

Ministry to the Lord

by David Wilkerson

David Wilkerson emphasizes the vital need for faithful ministers who are committed to serving the Lord amidst a culture of discouragement and compromise.

Duration: 1:11:59

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:12

Topics: "Obedience To God", "Pastoral Ministry"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses two types of preachers and churches. He refers to the Abiyathar priesthood and the Zedok priesthood from the story in 1 Samuel. The preacher highlights the importance of obedience to God's commandments and the consequences of honoring oneself above God. He also addresses the decline in church attendance and the lack of answers provided by pastors, citing a survey conducted by the New York Times. The sermon emphasizes the need for pastors to preach about morality and the difference between what is holy and what is unclean.

Transcript

We are very humbled to be with you tonight. I have looked forward to this moment for a long time. About ten years ago, somebody sent me two tapes of Brother Irma O. Stiggins' preaching.

After the first tape, I was in my office and I sat back in my chair and I said, this man knows God. I listened to the second tape. I called my secretary in my office.

I said, who are these people? I said, I want you to immediately call them and send me every tape he made. I got a box. I started listening.

You know a man's heart by his preaching. And when I came to the property here today, I was not, I'm never impressed with buildings, though we thank God for buildings. There was one thing I wanted to know when I came on the property.

God, will I sense the presence of Jesus? God, right inside the gate, Jesus filled my heart. Jesus is here. Brother Stiggins, thank you for inviting me.

And I look forward tomorrow to hearing you preach again. You will fire my soul and the soul of everybody that comes. I'm honored to have my son preach with me.

If you read the Cross and Switchblade. If you read my book, the Cross and Switchblade. My wife was expecting a child while I was working with gangs in New York City.

She was about to deliver. And she called me and said, please come home, I need you. We live way out in the country, about 300 or 200 kilometers away.

I pastored a little small church in a small town. But God had called me to walk on the streets and work with gangs and drug addicts. I said, honey, I can't come home right now.

I met a drug addict, a boy on the street. He was homeless and he had no shoes. I said, I invited him to stay with the pastor's house with me tonight.

I said, we'll just trust the Lord. You know, I love you, but I can't leave this boy because he's going to be lost. When I hung up the phone, I put my head on the table.

And I said, I might as well go home. I might as well go home. I've been preaching this boy for hours and he doesn't want to hear.

And I just had my head on the desk. And this boy said, what's wrong with you, preacher? I said, I've been walking the streets preaching to guys like you. You don't want to hear.

I might as well go home. I told him about my wife. She's going to be in the hospital soon.

She's expecting a baby and I should be with her. He said, what do you want, a boy or a girl? God had already determined what it would be. He said, I will make a deal with you.

He said, if you want a boy. I said, I want a son. I have two daughters.

I want a son. He said, if God gives you a son, I'll give my heart to Jesus. I said, God doesn't make deals.

He said, that's it. You have to get a boy. Then Jesus gets me.

It was a boy that night. God blessed me with a boy. His name is Gary.

He'll be preaching to you tomorrow. God is faithful. I came to bring the word of the Lord to you.

I want you please to turn to Jeremiah. 33rd chapter. If you plan to be here tomorrow, you must bring your Bible.

This is a Bible church. This is a Bible place. I want to talk to you about ministry to the Lord.

Beginning at verse 19, Jeremiah 33. I want to show you a covenant God has made to us. It's a dual, double covenant.

Verse 19. I'll read it and then you can go. And the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah saying, Thus saith the Lord, If you can break the covenant of the day and my covenant of the night, That there should not be day or night in their season, Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, That he should not have a son to reign upon his throne.

And with the Levites the priests my ministers. Verse 22. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, Neither the sand of the sea measured, So will I multiply the seed of David my servant.

Now that's the first part of the covenant. And the second part of the covenant. And the Levites that minister unto me.

Verse 23. My God anoint me tonight. Pray.

My God anoint me tonight. Touch my lips. Come now Holy Spirit.

Touch every heart. Give us ears to hear. Give us a heart that is open.

Change me as I preach. Change us all as we hear. I have your word.

Give us now the full blessing of the gospel. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen. Everywhere we go around the world we find discouraged pastors.

In one country recently, we were told by the pastors who gathered, so many evangelical pastors were leaving the ministry. Tired and weary and worn out. In one of our conferences, 1,500 ministers were present.

And I asked this question. How many of you expected to leave the ministry after this conference? I said I want you to stand and come forward for prayer. And out of 1,500 pastors, over 250 came for prayer that they were leaving the ministry.

And everywhere I go, I ask bishops and I ask leaders. What's going on with your brothers? What's going on in the ministry in your country? Why are the pastors so discouraged? Why are the pastors so discouraged? Why are so many leaving the ministry? I get all kinds of answers. Sometimes they say it's pornography, it's the internet, it's culture.

I get every conceivable kind of excuse as to why men are leaving the pulpit. I'm not asking that question anymore. If you're here tonight and you're discouraged and you're downhearted and thinking of quitting the ministry, it would do me no good to have a half an hour with you and try to find the reason.

If you're a man or woman of God and you've been called, if I'm a praying man, and if God has sent me here, and if I have a word from God, I don't need any other reason. The Holy Ghost has to take the word and speak to your heart and to mine. I don't want to be perplexed about why people are discouraged and downhearted.

This one thing I know, there's never been a generation that has so needed men of God in the pulpit. We have out-sinned Sodom 25 years ago. And all over the world, people are calling for answers.

Our church people are hungry. Never have we so needed men and women of prayer and men of God in the pulpit with the word from heaven. When 9-11 hit New York City, for the next three to six months, the churches were packed.

People wanted answers. Was it the devil that attacked the United States? Was it just happenstance? Was it just something that happened? One preacher was preaching a series of messages. On morality.

And the day after this attack, his announced subject was sexuality and Christianity. A church is packed. This is a Pentecostal church.

And the church is packed. And everybody that came, they're in tears. They're full of fear.

And the pastor gets up and announces, we continue our subject on morality and we speak on sex today. All over the United States, people got up right in the middle of the service. Some interrupted the preaching.

Pastor, what's happening? What's this all about? And there weren't many pastors. Had any answers at all. Six months after 6-11, or 9-11.

The New York Times did a survey. Because less people are going to church after, six months after, than before. And this was the question that was asked.

Why did you quit going to church? And these were the answers. There was no life. There was no death.

No pastor could give us answers. One man said there was not one thing in the service. This was a young person.

They gave me not one reason. Well, I should never go back to church again. I want to take you to the Bible and prove something.

God has made us a covenant promise. Half of that promise has been fulfilled. The other half is in the process of being fulfilled.

We have just read it to you. In those days and at that time, I will cause the righteous branch of David to spring forth. He shall execute justice and righteousness.

That's in Jeremiah 33. To save time, let me paraphrase it. God said, if you can break my covenant of night and the day, you wake up one day, there's no more day, there's just night.

Then you can tell me that I can break my covenant. The first part of that covenant has been fulfilled. Jesus came to fulfill that first part of the covenant.

His name shall be called righteousness. The incarnate Christ was the fulfillment of that prophecy. Here's the other side of the promise.

There shall never be a time that there shall not be a Levite priest ministering to me. As long as there's day and night, I will have pastors who minister to me. In spite of the backsliding, in spite of the conditions of Sodom, I already kept half of my covenant and I promise you that I'll make a covenant with you as long as there's day and night.

I will have a priesthood to my own heart. In spite of so many that are quitting, so many going toward the world, God is still raising up a Levitical priesthood. Now I want to talk to you about two streams.

Ezekiel the prophet prophesied in the last days there'll be two kinds of congregations, there'll be two kinds of preachers, two kinds of ministers, there will be those who minister to me, he said, and there will be others who are full of abomination. In Ezekiel 40 to chapter 44, Ezekiel has a vision of a great temple that is going to be built. If you're a pastor, you've read it many times.

That cannot be a physical tabernacle or temple because it stretches over lands and seas and mountains. He's talking about the church of the last days. He sees the church has no boundaries and the glory of the Lord, he said, is coming down on that house.

I read the very words. You don't need to turn. I'll repeat.

The glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord and I fell on my face. He said there will be glory of God in the last days. But Ezekiel saw a strange horrifying sight.

In spite of the glory, a rebellious priesthood came forth. The Levitical priesthood was to guard the gates of the tabernacle. They were to cleanse it.

They were to repair it. No stranger was allowed in. No abomination was allowed in.

Nothing of heathenism or idolatry was allowed in. But he said, look at the gates. He commands this prophet.

Look at the entrances of the gate. Please go to Ezekiel 44, if you will, please. And I want you to look at verses 5 and 7. The Lord said unto me, son of man, mark well and behold with your eyes and hear with your ears all that I say unto you concerning the ordinance of the house of the Lord and the laws thereof.

Mark well the entering in of the house with every going forth of the sanctuary and you brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, uncircumcised in flesh, to bear witness to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house. When you offer my bread, the fat and the blood, they have broken my covenant because of their abominations. Now, I don't know how the Hebrew is interpreted in your particular Bible.

Now, I don't know how the Hebrew is interpreted in your particular Bible. Look up here now. Is Ezekiel being warned by God? You're going to see now, he said, what's happening in my house.

There's risen up now a priesthood that is ministering to the people's idolatry. He said, look at the gates. They're supposed to be guarded.

Pastor, let me tell you something. God has called you to guard the gates of your church. Nobody ever speaks at our church until we listen to at least two tapes.

We make calls and we check it up. As a pastor, it's my responsibility not to ever let a wolf come into the congregation. When I went to New York City and the church began to be packed with people, from the very first I made my congregation a promise.

I said, God helping me, I will never allow anyone with false doctrine in this pulpit. I will never let anybody come in here with this message of adultery or fornication. There will be no wolves come to tear you apart.

And I kept that promise. But for one exception. There was a young preacher I once knew.

Righteous, powerful young man. He could sing and he could preach. I didn't know his heart had changed.

I didn't check him out. I wasn't guarding the gate. I invited him for a service.

As soon as he got up, sang his first song, I knew he was in the flesh. He was trying to create something in the flesh. And I jumped up.

I went to the pulpit. I said, I want you to sit down. I said, I'm sorry.

But you were in the flesh. I don't want to embarrass you. But you were not the man I knew.

And I didn't know his people had put t-shirts for sale outside that had demonic pictures on them. And I asked him, my sister scored him out. And I bobbed my head on the pulpit.

And I began to weep. And I apologized. I said, I've sinned against God and I've sinned against you.

Let me tell you what America exports. Let me tell you what America exports. Coca-Cola and false doctrine.

And it shocks me. And I don't understand. Pastors are supposed to be men of God.

They allow these preachers from other countries to come in. And I'll tell you when you can tell when they're false. They're going to ask you for money.

Money is the number one thing. And they're going to tell you you're going to be a great evangelist. You're going to be mighty.

They prophesied nothing but good. You know what the prophet said? If they were my servants. If they were my pastors.

They would show the people the difference between the profane and the holy. Any man who won't preach about profanity and show you the difference between what is holy and what is unclean. He's not a God.

He's in the flesh. You see, if you look at the gates. Look what they're letting into the church.

In the United States. They illustrate their sermons in many big churches now. A big screen.

And they take excerpts out of that to illustrate their sermons. Some of those movies are filthy, full of cursing and God hatred. Now, I don't know what you expected to hear.

But I'm telling you. There are two kinds of preachers here. Now folks, I'm 73 years old.

I don't have anything to prove anymore. I have a church to go to preach to. And I don't like to travel.

I'm going to have to travel. But God arranged this time. And he wants to speak to our heart.

You're one of two kinds of preachers. And you pastor one of two kinds of churches. Now, if you'll be patient with me.

Let me take you I have to give you a foundation. Of these two priesthods. The Abiathar priesthood and the Zadok priesthood.

Do you remember the story in 1 Samuel? An unknown prophet comes to Eli. He said to Eli. You've been disobedient to the Lord's commandment.

You've honored yourself and your sons above God. God made you a promise. A long lasting, everlasting ministry.

But not so now. Because you've been disobedient. There shall not be an old man in your house.

Every man in your lineage will die at a young age. Your sons Hoffnai and Phineas are going to die soon. Then he made a strange prophecy.

He says the one that I shall not cast out shall consume your eyes with grief. He said There will always be your kind. I'm not going to wipe your kind of ministry off the map.

There will always be one of your kind. There will always be this kind of preacher. Who's afraid of reproof.

Compromiser. Taking the spoil of the poor to himself. You always have your kind.

Your challenge You skip later to the days of Saul. King Saul. You remember that he asked Doeg to kill 85 priests from Nob.

These were all sons and grandsons of Eli. And what does the Bible say? And Abiathar escaped. Just as the prophet prophesied.

One shall escape. One of your kind. David adopts him.

When David comes to the throne he has two priests. Abiathar and Zadok. Zadok is the Aaron priesthood.

Abiathar is the Eli priesthood. And for a long time they seem to be equally anointed. When Absalom rises up in rebellion against his father both Abiathar and Jacob are faithful to him.

You can't tell what's in this man's heart yet. I know preachers who preach for an anointing for years. They prayed for a season.

They were successful. But there was a controversy with God that was never settled. There was a sin that never was yielded.

Please hear me. It's usually one thing one besetting sin that has never been settled and keeps us from the full blessing of God. Something that God has spoken about time and time again.

I'm sure God was dealing by his spirit with Abiathar. Jesus hears a type of or David hears a type of Christ in his kingdom, the coming kingdom of Christ. But this thing in Abiathar is finally exposed.

Adonijah, one of David's sons takes authority, tries to take authority. Joab joins his rebellion. And a group of egotistical men follow Adonijah to a place called the stone of Zohemoth.

In Hebrew, it's the stone of the serpent. And they gather there to take the kingdom. There's not a holy man in their midst.

Nathan was not invited. Zadok was not invited. Do you know what Adonijah means in Hebrew? Success and prosperity.

Are you getting the picture? I said, are you getting a picture of an Abiathar priesthood? And that priesthood is with us today. Never reprove the congregation. We have a gospel in the United States.

They call it seeker friendly. I call it sinner appeasement. I do not condemn these men.

But I see something in the United States that must grieve the heart of God. With pastors of churches of 10, 20, and 30,000. And they are saying we do not reprove in this church.

People have too many problems. People are hurting so much. Nothing negative.

Just psychological self-help. They don't call it that, but that is what it is. A young singer, a young lady who sings under the anointing called our office.

She was invited to sing in one of these churches. 10,000 people. She is spirit filled.

Godly. While she was singing, the conviction of the Holy Spirit fell on the whole audience. She just began to talk about the need to get right with God.

She sang another song. People started weeping all over the congregation. She said if you really are hungry, you want your life changed, just come here and kneel.

The leadership was angry. They called a meeting the next day. The pastor stood before his staff.

Never again, he said. Will we allow this to happen in this church? We are not here to offend people. My Bible says the cross of Jesus Christ is an offense.

When Solomon came to the throne, you know what he did? He has Joab slain. Then he calls Abiathar the priest. Let me read to you what Solomon said to him.

You don't have to turn there because it will take too much time. You can mark it down. It is 1 Kings 2. And unto Abiathar the priest, this is verse 26 and 27.

I will read one verse and then you read one verse. And unto Abiathar the priest, Solomon said, Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, you are worthy of death. But I will not at this time put thee to death because you bear the ark of the Lord God before David my father and because thou hast been afflicted in all things my father was afflicted.

Listen to this now. Verse 27. So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the Lord that he might fulfill the word of the Lord which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

I want you to go to Ezekiel 44 please. God said to Ezekiel There is no priesthood that keep my sanctuary, charge of my sanctuary uncircumcised in flesh. If you go to verse 10 Ezekiel 44 I will read it in English and you read it in your own language.

The Levites that have gone far from me when Israel went astray I'll read the whole thing. They went astray after their idols they shall bear their iniquity yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary having charge at the gates of the house ministering to the house they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people they shall stand before them to minister to them because they ministered unto them before their idols caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity therefore I have lifted up my hand against them saith the Lord they shall bear their iniquity.

I will read it in English and you read it in your own language Now get the picture please God says they're uncircumcised priests they're leading my people astray they are men with transgression in their hearts and they are preaching death in essence is what he's saying in my King James Bible it says this they shall not come near to me to do the office of a priest they shall not come near any of my holy things they're going to bear their shame for the abominations they've committed but listen to this but I will make them keepers of the charge of the house for all the service they're of and for all that shall be done there but I have wondered at times when ministers of the gospel even some that are living in open sin I know some in my mind now they've left their wives and married younger

women but in one church in particular 15,000 people the people say we love him too much let's just forget it he still pastors the church without any correction and here's what God told the prophet even though they are uncircumcised in their flesh I shall appoint them to minister to the people in the house they won't come to me I am not with them they will go through the sacrifices can you get the picture please men who are living in sin ministering to the people with unclean hands impure hearts and the people don't know the difference nobody knows he comes around and looks like a holy man and God said they shall not come near me there's nothing holy about them they shall bear their shame what is their shame what is the iniquity of a man like this what is the shame and the iniquity that

God passes down upon a man who compromises it is the worst tragedy that can ever happen to a man of God and it's happening all over the world right now when the presence of God is lifted when the Holy Ghost is gone and there's nothing left but death God says I'm not going with you I've had people come to me and they say why does God allow such and such a pastor who is so blatantly sinful why doesn't God deal with them this is the answer it's a Biathar priesthood God said there will always be that kind let me tell you if you want to know if you're that kind of a priest it's when you've been under the glory of God for so long and you've heard a thousand sermons and for about 500 sermons you were convicted now you can sit in a meeting like this and be unmoved and untouched no matter who

would come to this Pope you can hear Brother Stig and sit there there's no Holy Ghost anguish there's no hardness of heart and God will allow you to stay in your pulpit but every holy person in that church is going to leave you and every holy person is going to be replaced with somebody that has idols in their heart God said they will minister to their idols and I've visited churches just like that just sitting in the congregation and have to get up and run out because it's Ichabod but there's good message there's a good word there's another priesthood the Zadok priesthood verse 15 Ezekiel 44 but the priests, the Levites the sons of Zadok that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me they shall come near to me to minister to me they shall stand

before me to offer to me the fat and the blood they shall enter into my sanctuary they shall come near to my table they will minister to me they will keep my charge do you remember the covenant we've talked about as we started the message and I'm bringing this message soon to a close he said I make you a covenant I will always have before me I will always have before me those who minister to me this priesthood as long as there is sunlight and there is daylight and night time I assure you I promise you I will have this priesthood and the Bible says in verse 18 verse 18 they will wear linen and they shall gird themselves they shall not gird themselves with anything that causes sweat please look this way the man who prays the sister who is shut in with God the one that gives him the fat and

the blood the blood represents life the life is in the blood this Zadok priesthood they have given him everything the best of their time they don't give the congregation the best of the time I told the congregation when I went to New York City do you want me just to be your buddy your friend you want me just make you happy and socialize with you or do you want me to go and pray and seek the face of God and stand in this pulpit and convict your kids of sin and keep your marriage together you see the Lord Jesus their God says they're going to come to me minister to me and give me the blood and they're going to give me the fat the fat represents the best of everything and it's the fat that intensifies the fire the fat helped consume totally every part of the sacrifice he said and I'm going

to have a clean holy priesthood that bring me the blood and the fat and that blood that is given laid on the sacrifice I will never retire to burn brighter and I'm asking God at 73 years of age I will never retire I will

never quit I will never give up I want him to keep calling me to the mountain of prayer that intensifies the fire and I want to put fat down on the altar that intensifies the fire and burns out the pride the need to be recognized consume my roving eyes consume everything that is unlike Jesus consume the besetting sins I want to give him everything are you of the Zadok priesthood if you are then even now even as I speak the Holy Spirit is at work in your heart such a loving father and how he loves his servants if I wasn't convinced of God's love for me I couldn't preach

and this message tonight was not to put you down but to show you what's happening today and a loving warning from the Holy Spirit Holy Spirit come and speak to our hearts there's not a man or woman here that you don't love you love everyone in this place with a passion and we've come to renew our passion for Christ oh Jesus forgive me for the lack of faith that I have sometimes the doubts that flood in my heart oh God take out of me everything unlike you cleanse me sanctify my heart God cleanse your ministry we heard pastor tell us that before we started the service get rid of the dung let the Holy Ghost cleanse us if we'd obey you our best days will be ahead and we will be at your table ministering to you dear friends we have heard about two different kinds of priesthoods I think all of

us are so to say priests all busy in the ministry God has challenged us to know tonight what kind of a preacher am I what kind of priests are we with clean lips hands and hearts shall we pray once again we would like to see ourselves in the light of eternity in the light of God's presence in the light of your Holy Word and God's Holy Spirit Lord God has told us that you had told him that God is light and that there is no darkness in him whatsoever we thank you for the light that has shone this evening may it shine brightly right through the night and tomorrow as well a light a light that brings everything to light and that covers nothing and that cannot hide anything from your sight that we may be on the right side of the right priesthood with Paul we'd like to say Lord we wouldn't like

to run the race and at the end find that we are disqualified may we be men and women of God acceptable to you may we be men and women of God may we be men and women of God may we be descendants of the devil that every knee and every neck shall bow and confess Jesus as Lord Amen

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