

A Final Warning to the Indulgent Church

by Carter Conlon

Carter Conlon's sermon serves as a final warning to the church about the dangers of indulgence and the need for genuine spiritual engagement with God's truth.

Duration: 47:39

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 11:17, Psalm 18:32

Topics: "Sacrificial Living", "Spiritual Revival"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of not just agreeing with the truth of God, but embracing it fully, pouring out our lives for His glory and the benefit of others. Drawing from the story of David's longing for the water of Bethlehem, the preacher warns against indulgence and self-centered worship, urging the congregation to seek God's strength to live sacrificially and compassionately. The message highlights the need to heed the final warning to the indulgent church, calling for a genuine commitment to God's purposes and a willingness to be poured out for His kingdom.

Transcript

I'd like you to turn to the book of First Chronicles chapter 11, please, in the Old Testament, and also, if you could, in your index, find Daniel and Amos, and just put a marker or something there for time's sake, so that you have those books of the Bible. One of the things that we promised you as a church congregation as pastors, and we hold to that promise, is that we will not hold back from you the full counsel of the Word of God. You can become imbalanced if the gospel is only preached from one slant or the other.

We have a mandate of God to step into this pulpit, obedient to the Holy Spirit, bringing the word that God says He wants spoken for that morning, as best as we believe He has spoken to us, whether it seems in season or out of season. Remember, Paul the Apostle told Timothy, be prepared to preach in season and out of season. Sometimes an out of season message is one that you'd rather not hear at the time that it's preached, but it can have a great effect in your heart.

I'm standing this morning in a prophetic context. This is a very difficult word for me to preach, but I want to encourage those who have come this morning, if you have an honest heart, and if you'll hold with this message, there's great encouragement for the Christian in this word. When we get to the end, I think there'll be a shout of glory in your heart.

We can't avoid the hard places, nor can we avoid the hard truths, if you and I want to be followers of Jesus Christ. I come to you this morning as a pastor who just simply wants to see you grow in grace. I want us to make it through to the other side.

We need to have strength to get through the days that face us, and it's only the truth that will set you free. Only the truth, folks. Think of our precious brothers and sisters in Haiti that I saw on CNN this week, who were in the streets worshiping God.

Those people were sitting under truth. Everything is gone, but their hands are still in the air. I saw one man with a Bible singing, glorifying God, just putting his hand on his Bible, just giving God glory.

Folks, that kind of worship is...those people are sitting somewhere where the gospel has been preached, the real gospel, because everything else is gone, but God is still very much alive in their hearts. And I do thank God for that testimony with all of my heart, and I hope at some point in the future we can be an encouragement to them as they have been to us. My message titled this morning is called A Final Warning to the Indulgent Church.

A Final Warning to the Indulgent Church. First Chronicles chapter 11. Let's pray first, please.

Father, I just thank you, Lord, for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Lord, I don't have the strength to preach this. I couldn't do this if you didn't empower me.

There's really nothing in me that would want to do it. But I stand here, Lord, in obedience to what you placed on my heart and what I truly believe is your Word for this day. I stand only as an oracle of God.

I'm asking, Lord, that I may have an anointing to speak it with your heart, with the intonations of my voice. Let them be a reflection of what's truly in your heart, how you, Jesus, would say it yourself if you were standing in this pulpit. Help me to get out of the way.

Oh, God, give us the grace to hear this. Help us, Lord. Help others who will hear it on the internet and by tape in the future.

Help your church in this generation. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Chronicles chapter 11. A final warning to the indulgent church, beginning at verse 15. Now, three of the thirty captains went down to the rock of David, into the cave of Adulam.

Now, remember, that's where David is being pursued by Saul at this particular juncture. And the host of the Philistines encamped in the valley of Riphah. And David was then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison was then at Bethlehem.

And David longed and said, Oh, that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem that is at the gate. And the three break through the host of the Philistines and drew water out of the well at Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. But David would not drink of it, but poured it out unto the Lord, and said, My God forbidded me that I should do this thing.

Shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy? For with the jeopardy of their lives they brought it. Therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mightiest." Now, you see David in this cave, and a cry in verse 17 comes from his heart, just a longing.

And he says, Oh, that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem that is at the gate. Now, it speaks to me of the cry that's found in every human heart. It was the cry once in your heart, and it was the cry in mine.

I remember the day that I cried out. I said, Oh, that I might be restored to God, that I might find the strength and fulfillment that only He could give. And David had to know there, because he was in the lineage of Christ, David continuously spoke prophetically.

Of course, you know that from Psalms, such as Psalm 22, avidly vividly describing the cross of Christ, its victory, and subsequently the testimony of Christ in his church. But David knew that that which satisfies the deepest longings of the heart comes from Bethlehem. He knew that's where the water had to be found.

In other words, water everywhere. You could find water in wells, and there were probably those around him who had bolsters of water that was somewhat fresh. But David knew in his heart, there's something about the water of Bethlehem, that water that God gives in Bethlehem, of course, through the birth of his son, Jesus Christ.

Now, hearing this cry in his heart, mighty men of God, who became mighty under his leadership, they rose up and they fought against overwhelming opposition to bring to him what his heart longed for. And folks, I'm thankful. I'm thankful for apostles who went to the end for you and for me.

I'm thankful for Paul who didn't quit when times got tough. I'm thankful that Paul went all the way to prison and with nothing left but a parchment and a pen in his hand and God in his heart. And in the strength of that relationship with God, for your soul and for mine, pen words that have given us life.

It was Paul that wrote the words of God before us, who can be against us. Those few words were the words that set me free from hell and the power of hell that had dominated my life for many, many years. Oh, I thank God for men and women throughout the course of history that have paid an incredible price to bring to you and to me the gospel that we have today.

History is filled with the blood of the martyrs, those that defied existing authority and took a pen in their hand and translated the scriptures from languages that the people couldn't understand and many paid for it with their own blood. The great price and history is replete with all of those that paid this ultimate sacrifice that you and I today can have life, that we can sing this song this morning soon as I get home. And thank God for those who paid.

Can you imagine if the early church had caved in under the pressure? Can you imagine if anyone, everyone had just gone home with their with their morsel of God as they had discovered and just took it and used it for themselves? Can you imagine if the early church had not pressed through? And even under persecution in the book of Acts when they were scattered, men like Philip went into Samaria and began to preach. Everywhere they went they just kept testifying and preaching about the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Can you imagine Peter and John having been brought before the council if they had seceded to their threatenings and stopped speaking the name of Jesus? If Satan had through all of his ploys succeeded in causing those who carried the gospel to us, they brought the gospel to us as it is from Bethlehem to you and I today.

I am deeply indebted with all of my heart and for the rest of my life. Suddenly David finds in his hands that which he has longed for, the water of Bethlehem. And I believe at this point David had to make a decision

that's common to all people who are handed the salvation and the strength of God in Jesus Christ.

You are here today and I am here and we were handed this salvation. This cup of water as it is, the water always speaks of the word of God. The cleansing of God's word was put into your hands and put into my hands.

And it was put into our hands by people who fought for it folks. It didn't come easy. There's been a great price for 2,000 years paid by very many.

And it's being paid in countries today throughout the world. People are still paying that price. Pastors still put in jails, some losing their families.

I spoke at a pastor's conference in a country that I can't name for the safety sake of the church. But most of the pastors in that conference had been in jail. Many of them had been tortured.

Some had lost their families. I've never heard worship in all of my life. I was greatly humbled to be there.

It was perplexing to my mind even at one point as to why God would even send me there to speak. I should have been sitting at their feet and listening to them. There was a man who was a concert violinist in that particular country who had been taken from his career.

His family had been taken away. He'd been falsely accused and put in jail for the gospel of Jesus Christ. They had recently let him out of jail, warning him not to preach anymore.

He had come to that conference with the determination in his heart to go back and continue to preach the gospel no matter what the personal cost would be to him. He was a violinist and he got up and now he had been a follower of Islam who had converted to Christ. And he got up with his violin and sang one of the sweetest songs I've ever heard in my life.

I don't know if I've ever heard a sweeter worship song. He lifted up his violin and the tears came down his face and he began to play that violin and it was such a sweet savor unto God. I didn't understand the language.

He was singing in another dialect, but it was so sweet. Here's a man who's made the conscious choice to go back into suffering for the sake of those countrymen and people in his own nation who had not yet heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. I guess the question arises is what do you and I do with the truths that are handed to us? And what we do with this cup of salvation that is given to us will determine what kind of people we will be in the earth.

And it will also determine what kind of an effect we'll have for the kingdom of God and the redemptive purposes of Christ in the earth. Now throughout history, all throughout scriptural history, Old Testament, New Testament, there are examples in history. I'll try to go through them quickly, but there are examples, and I'm just going to skim the surface of them, of people who have been given great opportunity and great truth, but they were self-indulgent.

In other words, they took this that was handed to them and saw it only as something for their own benefit or for their own glory. They didn't want the higher purpose of God. They didn't want to go where this cup leads many.

Think for a moment of Cain. I mean, he's the first son of Adam and Eve. Here's a man who has an opportunity to get back to God.

He's given access to worship. There are many ways his life could have been other than what the testimony is in the Old Testament, but his worship was rejected because he had a thought in his heart. In Genesis 4-9, he said, am I my brother's keeper? That was the thought.

God knew that was in his heart, and that's why when his sacrifice was brought to the Lord, it was rejected because he had nothing in his heart for his brother. And folks, there are all types of people who come to the Lord and bring a sacrifice, as they see it, of praise to God, but I dare say that they end up being of no effect in the earth. Cain ended up being of no effect.

He ended up a vagabond, wandering through this world and never fully finding satisfaction. And the very core of it is that he had no heart for his brother. He had no heart for others around him.

In that case, of course, he had one brother. He had no heart for him. Think for a moment of Esau, in the very direct lineage of the promise of God to Abraham.

A man who's, a cup as it is, is put into his hand. Esau, you're the firstborn. You have the chance to be this lineage through whom the people of the world are going to be blessed.

But Esau was a man whose heart was gravitated to the things of this life. Didn't much care about this blessing that God promised as long as his belly was full, as long as his own needs were satisfied as he saw it. And in Genesis 33, 9, when Jacob comes out of the wilderness after a long journey and after a face-to-face encounter with Almighty God, Jacob comes out a changed man.

He's given a new nature. He's called a prince with God and having power with God and power with men. His name has changed from Jacob to Israel.

He's walking before the people. He's tender. He's compassionate.

He has an honest walk with God. He has a heart for the weakest people that are in this entourage that's coming out of this wilderness place with him. And he has a promise in his heart of living a life that will bring glory to God.

And he meets Esau, who should have been the inheritor of the promise. And Esau says to him, keep your gifts. He said, I have enough.

You see, Esau found what he wanted in this world. That's all he was ever looking for. That's all he ever wanted.

It started with a bowl of stew to fill his belly. And after that, he had an entourage to meet Jacob of 400 men. And I want you to see the contrast.

Jacob has the heart of God. And he's walking slowly. He's walking with a limp.

He has suffered in a sense in his body already for the call of God that is on his life. And folks, there is suffering. There are hard times.

If you and I are going to go the full distance with God, it can be hard. And don't let anybody tell you differently. It can be hard.

You and I can be led in some difficult places. All of us will be led into areas where our flesh doesn't want to go and can't go. But Jacob comes out of that place with a new nature.

Esau has 400 men, and I can see him galloping off into the wilderness completely satisfied with that which he has gathered to himself from the world. I have enough. He doesn't have the life of God.

He doesn't have the promise of God, but he's not even smart enough to see what he's forfeited for a few measly things of this world that no man can take with him. He's forfeited the life of God. The lineage of Christ is forfeited, folks.

The power of God is not there. The blessing is not there. Just a mad galloper with all of his entourage scooping and gathering more and more and more as if the guy who gets to the end with the most toys wins.

I think of a rejected worship in Amos chapter 6. If you have a marker in Amos, please, if you can go there very quickly. Amos chapter 6. Scripture shows us in the Old Testament that there's a worship that God rejects. Amos 6.4. They lie upon beds of ivory and stretch themselves upon their couches and eat the lambs out of the flock and the calves out of the midst of the stall.

Now, this is an Esau worship for lack of a better way of saying it. People who come to Christ as it is or come to a knowledge of God. Now, this is in the Old Testament, but it's not producing anything of God in the heart.

They're seeking out comfortable places. They stretch out on their couches. They take the best of everything for themselves, the lambs out of the flock, the calves out of the stall.

They chant to the sound of the vial and invent to themselves instruments of music like David. They think they're worshiping like David. They sing the songs of David.

They imitate David. They come to the house of the Lord. They'll sing songs.

They drink wine in bowls. They anoint themselves with the chief ointments, but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. They have brothers throughout the world that are in captivity, that are headed to an eternity in hell, and there's no grief in the heart.

It's a type of self-indulgent worship. And verse seven says, Therefore now they shall go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretch themselves shall be removed. The Lord says, This kind of worship I have slated for captivity and removal.

Paul talks to Timothy in the New Testament about rejected theology. There's a theology very much alive in Paul's time and very much alive in our time, and the Lord says, I've rejected it. First Timothy 6.5, he said, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness.

From such withdraw thyself. In other Paul say Timothy, there are people who teach and preach that godliness is a means to get financial gain. And the amount of material things that a man has is an evidence of how godly he is.

Paul says to Timothy, These are men who are destitute of the truth and their minds are corrupt. Withdraw yourself from them. Withdraw yourself Timothy.

Don't walk because it's a rejected theology. I'm not suggesting that all of God's people should be poor. There's no glory to God in that.

But I am suggesting that you and I must keep a right perspective of what the material things that God has put in our hands are for. And lastly, in Revelation chapter 3, the Lord speaks to a church called Laodicea. It's to an entire form of religion that's satisfied with this world's goods.

It's blinded to the heart and purposes of God's church in the earth and unaware that perhaps for them the final warning had come. It's amazing. Now Christ is walking among the candlesticks, the testimony of his churches.

And he says to this last church in Revelation, You say I'm rich and I'm increased with goods and have need of nothing. He tries lovingly because he says those that I love he said I will rebuke and I will chase and I will correct you because I love you. He said you don't realize that you are completely outside of where the life and the power of God really is.

You're blinded to the purpose as it is of the church of Jesus Christ in the earth. He said I'm standing at the door and I'm knocking and if you'll open the door to me I'll come into you and I'll sit down I'll sup with you. In other words I'll open the word to you.

I'll give you vision. I'll anoint your eyes with eyesalve that you may see. Folks what is important to God in the earth? Having seen the disaster in Haiti this week tell me what is important to God? Is it the buildings we build? Is it the fanciness of our songs? Ultimately when you look at the images and you see the human suffering.

If you have anything of the heart of Christ you know immediately what is important to the heart of God. It's the souls of men women and children. It's the honor of God in the earth.

It's the compassion of Christ that's caused him to stop and hear the cry of the blind man. It's that which enabled him to reach out and touch a leper in spite of the fact that the whole crowd wouldn't have understood it. It's what allowed him to sit at the table of a spiritual man of some physical authority in Israel and let a woman who had an ill reputation to come in and sit and touch his feet and cleanse them with their tears and wipe them with their hair.

It's this touchableness of God. This compassion of God for all of humanity. If I don't have the compassion of God in my heart for fallen humanity I've got to go back and start over again folks.

Something's wrong. Something is missing. I'm going on the wrong path.

I've read the wrong portions. I've not seen the whole picture. I'm in the church.

I'm singing the songs and I'm doing religious things but if I have no heart for other people then I don't believe my love for God is valid. I don't believe it's real. Jesus said you love the Lord your God with all your heart soul mind and strength is the most important commandment and the second is just like it that you love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two hang all the law and all the prophets. Go to Daniel chapter 5 please with me if you will. Now Daniel chapter 5 is a story of a king.

His name was Belshazzar verses 20 to 23 Daniel chapter 5. Now Daniel is standing before Belshazzar. Belshazzar has commanded a feast and he's brought out all the cups and all the vessels that were taken when Babylon overthrew Jerusalem. They took all the vessels out of the temple.

Now all these things were separated. They were holy. They were set apart for a divine purpose in the earth.

Belshazzar took these things and brought them to a banqueting table of his friends, his concubines, his associates, his admirers, his servants and he passed out these vessels and they began to drink from them and they began to party from them. Now Daniel is standing before him because suddenly on near the candlestick it says in Daniel I believe it's chapter 5 verse 5 a hand appeared near the candlestick. Remember the candlestick is the testimony folks.

It represents that in scripture and wrote something on the wall that Belshazzar didn't understand. It caused a tremendous terror to come into his heart and none of his astrologers, none of his soothsayers, his magicians could answer these words. They were a mystery but he knew that there was a man in the kingdom who could dissolve doubts, who stood for truth, who appeared to be a captive but yet was free, who appeared to be in a lesser status than many but nevertheless knew God and Belshazzar knew this.

Now Daniel is standing before Belshazzar. Belshazzar is about to get his final warning folks. I believe in my heart there's a final warning coming to the church, the indulgent church in the western world in particular.

This very well might be it or part of it. It's a final warning folks. There is a time, there is a cutoff time, there's a time when God speaks.

I don't know who can hear. I know in this day nobody could hear anymore and Daniel stands before Belshazzar and he talks about his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar who was one of the previous kings of Babylon who became very proud and even though God had been telling him through the prophet that he was the one who sets up kings and takes them down and even he was warned. He said turn away from your sins and become charitable to the poor unless these things don't come upon you.

He was warned of what his pride was going to bring him into but nevertheless he couldn't humble himself and subsequently lost his mind and ended up like a madman out in the field for a season. Then God gave him back his thinking again and finally he understood that it's the hand of God that sets up all kingdoms. Everything exists by his hand and Nebuchadnezzar knew this and made some proclamations concerning it.

Verse 20 now is about Nebuchadnezzar. Now Daniel is standing before Belshazzar on this whole feast. He said but when his heart was lifted up verse 20 of Daniel 5 and his mind hardened in pride he was deposed from his kingly throne and they took his glory from him and he was driven from the sons of men and his heart was made like the beasts and his dwelling was with the wild asses.

They fed him with grass like oxen and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men and that he appointed over it whomsoever he will. And thou his son oh Belshazzar has not humbled thine heart though thou knewest all this. And this was it Belshazzar had

the history folks.

Now I've just gone through a litany of a few things in the old and new testament that God speaks. Now we have the history we know how God sees the taking into our hands of the things of his kingdom. He said but you've lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven verse 23 and they brought the vessels of his house before thee and thou and thy lords and thy wives and thy concubines have drunk wine in them you've praised the gods of silver gold brass iron wood and stone which see not nor hear or know and the God in whose hand thy breath is and whose are all thy ways thou hast not glorified.

Belshazzar knew the history he knew the cup in his hand and those of his acquaintance were given for a divine purpose and they were made for a divine purpose. In spite of this he felt there would be no consequences in unrighteously taking to his lips that which was holy and set apart to bring true glory to God. He felt there would be no consequence see that's the ultimate dilemma of the human heart that I can take the name of Jesus into my lips and it can be an unrighteous taking of that name and somehow feel there will be no consequence to this.

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand and wrote over against the candlestick. There's a time when a sentence is written against those who are holding their hands that which has been given to be a testimony of God in the earth. Remember in the book of Revelation the writing in Revelation chapter 3 came from the one who walks among the candlesticks and he had penned words to each of the churches that you and I would be well advised to take heed of today.

Now Belshazzar was a strange type of a man. He was a man who recognized the truth. He was a man who acknowledged Daniel is speaking for God just like some of us here today.

You might be here today and you know that the words you're hearing from this pulpit are true. You find no fault with these words. You know that I'm speaking to you with a tender heart.

The compassion of God is what is motivating me. I'm not speaking to you for evil but for good. You're fully aware that this is the word of God.

There's no doubt in your heart. Daniel, not Daniel rather, but Belshazzar even decorates the man of God on the night of his own death. Commands his nobles and says go and give him a fancy robe and put chains around his neck.

Now Daniel has just told him it's all over. Your kingdom is finished. God has numbered its days.

It's been found wanting in the balance and he's finished it. It's going to be taken away and given to another. Now Daniel has just stood and given a strong prophetic word to this king who's got these vessels of God in his hands and he's drinking from them.

Now perhaps he felt Belshazzar felt that somehow recognizing and honoring truth was sufficient without embracing and walking in it. And that's the dilemma that we face in our generation. So many people come to the house of the Lord and have an impression that if I decorate the truth, let's say how do I decorate it? Well I come to church and I lift my hands.

I sing the songs. I say praise God, bless you brother. It's great to see you and I decorate the truth.

I decorate it with my presence. I decorate it with my praise. I decorate it with my accolades.

I decorate it by just my just coming and being part of the whole assembly. But you see Belshazzar could decorate it but he couldn't embrace it. He could recognize it but he wouldn't walk in it.

I've heard a lot of testimonies here recently of especially Sunday night of people who have attended this church and been here for a long time before they finally make the decision to break from their sin. But up to that point what have you been doing? Belshazzar decorated the truth but could not embrace it. And that very night that he's decorating the truth, the end came for him.

In a moment of time it was all over. Folks think about think about the people in Haiti now. In one minute, I don't care what kind of theology they were sitting under, but in one minute whatever it was it was all over.

In one minute you either had God or you didn't have God. You either knew him or you didn't. You had embraced truth or you were walking in a lie.

That which is divine would become evident, it would carry, it would sustain, it would bring you through the difficult days, or you would be panic-stricken, stealing, and in terror like the rest of the crowd that are without God. Now go back to the original Scripture where we started. Remember David longed for this drink of water that came from the well of Bethlehem.

In verse 17 of 1 Chronicles 11 he said, O that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem that is at the gate. And there break through the host of the Philistines that drew water of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and took it and brought it to David. But David would not drink of it but poured it out unto the Lord and said, My God forbidden me that I should do this thing.

Shall I drink of the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy? For with the jeopardy of their lives they brought it therefore he would not drink it. Now this is what made David a man after God's heart. This is what made David great.

This is what made David in spite of his failures, his flaws, the things that he had to go through like normal men do, he finished his chorus as a great king of Israel. This is what made David the man that we sing about, talk about, emulate, want to be like. The greatest king perhaps in the Old Testament of all the kings ever to grace that part of the planet is King David.

And I believe here's the measure. I believe he had a choice to make very similar to one that you and I have to make when the truth of God is put into our hands. He had the water of Bethlehem put into his hands and he looked at it and he said these words, God forbid that I should indulge the longings of my own flesh with that which others have jeopardized their lives for.

God forbid that after 2,000 years that people will have paid in blood for a truth that's come into my hands and I shall take it and drink it and adjust it just for my own good, just for myself. He said the strength that I've just been handed, I will pour it out as an offering for the glory of God that his name and purposes in the earth might be known through my life. I will pour it out just like Hannah did.

God you give me a son, a child, I'll give him back to you for the glory of God all through history. He has come and filled the weak and he's come and filled the nothings and nobodies of this world but my heart is in line with David's this morning. God forbid that I should drink of this incredible water and somehow it should be placed in my hands and I should just use it for my own glory, for my own comfort, that I should be found.

I'd rather die folks than be found on a couch of ivory even in my old age. I want to finish this course like brother Dave and brother Crandall and brother Clendenin and Jack West and every other gray-haired preacher you've ever seen in this pulpit. I want to finish this course still fighting the battle not for myself but for others, not for my own glory but to satisfy the heart of God.

He came into this world, went to a cross and died that all men and all women and all children and young people may have an opportunity to touch that cup, find their salvation freely given through Christ who was born in Bethlehem and by the glory and grace of God have the capability to pass that on to the next person and not let the cup stop in my hands. Not become an indulgent man, an indulgent person that just uses everything of God for himself. David arose from that place in power and men who were in that cave with him came out in power and nothing of hell could stop them.

No wall could stop them from getting into Jerusalem. No Philistine garrison was strong enough to stop the onslaught of these men who had formerly been discontented, distressed and in despair but they had come under the leadership of a man who was not willing to imbibe as it is, embrace this cup of salvation just for himself but realized it was for all men. It was for a purpose higher than himself.

David was the king through whom the ark of God was brought again back into Jerusalem. David is the one who danced unashamedly behind that ark. David was the one who said oh God the purpose of my life on the earth is that your heart be satisfied.

You will be recognized, your will be done, your glory be known among men. That is the purpose of my life and that's the purpose of the church of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

David was given supernatural strength. I'm just going to read this to you because he rose out of that place. I think folks it was a significant moment.

It seems like just a passage in scripture but I believe it was a determining moment in this man's life. Now there were several of them of course but this is one of the major ones. What he did with that cup would determine what kind of a man he became and what you and I do with the cup of salvation and the truth of God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit will determine what we become in the earth and whether or not Christ is glorified to us.

Listen to what David said in Psalm 18. With the merciful you will show yourself merciful and with an upright man you'll show yourself upright. With the pure you'll show yourself pure and with the crooked you'll show yourself crooked.

That means they're forward. For you will save the afflicted people and bring down high looks for thou will light my candle. The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

David is saying these words there will be no hand of judgment written over my candle but my candle will burn brighter as the days grow darker and in the darkest of night and no matter what I have to walk through that candle of God within my life will burn brighter. The giftings will become stronger. The power will be greater.

The compassion will be deeper. The knowledge will be more profound. The ability to stand will be greater.

God will enlighten my candle hallelujah and God will enlighten my darkness. Now listen what he says about the Lord. For by thee I've run through a troop and by my God I've leaped over a wall.

As for God his way is perfect. The word of the Lord is tried. He's a buckler to all those.

He's an undergird in other words to those who trust in him. For who is God save the Lord and who is a rock save our God. It is God that girds me with strength and makes my way perfect.

He makes my feet like hinds feet and sets me upon my high places. He gives me the power to climb what would destroy ordinary men. Folks I saw that on the news if for lack of any other place I saw people given by God the power to climb.

When everything else is failing and falling going into chaos and even the news had to report it. He teaches my hands to war so that a bowl of steel is broken by mine arms. In other words no matter how powerful the army the weapons of the enemy are with my bare hands trust in God.

He gives me the power to overcome. Thou has also given me the shield of thy salvation and thy right hand is holding me up and thy gentleness has made me great. Think about Jacob coming out of that dealing with God with a gentle heart for all people.

Thou has enlarged my steps under me that my feet did not slip. I have pursued mine enemies and overtaken them and neither did I turn again until they were consumed. David said God you gave me the power to finish this fight right to the end.

To see everything you promised to me accomplished you gave me the power and David was our ultimate Christ type in the old testament and now you and I are given the cup. The cup of Bethlehem that was placed in David's hands remember he said I will not I will not drink this and use it for myself to satisfy the lust of my own flesh or the longings of my flesh. I will not drink it from the hands of others who shed blood to get it to me and he poured it out as an offering unto God.

I think that moment defined some of the mighty men in that cave. I think men understood at that moment where the strength the real strength of God comes from. I think they were quickened to fight a fight that can't be fought in the natural but only in the spirit.

When people see your life poured out for God and how do they see it you say they see it in your compassion and mind for other people that's how they see it. It's not that you're standing on a street corner prophesying passing out tracts or any of these other things as wonderful as they may be it's when they see you and I reaching out in the tenderness of God to fall in humanity with a supply that can only come from God with a power to stand where normal men fail. It's at that point that the might of God becomes evident to everybody around us.

I feel in my heart that God is giving the final warning to an indulgent church in America. This is the final cry we're in the last season now and just like in Haiti in one minute everything can change folks everything can change. Those who have the strength of Christ will stand and those who don't won't.

I implore you with everything in my heart pour out that cup ask God to give you the power to care just to care just start there. God sometimes it just takes an admission I don't care. The Lord he already knows you're not you're not surprising God.

It's an admission that there's a need I don't care God you got to put it in me. I come to church just for myself and I've shunned the thought of being given for other people of being poured out that others may find life in Christ. I've shunned the thought and others you've sat here and you're you're very much like

Belshazzar you're taking the name of Jesus in your lips you're living with people you're having sexual intercourse outside of marriage you're doing drugs you're drinking you're going to clubs on Saturday night and coming here to praise on Sunday morning and somehow you're deceived into thinking that decorating the truth is sufficient it's not.

Belshazzar died that night he died that very night.

I preached a message here one Sunday night along these lines that you never know if you have another tomorrow and after the service I went to a restaurant just around the corner and a man that I don't know if he came from this church or not but he just was coming around the corner and he died right in front of the window of the restaurant I was sitting in just died right on the spot a man only in his 40s massive heart attack hit the sidewalk he was three feet from me outside the window dead and I wondered in my heart was he sitting under my preaching tonight did he hear the word did he take it seriously did this man realize that this may have been he may have been given a mercy call in the last hour of his life Belshazzar was but he couldn't hear it folks it if ever there was a time to

get right with God it's now you you mustn't delay this another day very hard to get right with God in a panic situation you must get right with God now if you're living in sin ask God for the strength to turn from it and he will give you the strength if you if you want what you hear in this message today if you want your life to be poured out for other people he'll help you with that he'll guide you he'll lead you he does not demand any more of you than you're able to give and everything that you have to give he'll give it to you first he'll put the desires in your heart then give you the ability to perform it that's what the scripture says he will do that for you this is a defining moment for many I've tried to be as tender as I know how I've asked God to animate my heart but this is a

serious time beloved please get right with God please walk with God you have everything to gain and nothing whatsoever to lose now father I thank you Lord for your word today I thank you God everything in my heart I know that you never send your word out without it coming back and bearing fruit I'm asking now Lord for people who are living a compromised lifestyle to have the courage to turn from their sin and get right with you Lord and to trust you for the power to turn away from sin I'm asking Father in Christ's name that God Almighty that you make this a church body through whom your name could be glorified in the earth and that multiple thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of people throughout the world can find a tender hand in the compassion of a Savior through your

people in this church in New York City take away from us God any taking of the cup to satisfy our own desires help us to understand the great calling you give to us through Christ bless us today oh God with the grace to get up and move forward and embrace the truth could you imagine this morning if Belchazar had had the courage to just get up and embrace Daniel and humble himself before God it is possible it's always possible that God could have turned the tide at that very moment but instead of getting up he just decorated the truth in other words yep that's right but didn't embrace it and this morning I want to give an altar call in the sanctuary in the annex for people to say I'm not just going to decorate the truth I'm not just going to I'm not just going to agree with it but I'm

going to embrace it and coming forward this morning means that in your heart I'm going to embrace the truth of God and wherever that leads me that's where I'm going to go if that's in your heart this morning as we stand in the annex you could stand between the screens main sanctuary you could slip up the balcony either exit main sanctuary just come down let's meet together at this altar and let's believe God we're

going to worship for 15 minutes or so let's believe God for the miraculous to begin to take place in our hearts let's stand together please if you will thank you lord lord as you were given as you were poured out as you held nothing back for my soul oh god for my soul would you help me lord would you help us as a people not to hold back from others oh god would you help us to be

that vessel that channel that church lord that you're left in the earth that others may know that others may know that others may know the love and the forgiveness and strength of god hallelujah lamb of god hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah oh lift your hands and just praise him for a moment just give him thanks for his presence oh yes lord oh yes lord send us god into this mass of needy humanity all around us lord and help us to be given for others lord and we thank you for it in jesus name

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/19/SID19580.mp3>

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