

The Last Day Image of Christ

by Carter Conlon

Carter Conlon's sermon emphasizes the urgent need for genuine faith and intercessory prayer in the last days, drawing lessons from biblical parables and the story of Judah.

Duration: 43:26

Scripture: Luke 18:1-2

Topics: "Last Days"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher addresses the challenges and struggles faced by believers in a society that seems to be against them. He emphasizes the need for constant prayer and perseverance, using the parable of the unjust judge and the persistent widow as an example. The preacher highlights the importance of having faith in God's intervention and promises that He will avenge His elect. The sermon concludes with an invitation for individuals to come forward and seek a personal encounter with God, acknowledging their need for salvation or a return to Him.

Transcript

I'm going to speak about the last day image of Christ. The last day image of Christ, Luke chapter 18. Now Father, I thank you for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

God Almighty, you are the one who makes your word live. And when your word lives, there's freedom and healing. There's victory, there's purpose, there's strength.

God, where you are, life has to be. I'm asking you, Lord, to go forward in this sanctuary today with incredible life. To bring hope and sight and strength.

I thank you for the covering of the anointing. I thank you, God, that you will override my frailties. And Lord, you will allow me to speak from heaven.

I'm asking you, God, for the grace to disappear that Christ may appear. And Lord, let it be your voice, let it be your word. Let it be your kingdom that comes into the hearts of your people.

Speak to us, oh God, we're living in a perilous time. And we thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness. In Jesus' name.

Luke chapter 18, the last day image of Christ. Verse 1, And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Saying, there was in a city a judge which feared not God, neither regarded man.

And there was a widow in that city, and she came to him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while. But afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her.

Lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you, he'll avenge them speedily.

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth. That's an incredible statement in verse 8. Jesus is speaking all of these things about prayer, and gives this example that we'll get into in a little more depth in a moment. But he concludes it with a statement.

When I return, will I find faith on the earth? Now Paul, the apostle, describes the condition of the world in its final days as one in which people are preoccupied with themselves. Self-focus. Lovers of self, he calls it.

Disobedient, unthankful, unholy. There'll be a breakdown of natural family affection. Society as we've known it for thousands of years will begin to unravel rather quickly in the last days.

Alarmingly so. And the godly will be shocked. There will be a sense of foreboding comes into the heart, and perhaps even the most cynical yet somewhat attached to a desire for truth.

Paul also says that attached to this time is a church which looks very much like the society around it. He called it a church having a form of godliness, but in itself it's a denial of the Christ, of who he is, and of what he's doing in the earth. I see a church, and we're alive to see it today, largely focused on itself.

Theology is focusing on the betterment of self. Everything is about self. Prayer is about self.

Everything. And the church really is not that distinct from the society around it. In verse 8, Jesus said, Shall he find faith on the earth? And of course his question seems to indicate that the type of faith referred to in these verses, in Luke chapter 18 that we read, will be in somewhat of a short supply.

Now in verses 2-6 he says there's an unjust judge. He didn't care about God, and he didn't have any regard for mankind, but even he relented. Now it's just a story.

It's just a parable. But Christ says even he relented eventually, and did what he was supposed to do. And the principle is simply this.

Jesus Christ is the exact opposite. He lived for and died for the will of God his Father. He gave his life for his friends, as he said in the Gospel of John.

Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. And the question would be, why then would he not answer? Why would God not answer you? When you and I come to the Lord, if our petition is in line with what Christ is doing in the earth, if we are moving with Christ, if we are living in Christ, if we are walking with Christ, Jesus is simply saying, why would I not answer? He said, I'll tell you one thing, I'll answer you speedily. And I will avenge you of your adversary.

I will come with a vengeance, as it is against what is opposing. What I desire to do through you as my people, in this last hour of time, I will avenge it. And I will do it quickly, when you finally come to me, and you come to me with the right heart.

Praise be to God. Thank God for that understanding. Now, the word avenge in the Greek text means, I'll bring forth in you speedily, something which has a life of its own.

It doesn't come from you. It's not part of you. It's other than you are.

But he said, when you come, I will avenge you of everything that opposes you, by creating within you, as it is, something new. And I'll do it quickly. Well, folks, some of the greatest transactions between earth and heaven can happen in a moment of time.

It doesn't have to be... I know some changes happen gradually over the years. But there are certain transactions, that when we come to the throne of God, there's an instant touch of God comes into the heart. Will he find a faith? He said, where people, knowing their own insufficiency, come to the throne of God, but yet still expect God to do something.

He said, will I find this kind of faith when I return? Well, the people are not strong in themselves. They don't have all the formulas. They don't know it all.

And in many cases, don't even have a history of faithfulness. You're gonna see this in a moment. But they come to the throne.

They come to a certain knowledge of God and come to the throne and they fully expect God to do something. Now, folks, you can have that in your heart today. You should be fully expecting God to do something today.

You should be fully expecting to change. You should be fully expecting a supernatural encounter with a supernatural God. You should not be here just to accumulate knowledge.

Not to just know the meaning of some new Greek word or Hebrew word. You should be expecting a change. When you and I come into the presence of God to worship Him, there should be that degree of expectancy in the heart.

As same on earth as it is found in heaven. There should be something in the heart that says, Thy kingdom come. Thy kingdom, O God.

Who you are. What you've done. What you've accomplished.

What you won on Calvary. What caused you to cry with a voice so loud that even a Roman centurion was stunned and said, Surely this must be the Son of God. I want that kingdom to come into my heart.

I expect that kingdom to come into my heart. I'm not of this world. I don't want to be of this world.

I don't want the value system of this world governing my heart. I don't want it surrounding my mind because you've promised me a new heart and a new mind and a new spirit. That's the church of Jesus Christ.

That's who we are called to be in this last hour. In this parable in Luke, this widow knew her inability to find a resolution in her own strength. She knew, coming to this judge, I have an adversary.

This adversary is stronger than I am. But she also knew that her cause was just. And she knew that this judge was put in the place he was in and it was his responsibility to defend her and to protect her.

And so she just kept coming every day. And Jesus said, Even though this judge had no regard for people or God, yet still he answered her. And folks, we have to know that we don't have the answer in our own strength.

Attend a hundred thousand seminars in your lifetime. You will never find the strength in yourself to be what God has called you to be. The strength comes from God.

It comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The new mind comes from the Word of God. The Holy Spirit makes that Word a living reality in our lives.

And we are changed, as Paul says, from image to image and glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. In Genesis chapter 44, you don't need to turn there. It's verses 18 to 34.

We see a type of this, of this parable that Jesus speaks about when Judah, one of the sons of Jacob, stands before Joseph. Now he didn't know it was his brother. As far as he is concerned, just like the widow in this parable, this is a foreign man.

This is a cruel man. He seems to have no compassion. And folks, a lot of people think God is like that.

God is somewhat distant. God is somewhat other. God is somewhat angry.

God is looking and discerning every wrong thing that we've ever done. And it's almost fearful in a sense for them to come and even think of asking something from God. But we see Judah standing before Joseph.

And he was the perfect type of this parable. Now Judah had an adversary. And Judah's adversary, all of his life, had been his own heart.

You have an adversary today. And I have one. I don't... I've got enough going on in this physical body against me that it's almost like the devil can sometimes take a holiday for six months.

Because I have a fallen nature. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, a nature, Satan's own nature, was implanted in the human race. And I was born, and you were born with that nature.

And that nature fights against the things of God. I have an adversary every day that does not want to yield to the things of God, that wants to live comfortably when I'm called to carry a cross. I have an adversary in my own heart.

You have an adversary in your own heart. Judah had been full of envy and even responsible for the selling off of his own brother. Now, this is a perfect type of Christ in his church, really.

You and I, in our sin and rebellion, we were the ones responsible for the selling off of Christ for a few pieces of silver. We sent him to Calvary. It was your sin.

It was my sin that put him there. He went there willfully. And here is Judah now, a type of the church.

He's standing before Joseph in his own envy. It's his own sin that had sent Joseph into Egypt. Joseph was betrayed.

He was sold for silver. He was put in prison. He was accused.

He'd had a hard go of it. Now, Joseph is in a place of authority, just as Christ sits at the right hand of the Father now and is in a place of full authority. Judah is standing there, and life and circumstance seem so against him.

Now, I think many are standing here today. We look at what's going on in the world. We look at our society.

We pick up a newspaper. We listen to a news channel, and we just say, God Almighty, everything seems to be against me now. I don't know how I'm going to make it into the future.

I don't know where I'm going to find the strength. Living in a society that seems literally hell-bent on partying nonstop, and there's an evil that's just seemingly being unleashed everywhere. And I know I'm speaking to people that you know in the marketplace where you work and live, there's such a vileness now in people, saying things every day that were unthinkable.

To those of us who are over 50, almost unthinkable that society would come to the place where it is, and we see where it's going, unless there's an intervention of God. It's a fearful thing to think of what this world is going to be 20 years from now if there's not a divine intervention of God. Everything is against Judah.

He seems so powerless. He's standing before Joseph, and he's asking to be avenged of all that overwhelmingly seem to be opposing him. And here's what happened.

Judah said... Now Judah, keep in mind, had betrayed Joseph. He's now standing before Joseph. It's a perfect type of Christ in his church.

He doesn't know who Joseph is. And many, many people really don't know who they're praying to in our generation. And as he's standing there, he says, listen, I have a younger brother.

And you're about to take... He's about to be taken captive as a slave. And he said, listen, I promised my father I was going to bring him home. And he said, you have to understand, my father's heart was broken one time because he lost his son.

And now the thought of losing this other son... Judah said, my father is going to go to the grave in sorrow. He said, I can't bear the thought of not bringing this younger brother home. Folks, if you can hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking today, this is the type of prayer of a church that leaves the focus of itself and says, God Almighty, I have a younger brother.

There's another generation coming. There's a generation after us. There are people born after us.

It's not all about ourselves. And my father's heart is going to be broken if I don't bring him home. I've got to bring him home.

And Judah stands there before the throne. And he says, listen, I am willing to be made a slave. I offer you my own comfort.

I offer you my freedom. I offer you my future to secure my brother's release. This is the intercession that God answers.

The man or woman standing before the throne of God and say, Lord, I've settled the issue. My sin is dealt with at Calvary. I've settled the issue.

You're going to provide for me in the future. You said so, and I believe it. And so I'm laying that down.

But God, there's something I'm supposed to be doing in this world. There's a commission. And if you're to be seen in this generation somehow, my heart's got to be gripped with your heart.

The reason you came to this earth has got to be the reason I continue to live on this earth. You came that none should perish, but all should find forgiveness and everlasting salvation through the cross that you were about to bear on Calvary. And Judah says, listen, I offer myself.

I offer my future. I offer everything I have that my brother may be brought home to my father, that his heart might be satisfied. And it was this Judah through whom the life of Christ was promised.

Jacob was Abraham's grandson. We talked about that last week. A great promise was given to Abraham that through him the whole world was going to be blessed.

From Abraham it went to Isaac, and from Isaac the promise went to Jacob. Jacob now looks at his sons, and he looks at the firstborn, Reuben. And Reuben is a lustful man driven by his own insatiable desire for pleasure.

And Jacob looks at him and says, Reuben, you're not going to excel. In other words, the life of Christ has passed you by. The self-seeking church, I speak with a broken heart.

I speak in Christ's stead this day. The self-seeking church, the life of Christ has passed you by. You're not going to know the life of Christ.

Everyone who sits in places where it's just all about you, where it's all about satisfying your own lust, where it's all about every prayer meeting you ever go to is about yourself. The life of Christ is simply going to pass you by. And then Jacob looks at Simeon and Levi, and they were angry and self-willed men, and easily taking offense at wrongs that were done, and living and moving in the flesh and by their own reasoning, coming up with their own reasonings for exacting vengeance when they feel they were wronged, doing things in their own strength.

And Jacob looks at Simeon and Levi, and he says, you will be divided and scattered. Could you imagine God speaking those words to you and I today? I'm passing you by, and because you're living in the flesh, folks, I fear for every theological perspective that is focused on man, where you and I get to the place where anybody sits under a message that says, now you have to go out and do this. You've got to do it in your own reasoning.

You've got to do it in your own strength. You've got to somehow come up with the formula. Christ has provided the redemption, but now it's up to you.

Folks, thank God it's not up to me. Thank God it's not up to you. It's up to the life of Christ within us.

Praise be to God. But those self-willed and easily offended sons, the Lord says, you're going to be divided. I see a people divided in the last day.

I see a people scattered. No power, no formulas, no way to get through this. No way of knowing how to get through the difficult days that are facing us.

Now, go to Genesis chapter 49, please, with me. Because it was Judah, and it was in Judah and through Judah, that the lineage of Jesus Christ was going to be forwarded. In Genesis chapter 49, and beginning at verse 8. Now, keep in mind, Judah's the one who stood before the throne.

Judah's the one who said, my life for his. My future for his future. My freedom for his freedom.

Judah made an exchange. And Jacob said, Judah, verse 8, you are he whom thy brethren shall praise. Thy hands shall be in the neck of thine enemies.

Thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's wealth. From the prey, my son, thou art gone up.

He stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as an old lion who shall rouse him up. In other words, Judah will have the strength of God from his youth until his old age. The strength of God in him will not diminish.

Praise be to God. That's why when you're filled with the Holy Ghost, you can be stronger at 80 than you were at 20. Because the strength is not of yourself.

The wisdom does not come from you, it comes from God. Assumably, by the time you're 80 years old, you'll be smart enough to know that it's not anything to do with you. It's not by might.

It's not by power. It's by my spirit, says the Lord. Praise be to God.

Verse 10, he said, The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh, that's the Messiah, comes. And unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his fold to the vine, his asses colt to the choice vine, he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes.

His eyes shall be red with wine. That means as red as dark as seasoned wine. And his teeth white with milk.

Or that means as white as milk. Judah, you're going to go from strength to strength. And you're going to be the one through whom the purpose of God and the favor of the Messiah would be seen.

James, in the New Testament, said, You ask and you ask amiss. You ask and you receive not. He said, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your own lusts.

And then he goes on later in the text, and he says, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Resist this self-focused and indulgent spirit of Satan, which he sowed into mankind when mankind disobeyed God. Resist it.

That's your part. That's my part to say, Listen, I'm not going to live in the lust of my own flesh. I'm not going to live by what my natural eye sees and my natural mind is able to reason.

I'm going to live by the power of the Spirit of God. I'm not going to be governed by these things. I'm not going to be led by these things.

I'm going to be led of the Spirit. Therefore, Satan, get behind me. As Jesus said in that room of the Last Supper, You don't savor the things that be of God, but the things that be of man.

Get behind me. Jesus said, Resist this. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you, and you will be avenged of your adversary.

Something new will be created inside of you with a power greater than anything of your own. And he says, I will do it speedily. I will avenge you speedily.

I will come to you speedily. Folks, we're in a time where you need to hear this like you've never heard it before. The Lord says, I'll come to you speedily.

God can come to you before this service is finished today. Before you leave any of the exit doors of this sanctuary. He can have come to you speedily.

He has avenged you of everything, of the nature of fallen man that's wanting to take you on a course that's going to lead you to defeat. He can come to you speedily. You and I need to be filled with the Holy Ghost.

We need to be touched by the Spirit of God. We need the empowerment of God's Spirit to get through this generation. You're not going to be able to reason this one, folks.

You're not going to be able to get through. There is no reasoning that's going to get you through. You have to be filled with the Spirit of God.

And when you're filled with the Spirit of God, it will unlock your mind and unlock your understanding to a realm that you can't see in the natural. Elisha was in a city and it was surrounded by enemies, seemingly on all sides. It looked like a hopeless affair.

They were doomed to starve within the walls of this besieged place. He had a servant. The servant said to him, Master, what shall we do? In other words, we're surrounded on every side.

The situation is hopeless. I can see Elisha finally just saying, Oh God, open this man's eyes and let him see what I see. And when God answered that prayer and opened the servant's eyes, he saw on the mountaintops chariots of fire and horses everywhere.

He saw heaven's hosts gathered around. He began to understand we're not in this battle alone. We never have been.

We never will be alone. Elisha said to his servant, There are more with us than there are with them. We have heaven's power on our side.

We have the promises of God. We have the glory of God in Christ Jesus within these earthen vessels. Our future is not to go out with a whimper.

Our future is to go out like a marching army. Our future is to walk out of time as we know it gloriously walking in the victory of our God. Praise be to God.

And when Judah stood before Joseph not knowing who he was, and I'm speaking in a time of so many people who don't know how to pray. They don't even know who God is. They don't know why God is not answering.

They don't know why there's no revelation. They don't know why they have no vision of the future. And I know I'm speaking to people in this sanctuary today.

You say, Pastor, that's me. I'm just clueless as to the future. I have to come here to hear what God is saying because I don't know.

I don't hear God speaking to me. I don't know who God is. I see Him as distant.

I see Him as some foreign entity on a throne with His arms folded, seemingly annoyed with me, looking at all my failures and all my faults. And that's exactly what Judah saw when he looked at Joseph. But when Judah prayed and said, My freedom for His, I'll be a slave that He may go free.

I'll give everything I have that He may go back and come home to His Father. At that point, at that moment, Joseph said, Clear the room. And folks, this is it.

There was something intimate about to happen that the outsider has no part of. The outsider doesn't know anything about it. He said, Clear the room.

Get everybody out of here. And he stood and he said, I am Joseph. I am your brother that you sold off into slavery.

He said, But don't be discouraged with yourselves. It was not you who sent me here. It was God who sent me here.

And He sent me here to win a great deliverance for you and to be the provision you're going to need. There are five years of famine coming, such as you've never seen before. But God sent me ahead of you to make provision.

There is a vision of God that comes into the heart of the man or woman who stands before God and says, My life, that people don't have to go to hell in New York City or New Jersey or Connecticut or anywhere in the world. My life. My life, God.

My future. My comfort. My safety.

I give it all to you, God, that your heart may be satisfied and that those coming after me may find you as Lord and Savior and may be found in heaven for all of eternity. That's when God says to you at the altar, Clear the room. Clear the room.

I'm about to show you I'm not against you. I'm for you. I'm not distant from you.

I am your brother. He says, Not only am I going to provide. He said, You go quickly.

Get your father. Get your family. He said, Here's the wagons to do it with.

The provision. The means. The ability.

Go get them all. He said, You're going to come in and you're going to dwell in the finest of the land. There'll be provision made for you.

He said, I am your brother. Praise be to God. Do you know today Christ is not only your Lord.

He's not only your Savior. He is your brother. Praise be to God.

Jesus Christ went before us to make a way for us to get through the days of famine that are ahead of us. Genesis 49, 12. The Bible says that in Judah, Jacob saw the face of Jesus Christ.

It's amazing. He said, We just read it. He said, His eyes shall be red with wine and his teeth white with milk.

Now, I love this. King James is actually not a very good translation of this. It really says, here's what it does say.

His eyes are as dark as wine in its best season. And his teeth are as white as milk. He saw in Judah the face of Christ.

It's an amazing thing. He saw his face, folks. If you wonder what color Jesus' eyes were, well, the Bible tells you what color his eyes were.

He had dark eyes. But it's amazing. When you look at it, I can't get through this because Jacob saw in the lineage of Judah, the Lion of Judah.

He saw the color of his eyes and he said, His teeth are as white as milk. Now, first of all, there's just a sidebar. He wouldn't have known the color of his teeth if he wasn't smiling when he saw his face.

He saw the favor of God in Judah. He saw Jesus looking and said, Look, I've saved the best wine for the last. Praise God.

The joy of the Lord is going to be your strength. I'm going to infuse you with joy. This incredible provision of joy that comes when we are under the knowledge that God is our all in all.

That we're not left as vagabond children to get through whatever days might be ahead of us. But he is with us all the way. His fullness of joy is in his face.

Praise be to God. Joy unspeakable that marks us apart from a world whose hearts are going to be failing them for fear of the things that are coming on the earth. And in direct contrast to this are a people who are able to come in and clap their hands in the presence of God.

They're able to get up in the morning and say this is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. I'm not bound by the circumstances of whatever awaits me in the next 12 hours.

Do not govern my life because I'm created for eternity. I'm created with God and for God. I am under the hand of God and live or die I belong to the Lord.

Praise be to God. And he said his teeth are as white as milk. And it speaks about joy and provision.

Because keep in mind they're going into a season of five years of incredible famine. And when he says his teeth are as white as milk. Now milk comes from a place of pasture.

There has to be pasture or there's no milk. The cows don't eat and if the cows don't eat they don't give milk. And there is joy and provision.

Really that's what it means in the face of Christ. Joy and provision when your heart and mine are one with his work on the earth. That's really the issue.

That's everything God gave me to speak on this morning. When my heart and yours when we are one with Christ in his work. And his work is the redemption of the lost.

That is the work of God. That is why he came. That is why there is a church.

His body on the earth. We are continuing. He is continuing that work through us till the day he comes to take us home.

And folks I don't think that's very far down the road. I think we're going home not too far down the road. But till that day there is joy and provision in the face of Christ.

Thanks be to God. I found myself praying after preparing this message. God avenge me of my hardened heart.

Avenge me of everything inside of me that just wants to live in its own comfort. Avenge me of this heart that is so focused on itself. Avenge me of my adversary.

Avenge me of the self-focus within me that hides the image of Christ. Christ was altogether other than what men are. He was completely given for us.

And we are the last day image of Christ. We are as a people what this world will see. Most won't read a Bible now.

Most fine television preachers just for the larger part just an absolute joke and laughable. Most will only read Christ in you. They will only see the Jesus that you and I allow God to convey through us to this world.

It's the only Christ they will see. Now folks seriously think about this. My adversary is me.

My adversary is this body. My adversary is this nature that wants Jesus but wants everything of itself as well. And when I come to the throne as Judah did and I say God I give you my life.

Give you my future. That's when this revelation of who God is comes. That's where joy will come and that's where an unlocking of an understanding of where our provision will be given to us.

You will have faith when everyone around you when everyone around you is terrified you will have a faith that is not shaken by anything of this world. You'll say like Paul I know who I have believed. And when the ship is in the middle of the storm and everyone else has given up you'll be the man or woman standing in the middle of the deck saying be of good cheer.

I've been with God. He's spoken to my heart. We're all gonna make it.

Here take some food. Be of good cheer. Can you imagine? This is a guy who's been in the belly of the ship for weeks and he's on the deck now.

He's commanding the ship now. Everyone's listening. The last day image of Christ will be a people of incredible confidence in their God.

Unshakable confidence. I feel that every man or woman in this place should say today Lord clear the room for me today. I want to meet with you and I want you to reveal to me who you are.

I want to see you clearly. I want to know. I want to see the route to my provision.

I want to be able to get into this book and have it come alive to me. Take me out of the sinking play of this world and put a new song in my mouth. Like David prayed.

He said a song that many will see it and they will fear and they will trust in God. Oh if ever there was a time. If ever there was a time to rise and shine as the scripture says.

If ever there was a time for you and I to be the church it's now. If ever there was a time to just come to the throne and say God I just don't have it all together but you do. And I'm asking you to give me the privilege of being a servant to your purposes in the world.

Praise God. Thank you Lord. Musicians are going to... Greg's going to lead us in worship for a little while.

It's an unusual altar call today. The Lord's put on my heart. In the annex you could step between the screens if that is what the Lord's calling you to do.

And here in the main sanctuary, the balcony, you can make your way to the exits and make your way to this altar. We're going to worship for probably 20-25 minutes. And it's for every person here that says God I want you to clear the room for me.

I want to meet you face to face. You've spoken to my heart and I want today what I've heard. I want this revelation of Christ and I want this image of Christ to be in my life in these last days that I'm living in.

If that's in your heart. Now every person who's backslidden this applies to you. You can come home to God.

Those that are not saved, you come. Admit that you're a sinner, you need a savior. Jesus will receive you to himself.

You will know in your heart when he's received you. Everyone who's struggling with besetting sin, which has become your adversary, you make your way here. You let God deal with that.

You come by faith and offer him what you have. You let him do a miracle within you. I'm believing God for miracles.

Testimonies of the miraculous. I see people who've had besetting issues in your life for years and today they're going to be left here at this altar. Today he's going to avenge you speedily because you're coming to give yourself to him and to his purposes for the rest of your days.

Let's stand together. The Lord's calling you. Make your way to this altar.

We'll worship together. Praise God. Everybody at this altar, look at me now.

Just look up for a moment. I'm a poor substitute, but I want you to... I'm standing in Christ's stead today in this pulpit, speaking for him. If he were in this pulpit today, he would look at you and he would say, I'm your brother.

I don't want you to feel bad about the way you've lived and what you've done. I'm willing to forgive that because I see you've come here with an honest heart. God sent me before you to make a way for your provision.

There's going to be five years of incredible famine. So now, I want you to go and get your family, get all that you have and bring them back here. Bring them to me and you'll be provided for.

And he said to them, don't fall out by the way. In other words, don't get sidetracked. Just bring everything that you have.

The Lord says to me, and I will look after you. Praise be to God. That's your promise today.

Bring it all to the Lord. Praise God. And he told them, he said, do it in haste.

Do it now. Do it now, folks. Do it now.

Bring it all to him now. Just give him your whole heart. Give him all your future.

Give him everything you are. Would you do that right now? Just lift your hands to the Lord and in your own words, just give him everything. Just give it all to him.

In your own words, just speak it now. Lord, thank you for what you're doing today. Thank you, God Almighty, that you have a church that you call your own.

Lord, there's a joy in your heart today. There's a joy of tears. It says that Joseph wept aloud and he hugged and embraced his brothers.

Lord, I feel it in your heart today that you are crying aloud. And God, you've cleared the room and you're revealing yourself as to who you are and what you've done, what lies in the future and how the provision for everyone has been made through you. Oh, God, I praise you for opening your word.

I praise you, God. I praise you, Lord, for making things clear and simple. I praise you for untangling mysteries.

God, for giving us such an understanding. I thank you, Lord, that we can come to you. We have come to you.

Lord, we will be a church that are partakers of your joy and partakers of the full provision that you offer through your life. God Almighty, thank you for avenging us from our adversary. Thank you, Lord, for giving us the grace to put away the issues of the flesh and of the natural heart and to come to you and to drink from this fountain of life.

God Almighty, I'm asking you for a baptism of the Holy Spirit to come upon this church. I'm asking for a mighty baptism. Lord, a mighty baptism.

Oh, God, we can't survive without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We can't, Lord, Holy Spirit, we simply cry out to you. We can't make it through without you.

You've got to come and be our strength. You've got to be our guide. You've got to be our conveyance.

You've got to be everything. You've got to be our guide. You've got to be our word.

You've got to be the strength of God flowing in our veins. Lord, thank you that you will not send us away empty. You will never send your children away empty.

I pray for a mighty touch of God to come into this church and on this sanctuary and on all who are gathered here in the Education Annex and every overflow room. I ask you, Father, in Jesus' name, for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I'm asking you, God.

I'm asking you, Lord, for something that can only come from Heaven. It can't come from the natural man. It can't come from any of our plans.

It doesn't come from human effort. It comes by faith and a finished work on Calvary. I'm asking you for the anointing of the Holy Spirit, a mighty baptism of God's strength, and the ability to see, O God, to walk out of all prisons, out of strength, out of weakness to be made strong, out of prison to be made free, out of hurt to be made whole.

God, thank you for this anointing of the Holy Spirit. I'm asking you to pour out of the doors of this sanctuary and into the streets of this city. I'm asking God for mercy to come on every Benjamin, all of the younger, all those coming after us, Lord, that don't know you.

I'm asking for mercy, O God. Let them not be taken as slaves forever into a darkened kingdom. God Almighty, we offer ourselves as your church, Lord, that through us you make a difference in this city and this generation.

God, flow through your church. Flow in the streets of this city, Lord. Tear down the powers of darkness.

May multitudes be brought out of darkness and into the glorious liberty of Jesus Christ. Do it sovereignly. Do it supernaturally.

And we give you in advance the praise, the honor, and all the glory. Yours is the kingdom now and forever. Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory.

Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory.

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