

The Wayward Church Will Soon Be Ashamed

by Carter Conlon

The wayward church will soon be ashamed because of its departure from God's original plan and lack of loyalty to the word of God and obedience to God's work.

Duration: 48:18

Scripture: Isaiah 52:1-2, Ezekiel 16:60, Ezekiel 36:25-27

Topics: "Repentance", "Restoration"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the message of God's mercy and grace, calling the wayward church to come back to Him. It highlights the need for genuine repentance, acknowledging our failures and allowing God to cleanse and empower us. The focus is on God's sovereignty in transforming lives and restoring His people to walk in His ways.

Transcript

Today I have a prophetic word for you, and I would tremble to even say that unless I knew in my heart that this was true, and believed it with everything in my heart. Now prophetic word is when God speaks to a vessel that he chooses about something he's going to do. It's not happened, or perhaps it's just beginning, but it's something he intends to fulfill, and of course the test of the prophetic word is whether or not it comes to pass.

Anybody who speaks prophetically, you always can judge it, because there's got to be a pattern of it in scripture. It can never be outside of the character of God. God always acts in line with his character.

His character is eternal. The Lord says in the Old Testament, I change not. He does not change.

We change. He does not change, and he will always deal in the same manner with certain situations as they arise in the present and future as he has done in the past. So in that context, I'm going to be looking at chapter 16 of Ezekiel today, and bringing to you a word that I know that God has put on my heart for his church.

Now for the professing church, now for the true church of Jesus Christ, this will be something for you to consider, and to be cautious of, but this word today is for much more than Times Square Church. I believe it's a word that God's going to give wings to, and it will be taken in different places, and it's intended for a larger audience than the one that's here today. This is, I'm only telling you what the Holy Spirit has spoken

to my heart.

Ezekiel chapter 16, the title is, The Wayward Church Will Soon Be Ashamed. The Wayward Church Will Soon Be Ashamed. Let's pray together.

Father, I thank you for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Lord, I wouldn't even dare attempt to speak this if your spirit was not upon me. God give me the right heart.

Give me the vision I need. Give me the mind that I need, Lord, to be able to bring this out in the manner that you want it spoken. I don't want my own thoughts interjected with this.

I don't want to stand on any soapbox at any time throughout this word. I want to speak it with the tenderness of God's heart, and Lord, I'm asking you to overshadow my frailty and come with your strength, your heart, and make me, Holy Spirit, help me to disappear, that Christ alone may be heard and seen. Lord, we don't need and we don't want to hear from men in this generation.

We need to hear from you. I thank you for this with all my heart, in Jesus' name. Now, you have to understand, with the prophetic word, there's a cutting that has to happen before the healing, and I want to ask you to stay with me.

I may preach a little bit longer than I normally do, but I want to ask you to stay with this. Hear it to the end, because if you don't stay till the end, you'll not understand why God brings such a word, what's in his heart, and where he's going with it. It's the love of God that motivates him to do everything he does.

Remember, the scripture says that God is love. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. Everything he does comes out of that heart of love.

Even his judgments come out of a heart of love. When you begin to see this, there's great, great freedom in it. Ezekiel chapter 16, beginning at verse 59, right near the end of the chapter.

For thus saith the Lord God, I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which has despised the oath in breaking the covenant. Nevertheless, I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. Then thou shalt remember thy ways and be ashamed when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger, for I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

I will establish my covenant with thee, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord, that thou mayest remember and be confounded and never open thy mouth anymore because of thy shame. When I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God. Now Luke chapter 15 in the New Testament speaks of a son who took his inheritance and went into a far, far away place from the heart of his father.

Now when I speak of the wayward church, this is what I'm speaking about. I'm talking about those who at some point in time had an understanding of God, came to the house of the Lord and made a profession that Jesus Christ was their Savior. Took his word in their mouth, were given a measure of the life and the inheritance that is freely given to all who trust in Christ, and they took that inheritance and they decided somehow that the context of which it was presented was too restrictive.

This young son, he took this life and this inheritance his father had given him and he found a place where he's dwelling too narrow. And he really didn't love his father at this point, nor the work of his father. And he

said, give to me all that is mine.

And he took that inheritance and he went into a place far, far away from the heart of his God, his father. And this is how the Holy Spirit would have me define this wayward church. The older brother, when this prodigal son returned home, defined this place as a place where he spent his inheritance with harlots.

Spent it on prostitution really. He became other than what his father had intended him to be. Now this is the context in chapter 16 of Ezekiel.

In this chapter we see how even God's own people can lose focus. They can lose perspective in times of prosperity and blessing and divine favor. In the Western world in particular, we've come through several decades of incredible prosperity, unprecedented really, perhaps since the beginning of the world.

There's been blessing and divine favor in the house of God as well as upon nations. But 1 Corinthians chapter 10, the apostle Paul tells us that the children of Israel on this incredible journey with God through the wilderness to the land of promise, that they lusted after evil things. They fell into idolatry and immorality.

They tempted Christ or put him to the test and they murmured to their own destruction. Now Paul says in verse 11 of that same chapter that all these things happen to them for examples and they're written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come. And it's in that context we're going to look at Ezekiel chapter 16.

This is given to us as an example of what can happen to a people and how God in his mercy. Now I want you to keep it in mind or you'll judge this word before you should. How God in his mercy responds.

Even his judgments are mercy so keep this in mind as we proceed in this. We find his response to certain patterns of human behavior in scripture are always the same. Hebrews chapter 13 and verse 8 says it this way, Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.

He does not change. Ezekiel in chapter 16, Ezekiel saw the judgment of God coming to Jerusalem and its people. Although most of the population in that city which God intimately referred to as his own would not even be aware of what they had become in his sight.

Throughout history this repeats itself over and over again. People come to God, they become Christian, the church has a great testimony. Nations are known as Christian nations and suddenly this eroding of the foundation of truth, the eroding of the foundation of loyalty to the word of God and obedience to the very work of God in the earth starts to be taken very very gradually away until that which was begun no longer has any resemblance to the original.

Now Christ is the author and he's the finisher of our faith and in his faithfulness to you and to me he will come and take away everything that we've learned to stand on that is not like him. It's not built on a foundation of truth. And I don't know about you but I'd rather have that come to my life now than when I stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

I'd rather have him come now as the psalmist David said, know God, search me, know my heart, prove me, try me and see if there's any way in me, any wicked way. David says, he calls it a wicked way but David said it might be a way that I'm not aware of. It might be something I'm doing in my life, it might be a practice I've embraced, it might be a perspective of God and what it means to be a follower of God that

isn't in line with truth.

And David calls it a wicked way and he said Lord come and test it and prove it and see if any of this wickedness be in me and lead me in the way of life everlasting. When I read this chapter of Ezekiel I hear a broken heart. I hear God's heart because he refers to Jerusalem as his bride.

He talks to the people of Jerusalem, he talks to the city as if it's one person, as if it's a bride that was prepared and brought into a place of worthiness to be able to walk with him and to honor him in the earth but somehow this bride has failed and fallen drastically from what her calling has been in the earth. And I hear a broken heart as in a broken bridegroom who comes home and finds out that his bride has not been faithful to him. It's the same cry we hear in Matthew 23 when Jesus cries, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee.

How often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings and you would not. He cries out, O Jerusalem, how often I wanted to gather you and I didn't want to put you in ranks, I didn't want to, I didn't want you as an army as it is, although that may be part in the sense of the Christian calling in the world. He said I wanted you as my bride, I wanted you as my very own, I wanted to draw you into the closeness of my heart and I wanted the two of us to walk together that we become one in this world as we walk through the world.

And he said, I would have gathered you, I wanted to, but your house, in verse 38 of Matthew 23, he said, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, you shall not see me henceforth till you say, blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Jesus said you'll not see me until in your heart you say, God thank you for sending your messenger to speak truth to my heart.

Until that comes to you, until you're no longer so stubborn and entrenched in a self view and a religious view and a God view that no, until you're ready to let my messengers come and speak into your heart. He said you won't see me, you'll hear about me, you'll have historical evidence of me, but you won't see me personally. And we're living in a generation where there's very limited view of God now, even in his own house.

There's so, people, because they're not seeing the image of God, it's, they're not understanding who they are in Christ. It's because of this that much of the charismatic in particular in Pentecostal churches in the last two decades have run the world looking for an image of God. And he says, you'll not see me because you've closed your heart to truth.

You will not let me come and challenge that foundation you stand on that's unlike me. Ezekiel chapter 16 verse one, he says, again, the word of the Lord came unto me saying, son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations and say, thus saith the Lord God to Jerusalem, thy birth and the nativity is of the land of Canaan. Thy father was an Amorite and their mother was a Hittite.

Paul the apostle says it this way in first Corinthians. Let me just read it to you for time's sake. Chapter one and verse 26, first Corinthians chapter one, verse 26, Paul says these words for you see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

And God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty and base things of the world, which are despised as God chosen ye and things which are not or nothing to bring to

naught things that are that no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption that according as it is written, he that glories, let him glory in the Lord. Prophet Ezekiel, God said to Ezekiel to Jerusalem, I came to you, he said, you are nothing special.

You are full of mixture just like every other man in the world. I didn't come to you because you stood out among the nations. I came to you and I came to you when I found you, you were in a deplorable condition.

In verse four, he says, as for thy nativity and the day you were born, your navel was not cut. Neither were you washed in water to supple thee that was not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. No, I pity thee to do any of these unto thee to have compassion upon thee.

But that was cast out into the open field to the loathing of that person in the day you were born. And folks, that's the testimony of many of us here today. The Lord says, nobody cared for you.

You were in a pitiful and a fallen condition. You were not of royalty. You were not of noble birth.

You didn't have a wisdom. You had no pedigree. There's no reason that I should have stopped and even looked at you.

But I saw you, God says in that condition. And when I saw you, I loved you and the compassion of my heart went out to you. I saw that you had nobody to care and you were in a pitiful condition.

And folks, that's the testimony of the church of Jesus Christ. That is my story. And if you are wise today, that is your story.

I will never, ever forget where God took me from. I will never forget as long as I live that without the hand of God upon my life, without his mercy clothing me, I am absolutely nothing, going nowhere, powerless against sin, powerless against the things of the flesh, powerless against everything of hell and the world that would come against me to destroy me. I only stand because the mercy of God has come into my life.

Verse six, he said, and I passed by you. I saw you polluted in your own blood. And I said to you, when you were in your blood, live.

I said unto you, when you're in your blood, live. And the word in Hebrew means live again, enjoy life, be quickened, be preserved, be quickened because to live. He said, I came to you and I spoke to you.

You didn't speak to me. I spoke to you. You didn't choose me.

I chose you. And I spoke to you and I said, live. Praise God.

If you are in Christ, if Christ is in you, you are alive from the dead. You are alive by the spirit of God. You are made anew by the spirit of almighty God as I am.

You are going as we behold Christ, as we want the Christ of the Bible, as we behold the truth of God's word, as we enter into the work of God in the earth, which is the redemption of fallen man. We are changed from image to image and glory to glory and the very heart of God that looked on us and called us out of our poverty is now in us and moving through us to the rest of people that we meet in the world every day. We walk with him.

We talk with him. He calls us his own. We are co-laborers with Christ, bringing this salvation to a fallen world.

Praise God. Praise God for the simplicity of Christ. Verse seven, he says, I caused you to multiply as the bud of the field, and you've increased in wax and grade, and you've come to excellent ornaments.

Thy breasts are fashioned, thy hair is grown, whereas you were half naked and bare. Now when I passed by thee and looked upon thee, behold, thy time of love had come. I spread my skirt over thee and covered thy nakedness.

Yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and you became mine. Then washed I thee with water, yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. God says, I caused you to increase.

I cleansed you from all of the filthiness of the flesh and the dominion of sin, and I anointed you. I called you my own, and I sent you out into the highways and byways of this world to bear witness to the one who found you in your poverty and was kind to you and changed you and to tell as many people as you could find about this incredible banquet of God that has been prepared for rich and poor, for educated and uneducated, for black, white, brown, red and yellow, for every race in the earth, for every language, for every kindred, an incredible banquet of mercy has been prepared in Christ, and I sent you out as my bride. I sent you out to tell all men that the door is now open, the time has now come, and anyone who thirsts can come and drink of the water of life freely.

I sent you to tell them. I sent you not just with a message, I sent you with an experience of God. I sent you with the power of the Holy Ghost upon you.

I sent you with a new mind, a new heart and a new spirit. I sent you with a new value system. I sent you with the eyes of heaven.

I sent you with the heart of God. I sent you into the world. Verse 10, I clothed you with brodered work, I shod you with badger skin, I girded you with fine linen, and I covered you with silk.

I decked thee also with ornaments, I put bracelets on your hands and a chain on your neck. I put a jewel on your forehead and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown upon your head. Thus you were decked with gold and silver, and your raiment was of fine linen and silk and brodered work.

You ate fine flour and honey and oil, and you were exceedingly beautiful and did prosper into a kingdom. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty, for it was perfect through my comeliness which I had put upon thee, said the Lord God. The Lord said, I gave to you my image, my likeness, and it made you famous among the heathen.

In Acts chapter 2, I want to suggest to you that the 120 didn't come out of the upper room with a plan. They came out with a person. They came out with a living relationship with the living God.

They came out with an empowerment of the Holy Ghost upon them. They came out with a countenance that caused evilness in religion to bend its knee and say, what must I do to be saved? That was how the church was commissioned to go through the world. That is the commission on your life, and that's the commission on my life.

Verse 15, he says, but you did trust in your own beauty, and you played the harlot because of your renown, and poured out your fornications on everyone that passed by, and his it was. God said to Ezekiel, you became enamored with all the attention given you, and you began to give your affection to every stranger that passed you by. Verse 17 says, you've also taken your fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I'd given you, and you made to yourself images of men, and you did commit whoredom with them, and you took my brooded garments and covered them, and you set mine oil and mine incense before them.

He says, you were drawn to the images of fallen men, pretending to be godly, and you began to worship them, and if you don't believe this is happening in our generation, I challenge you to go to a Christian bookstore this week, and find the bestsellers, ask them, which are the bestsellers, and look at them, look at the covers of the images of men, not the images of God. Five steps to be like me, five steps to better yourself, five steps to the new you, five steps to a wonderful destiny, with their glossy faces on the cover, not so subtly telling the church of Jesus Christ, if you use the principles of God, you will look like me. It's not even subtle, you don't even need discernment to see it anymore.

And the Lord said, this is what you did, you took all of what I had given you, you took this anointing, and you bowed before men, you bowed before their ideas, and they taught you to worship the creature, more than to worship the creator, and you became enamored with your own beauty, and your whole theological focus now is how you can be smarter, better, looking, more prosperous, you lost the call of God, church. Romans 12:5 says they changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator. Verse 20 says, moreover, you've taken your sons and your daughters, whom you've borne unto me, and you've sacrificed them to be devoured.

Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, you've slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them? Ezekiel says, you sacrificed your sons and daughters to be fuel for the egos of false teachers, and you sent them into the torment of unbridled human passion. Nowhere that I'm aware of in the world is this more tragically represented than in England today. England, a country that once was famous in the world for its missionaries, famous for the knowledge given, and famous for its military power, and it had all come because there was a foundation of Christ in the nation.

And today, the youth are in English towns all over England. Folks, it's tragic, they're running at 12, 13 years of age into the streets half naked to see who's the first one who can get drunk and wind up in the gutter. It's so widespread, it's become almost pandemic, for lack of a better word, in England today.

You left off the truth, you left off the calling of God, and because you left the calling of God, your sons and daughters, you set them in a place where unbridled human passion is now governing their lives, when once they could come into the house of God and the glory of God would be there. Verse 24, you've also built an eminent place, which is a brothel house, and you've made a high place in every street, and you've built a high place at the head of the way, and you've made thy beauty to be abhorred, and you've opened your feet to everyone that passed by and multiplied thy whoredoms. Here's what the Lord says, your houses of worship became brothels in my sight.

God says it, this is the pattern of scripture. This is inspired word by the Holy Spirit, folks. We can run from it if we want, but God spoke it to his own city, Jerusalem, he said, you see temples and places of praise, he said, I see brothel houses.

Because everybody that passes by, you now open your heart to them, and the place of intimacy that was reserved just for me, you're now letting every stranger that comes through now, you're letting them into your heart, and you're letting them govern your life, and you're letting them lead you in the ways that you are going. Verse 27, he said, behold, I've stretched out my hand over thee, and I've diminished thine ordinary food. And really, what it really means, I put you on a short allowance.

That's what Hendrickson Commentary says about verse 27. Here's what it says in the New Living Testament, that's why I struck you with my fist and reduced your boundaries. I handed you over to your enemies, the Philistines, and even they were shocked by your lewd conduct.

We're living in a generation when Islam is coming in like a flood into many nations, and it's strange, and they are ashamed at the conduct of nations that were purported at least to be Christian. They're ashamed at the conduct, and the Lord says, I did this, I allowed this to happen. I allowed your enemies to gain ground on you.

Verse 37, here's what the Lord says, behold, I will gather all thy lovers with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and them whom you've loved, and with all those that you've hated, and I will gather them round about thee, and I will discover thy nakedness to them, that they may see all thy nakedness, and I will judge thee as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged, and I will give thee blood and fury and jealousy. I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down your eminent place, and break down your high places, and strip thee of your jewels, and take your fair jewels, and leave you naked and bare, and they shall bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords, and they will burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women, and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou shalt give no hire anymore, so will I make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet and be no more angry.

The Lord says your enemies will surround you, and their advance against you in seeming power to overthrow you will bring you to shame, to the same kind of shame as someone who is exposed as uncovered in a public place, but I thank God with all my heart that this is not the end, if this was the end of the story we would be of all people most dismal, this is not the end, I begin in the beginning by telling you that God is a God of love, look at Ezekiel chapter 36 now, here's the end of the story, Ezekiel 36 verse 20, he said and when they entered unto the heathen whether they went they profaned my holy name, when they said unto them these are the people of the Lord that are gone forth out of his land, but I had pity for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen

whether you went, therefore say to the house of Israel, verse 22, thus saith the Lord God I do not this for your sake so house of Israel, but for my holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the heathen whether you went, God says I'm about to do something, I'm going to bring the wayward church to shame, I'm going to bring this church to an open shame in this generation, people of this society are going to gather around about it, they're going to openly begin to speak against it, they're going to cast stones at it, they're going to draw out their swords, and this bankrupt church is going to be known for what it really is powerless and naked in the sight of God, it's a Laodicean church that says I'm rich increased with goods and have need of nothing, but the Lord says you don't know

that you're miserable poor blind and naked, and the Lord says I'm going to do this and this church is going, this church, this wayward church, I'm not talking now about the genuine Christian, I'm not talking about the

honest seeker of God, I'm talking about those who have taken this life, they had a genuine experience with God and they've gone far away from the purposes of God through his church in the earth, the Lord says for my namesake I'm going to bring you home, because I am your husband, I am faithful to you even though you are not faithful to me, I remain faithful, I cannot be anything other than what I am, I am a God who loves you with an everlasting love, and though you may forget your own children I have engraved you on the palms of my hands, I've never forgotten you, your walls

he said are continually before me, praise God, now listen you're really going to get this as we go on, he said I will sanctify verse 23 my great name which was profaned among the heathen which you profaned in the midst of them, and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, sayeth the Lord God when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes, I'm going to bring you home, he said and I'm going to do something profound, first I have to show you what you are, and when you see what you are, and you know what you are, I'm going to cause you like the prodigal son to come to yourself, I'm going to cause you to see your condition, the prodigal son went a long time into a lot of places, but the bible says one day finally he came to himself and said what am I doing here, what am I living in

compliance with the value system of a world that is perishing all around me, he came to himself, and he came to himself by the mercy of God, the mercy of God is going to gather a church in this last hour of time, the mercy of God is going to cause him to go after his bride that had been captivated by the schemes of man, and by the lies of Satan himself, and the mercy of God is going to rise up like a fury, and say not so fast Satan, that's my bride, that's my church that you've got, I'll be sanctified in you before their eyes, I'm going to take you and something miraculous is going to happen, sanctified means set apart, means holy, means free, means undefiled, means empowered by the Holy Ghost, it means made into another person, means given a new mind, given a new commission, given a new

heart, means taken out of mixture and brought into the purity and simplicity of a genuine walk with God through Jesus Christ, hallelujah, to the Lamb of God, verse 24 says I'll take you out from among the heathen, I will gather you out of all countries, and I will bring you into your own land, then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, you shall be clean from all your filthiness and all your idols will I cleanse you, remember this prodigal son when he started to come home the first thing the father did was cover all the stain of sin, cover all the stench and smell of the world and everywhere he had been, the Lord says I'm going to cleanse you, a new heart verse 26 will I give you, a new spirit will I put within you, I'll take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I'll give you a

heart of flesh, I'm going to give you a heart to obey me, you're going to know who I am the Lord says, you're going to know me from the least to the greatest, you're all going to know me, I'm going to write my law upon your hearts, praise be to God, I'm going to put a song of joy in your mouth no matter what happens to this world and you're going to say like the psalmist David, though the mountains fall, though the seas overflow their borders, I will not be afraid, there will be a song of joy in your heart in this last moment of time and the heathen shall know that you're mine when I'm sanctified within you and I'll put my spirit within you and I will cause you to walk in my statutes and you shall keep my judgments and do them, God said I'm going to put my spirit upon this church, this

wayward church that one day soon is going to get up in all of her shame and start coming home to me and I'm going to put my spirit upon you and it's going to become a delight to walk with me and to obey me, you'll dwell in the land I gave to your fathers and you'll be my people and I will be your God, verse 29, I'll also save you from all your uncleannesses, I'll call for the corn and increase it and lay no famine upon you,

Lord said I'll open this book to you and this will become the delight of your heart, you won't want to hear men's opinions about God, you will have God's opinion about himself, you will open this book, your heart will be alive, you will be like the men on the road to Emmaus, your heart will burn at fellowship with God, everything else will begin to pale in comparison

to fellowship with him, he says I will multiply the fruit of the tree in the increase of the field, you shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen, God said I'm going to make you much more than you are, I'm going to bring you back into the simplicity of what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ, you're going to walk with me through this world, you'll no longer be suffering from spiritual famine, the glory of God will be upon you, the joy of the Lord will become your strength, you will have a song, you will have a testimony, you'll have a voice, you'll have compassion, you'll have clear direction, you'll have a word for tomorrow, you will have the keys to unlock prison doors, you'll have the healing oil in your hand for those who have been bruised in heart, I'll give

you the ice staff to touch those who are spiritually blind, praise God, you'll lay hands on the sick, they shall recover, you'll cast out devils in my name, I'm going to bring your sons and daughters home from afar, you're going to know that I'm God, you're going to know that I am your God, then he says in verse 31, you'll remember your own evil ways and your doings that were not good and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and abominations, not for your sakes do I this saith the Lord God, be it known unto you, be ashamed and confounded for your ways O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God in the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities, I will also cause you to dwell in the cities and the waste shall be builded and the desolate land

shall be tilled whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that pass by and they shall say this land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fenced and inhabited, this is speaking in measure of course about Israel but we are the adopted children of Israel, this has every application to you and me and how I read this is that people are going to look at you that knew you and say what happened to this person, they were so empty, so directionless, they talked about God but it was all just talk, we knew there was no substance to it but now this desolate land has become like the Garden of Eden and this ruined and desolate place has become fenced and is inhabited, in other words the lights are on, somebody's home now, they'll see

it, the glory of the Lord, the power of God will be in your life, then the heathen that are left around about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, I plant that which was desolate, I have spoken it and I will do it says the Lord, the heathen will know it's not you, it's not me, it's not our good plans to do anything even to try to be godly in our own strength, the Lord says no I'm going to do this, it's going to be sovereign, I don't want any of your promises to me but I want you to open your heart and receive my promises to you, it's in my promises to you that you will become everything that I've called and destined you to be, thus saith the Lord God I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them, I will increase them with men like a flock,

as the holy flock in the flock as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men and they shall know that I am the Lord, they're going to start praying this church that's coming home to God and they're going to start saying God Almighty what you've done in my life, you've got to do it for my neighbor, you've got to do it for my friend, you've got to do it for my children, you've got to do it for my family, you've got to do it for my co-workers, oh God you did it sovereignly for me, I have no scheme or plan to get where I am today, it was you, it was your goodness, it was your

mercy, it was your kindness to me that did this oh God, I pray Lord send revival, I pray God fill your house again, I pray bring back, bring back what has been

lost to the enemy, I ask you God fill your house again everywhere with praising, worshiping people who know you as God, I will be inquired of for this, he says nevertheless this is where we started in Ezekiel 1660, I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, God says I remember the promises I made to you when you were young and I will establish to you an everlasting covenant, you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you will receive your sisters, your elder and your younger, I'll give them to you for daughters but not by your covenant, the Lord says I'm going to bring increase into my house but they're not coming into my house to learn your ways, they're coming into my house to learn my ways, it's not your word they're going to hear, it's my word they're going

to hear, they're not going to be brought into a place of signing false prophets on books talking about that how they can be like them, no they're going to come into my house and they're going to see the countenance of a people have been sovereignly changed by the Spirit of God and this is what is going to be the basis of their strength, he says you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you will receive your sisters, your elder and your younger and I'll give them to you for daughters but not by your covenant, not by your promises to me but by my promises to you and I will establish my covenant with thee and thou shalt know that I am the Lord, that thou mayest remember and be confounded and never open your mouth anymore, never make any boasts, never again make any promises to God that

we can't keep, never again say I know the way when you don't know it or I know God when he's far from your borders, no he says you'll not open your mouth anymore because of your shame when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou has done saith the Lord God, oh praise God, praise God I can stand here today and I don't have to make any promises to God because I can't keep any of them, it's all mercy, it's all grace, it's all goodness, it's all favor, it's all God, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, it's all God, it's all God, it's all God, it's all mercy, it's all grace, it's all his unmerited favor, it's all his goodness, it's all his word, it's all his spirit, it's all his doing, it's all his initiative, it's all his salvation, it's all his church, it's all God, praise

God, praise God, praise God, we should pray like never before, hasten the day Lord, hasten the day God, put this existing religious system to shame that we may come back to you again, that we may get up and go back to you, praise God, no stamps, no formulas, mercy, mercy, mercy is the message, mercy, how did you get how you are today, mercy, how did you change, mercy, how did, how did you, how did you stop swearing, mercy, how'd you stop stealing, mercy, how did you stop fornicating, mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy, oh Lord, oh God, mercy, mercy, mercy, praise God, praise God, praise God, praise God, mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy rewrote my life, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to worship for a season, I want to give an altar call for everyone who's, you're ashamed,

you've been put to shame, your testimony's in ruins, it's the mercy of God that has allowed this to happen in your life, so that you and I may understand, it's not by might, that's human might, it's not by power, it's by my spirit, says the Lord, it's by my spirit, all God asks of you today is get up in your mess and come home, just get up and come home, I am your husband, he said, I am your husband, I will be sanctified in you, I will be, God says, you open your heart to my work and I will be sanctified, I will change you, I will empower you, not tomorrow, not next month, right now, today, I will change you, praise God, if the Holy Spirit is calling you and you've been put to shame as a Christian, thank God for it and get out of

your seat and come to this altar and let the clothing of Christ become your clothing, let the power of Christ become your power, let faith in a finished work become the basis of your strength, wherever you are, get out of your seat and make your way to this altar and come here rejoicing, come here rejoicing, you have a husband, you have a Savior, praise God, the rest of us, let's stand so others can get out, in the balcony, you can go to either exit and make your way here, main sanctuary, slip out of your seat, everyone who's just a mess, get down here, God is going to do something supernatural in your life today, in the annex, you can stand between the screens, folks don't play at this, I'm speaking in the Holy Ghost today, your life is a mess, get down here, your Christian testimonies

are shambles, get down here, God will give you the power to stand in this generation, God will give you the power.

I'm here to know, and I will follow you all of my days, no one else in history is like you, and history itself belongs to you. I'm here to know, and I will follow you all of my days, no one else in history is like you, and history itself belongs to you. Isaiah 52 says this to you today, awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion, put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city, for henceforth there shall no more come into thee, the uncircumcised and the unclean, shake yourself from the dust, and arise and sit down, O Jerusalem, loose yourself from the bands of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion, for thus saith the Lord, you've sold yourselves for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money.

You would say, those at this altar today, what do I do now? Let God be God, didn't you? There's no formula to this. Just let God be God. Have a prayer in your heart, say, Lord, take me, make me, share your heart with me, use me for your glory, give me the tenderness that's in your nature to see all people the way you see them, move me into the work of redemption that I may be used of you to see men and women and children come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

That's what's always made the church great. It's that missionary heart of God in his bride. Praise be to God.

So all you have to do, whatever your struggle is, give it to him today. Don't make any promises. You can't keep a single one.

You can't even promise that you'll make it to the back door. It's God's mercy that will get you there. So don't make any promises to God.

If you're struggling, you've come here, you've confessed it just by coming. Remember the prodigal son came back to his father, and the father didn't even talk to him, just started cleansing him, empowering him, commissioning him. Then he struck up the band.

And it's that simple. You've come home. You've responded to the word of God.

There's nothing more to do than just let God be God. I want to close with a song today. We sang it earlier.

I'm a friend of God. You can sing that with all your heart today. You don't have to hang your head down anymore.

If you truly, truly want to live for God, you can lift your voice. You can lift your head. You can lift your hand.

You can say I'm a friend of God. You can walk out of here knowing that you're going to walk not into continued shame, but you're going to be given the victory. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you will have the victory.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/18/SID18944.mp3>

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/nwNPi103nMk.mp4>

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