask you to come forward. Those who come forward, we're going to pray together. I'm going to ask you to come forward as we kneel before the Lord our Maker.

And we say, Lord, unconditional surrender, absolute surrender, complete obedience. You command me, Lord, wherever You go, I will go. Wherever You tell me to go, I will go.

Wherever You tell me to say, I will say. Unconditional surrender. I'm going to ask you if you're willing to make that decision, not for me, not for any other man, but between you and God.

You say, Lord, I'm through living with myself. I'm through running. I'm through demanding my own way.

I'm through doing my own will. You know the old Anabaptists? I love reading about the old Anabaptists. That's your heritage.

I guess you know that. Mennonites, those old Anabaptists so surrendered to Christ. One of their prayers, many of them would pray this prayer.

They would say, Lord, You've given me a free will. I take that free will and I give it back to You. Many of them were burned at the stake.

They died for their faith. It cost them something. What will it cost you to follow Christ? Everything.

But it'll cost you a whole lot more not to surrender everything. It costs you a whole lot more not to follow Christ with all of your heart. Jesus only, Jesus ever, because He's worthy.

I told an old man the other day, he was a professed atheist, pleaded with him, sharing the gospel with him. I said to him with a broken heart, this is what concerns me the most. You've lived 80 some odd years, 80 some odd years without Christ, 80 some odd years God has given you breath.

He put breath in your body, causes your heart to beat, and for 80 something years, you've robbed Him of the glory that He alone is worthy of. Not lived a single day for Christ. What a tragedy to stand before the King of glory, the King of kings, and know that I've not given Him any glory.

I've lived for myself. I would not surrender that one piece of my heart. It's absolute surrender.

Unconditional surrender. Thanks be to God that man came through to Christ. His wife said he waved the white flag of surrender.

One night, it was the night after the last time I spoke to him, three weeks later I preached his funeral. Three weeks later. It's not too late for anybody here, but I want to tell you, Jesus, He's worthy of all.

Will you come? Those who are willing to make a decision tonight, will you come to the front? You sing, lead us in a song. Those who come to the front, I'll pray for. Father, You bring whom You chose.

You bring, Lord, whom You are calling, tonight as we sing, in Jesus' name. Hallelujah. Father God, You see those who are standing before You, Lord, who have come to make a decision, Father.

And You look far beyond the outward appearance, Lord. You look to the heart. And I pray, God, I pray for these who are standing up here in front tonight, Lord, that You would meet with us in such a way, Father, that we would never, ever be the same again.

We come before You, Lord Jesus, because You're worthy. You're worthy of all glory, all honor and praise, reverence and all, absolute surrender, Lord. You're worthy of it all.

You created us for Your glory. That's why we're here. That's why we live.

That's why we've been saved and redeemed. Lord, look into our hearts right now. Brothers, sisters, if you're ready to pray, I want to lead you in a prayer.

Let's pray out loud together. God looks again past the words to the heart from which they come. But if it's from your heart, I want you to follow me in a prayer as I lead you.

Lord Jesus, You are worthy of glory. You are worthy of all the honor. Thank You for loving me.

Thank You for dying for me. Thank You for laying down Your life. You held nothing back.

You love me to the end. Forgive me, Lord, for all of my sins. For withholding parts of my heart.

Wash me, Lord. Cleanse me from all sin. Right here and now, I give You my heart.

Every part. I surrender to You, Jesus. I surrender my marriage to You.

I surrender my children to You. And every part of my body, I surrender to You. Jesus, take my eyes and let me see what You see.

Take my ears and let me hear Your voice. Take my mind and all its thoughts. Take my heart and all its affections.

Take my hands to serve only You. Take my feet and send me where You will. Wherever You lead, I will follow.

Whatever You command me, Lord, by Your grace, I will obey. I surrender all to You tonight. I surrender all to You tonight.

I love You, Jesus. I thank You, Jesus, for what You've done in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, just thank Him. Give Him thanks and praise. Lord, we thank You.

We praise You for Your goodness. We exalt You, Lord Jesus. We thank You, Lord.

There is no life outside of You. And there is nothing, Lord, like living for You. With all of our hearts, no one compares to You.

David said, Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none on the earth that I desire beside You, Jesus. I pray, Lord God, that those who have made this decision tonight to surrender every part of their heart to You, Lord, they would hear Your voice speaking to them. I pray that You would give them more and more of a love for You, more of a hunger and thirst for Your Word, more of a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

God, I pray that You would take them where they could never go on their own. You would make them what they could never become. Lord, surprise them.

Surprise them at what You will do through their lives. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus.

We love You. We worship You. We praise You.

We honor You. In Jesus' name, Hallelujah. Brothers and sisters, there was a man one day that sat down on a park bench next to young D.L. Moody.

D.L. Moody at that time was just a young man. He was a shoe salesman. And this man said to D.L. Moody, Dwight, the world has yet to see what God can do through one man or woman who has completely surrendered to Him.

D.L. Moody looked up and said, By the grace of God, I will be that man or that woman. I want to say that to you. Don't limit God by unbelief.

All God is looking for is surrendered vessels. It's not about us being able. Did you know? Here stands someone who could not give a book report in school.

I stuttered. I stammered. I was terrified to stand up in front of anybody.

I knew how to fight and I knew how to flight. That's only two things I knew. You never know what God will do through a man if you just come to an absolute surrender.

I still can't speak, but God has mercy upon me. And it's not about what I'm saying. It's not about our ability.

It's about our availability. When you make yourself available to God and you just fall in love with Jesus who loves you so much and you say, Lord, here I am like the little boy with five loaves and two fish. How are we going to feed a multitude? I just give you all that I am.

He multiplies it. He will live His life through you. And you ask for God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

He will fill you to the degree that you are surrendered to Him. Before we go, I want to pray one more prayer. Let's lift our hands to the Lord.

Lift your hands to the Lord and pray with me. Lord Jesus, your greatest gift to the church is the gift of your Holy Spirit. Tonight, I ask you to fill me afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Fill me to overflowing. Produce the very life of Christ through me. Let the fruit of your Spirit abound in me.

Your love, your joy, your peace, your patience, your kindness, your goodness, your gentleness, your faithfulness, your self-control, and your holiness, and your power for your glory in Jesus' name. Amen. Hallelujah.

God bless you, brothers and sisters. I hope you come back tomorrow night. I trust you will and bring somebody with you.

Let's go in the joy of the Lord. Hearts absolutely surrendered to Him. And you be ready.

You be ready for God to speak to you. You know what? It may be something so small, maybe not so small, not in God's sight, that the Lord says, I want you to go to Him and apologize. I want you to go to her and ask forgiveness.

Or I want you to speak to your neighbor across the street. The Holy Spirit will speak to you. Or I want you to rise in the morning and spend that time alone with me.

You just listen. You're surrendered now. Listen to His voice, whatever He tells you.

Remember what Mary said to the servants of Jesus? She said, whatever He tells you, do it. It's as simple as that. Obedience, a heart full of obedience to God because you love Him.

If you love me, you will obey me, Jesus said. God bless you, brothers and sisters. It's been a joy being with you.

And we have a whole week to go. And I trust God's going to meet with us throughout the week. God bless you tonight.

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