

The Church of Samuel Versus Today

by David Wilkerson

David Wilkerson's sermon contrasts the compromised Shiloh church with the faithful Samuel church, urging a return to prayer and true repentance.

Duration: 53:37

Scripture: Jeremiah 12:10, Jeremiah 23:1

Topics: "Christian Life"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes that we do not deserve to be alive today, but we are blessed by a loving God. However, the preacher criticizes the state of the church, stating that it has become focused on entertainment and foolishness. The preacher warns of a coming calamity that will shake the world, including the collapse of the housing market in the United States. Despite this, the preacher encourages believers to hunger for the Word of God and to seek the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The sermon references biblical stories such as the flood, Sodom, and the scattering of the sheep to illustrate God's past actions in response to disobedience. The preacher concludes by emphasizing God's patience and mercy.

Transcript

I was in your country about 13, 14 years ago. And ever since that time, I asked the Lord to let me come back under these circumstances. And God has answered my prayer.

And I come at a special time. It's not because we are here. It's because this country has been praying and seeking God.

Now, let me tell you something very quickly. That was not by accident that God put it on somebody's heart to call for prayer. Before God is ready to do something, He always awakens people to pray.

Before He sent Pentecost, He set the people in to pray. And all through the Bible. Just before God was to do something new, He always raised up prayer.

I am not a prophet. I've never claimed to be a prophet. I'm just one of God's many watchmen.

And there is going to be something happening in these meetings. They told me before the meeting, that for the first time, many evangelicals are all together. And this country is at a crossroads.

Especially in the ministry. Gary and I have traveled in over 50 countries in recent years. And we see the choices that are being made by pastors and by denominations.

We see two different streams. Two choices that are being made. And I'm going to talk about those two choices tonight.

And if you plan to stay for these meetings, before I'm finished tonight, you'll either be mad at me. I've seen people walk out. I've never preached this message the way I'm going to preach it tonight.

I will either anger you, you'll just say, I'm an old-fashioned preacher. I'm out of touch. Or you will feel something in the Spirit.

You will feel a moving in the Spirit. And you will know where you stand. You're going to make a choice.

Some of you young pastors and young workers some day you're going to be in the leadership of the church. And you're going to make a decision in these meetings. It's going to affect the direction of the church in the days to come.

The church, the evangelical church in Costa Rica has not been poisoned like we see in so many countries. And it's beginning to creep in. And God's going to do this.

Listen to me closely, please. The Holy Ghost is going to put a firewall around the true church of Jesus Christ. A firewall.

And Jesus is going to be the glory inside that firewall. This will never happen unless we really seek the face of God. I'm going to ask in a moment for you to stand.

This is not just another conference. You will not find a single book for sale. We are not taking offerings.

We didn't come for your money. We come on a life and death mission. But you have to pray.

This is your country. This is your church. I'm going to ask you to stand in a moment and ask the Holy Ghost ask the Holy Spirit to bring His glory to bring honor to His word.

I don't know about you. I'm not looking for a program. I'm looking for a revelation of Jesus.

I'm hungry to know Him more. Will you stand right now? And will you raise your hands? And will you ask the Holy Spirit to come? Lift up your voices now. Say, Come Holy Spirit.

Come to these meetings. Come tonight to praise to worship to the revelation of the word. Cleanse your church.

Sanctify your church. Oh Jesus Open our eyes. Open our ears.

Let's pray. Come on, let's take some time. Call on His name right now.

Lord, come now. Oh God, come. Holy Spirit, come.

You may be seated. God has drawn a line in the sand. He's divided the church.

On one side the church is called Shiloh. The glory of the Lord has departed. In the Bible they call it Ichabod.

And God says of this Iahabod church this is not mine. It started right. That's where I once met my people. But they've turned from my ways. They have grown fat in feeding themselves. They have turned to idolatry.

They have turned to sin. And they have moved away from what I called it to be. It is no longer my church.

On the other side of the line I call it the Samuel Company, the Samuel Church. The Bible says everything written in the Old Testament is written for our learning and for our edification and when you get to the Old Testament you see an incredible picture. One of the biggest funerals in the history of the world.

Up to that time Israel had just been defeated by the Philistines. 30,000 Israelites died. They took the Ark.

And now Israel is in mourning. They're having a mass funeral and there is a widow in that funeral. The Bible doesn't give us her name.

And she's standing in front of three caskets. And all around her they're screaming and wailing. There are soldiers with legs cut off.

There are mothers that are screaming for their children. There are sons who have just died. Wives are screaming and mourning over their husbands that are lost.

All around this widow is the most incredible scene of mourning. And many are gathered around this one casket. Because the pastor is there.

92 years old. His name is Eli. And when he found out they lost the battle the Ark was taken.

He falls over dead and breaks his neck. The Bible said he was a fat man. And in the other two caskets his two sons Hophni and Phinehas She just looks in the one casket and she moves to the next.

And that's her husband. Phinehas She's pregnant. About to give birth.

And she has such grief. Because it seems that this woman had a heart forgotten. And she lived to see a church backslide.

Shiloh, what was the glory once came? The prophetic word went everywhere. But she saw the shepherd's backslide. She lived in terror.

Her husband was an adulterer. His brother was an adulterer. They were priests.

Pastors of the church of Shiloh. Associated with Father Eli. A high priest.

Who when he was younger ministered the truth. Now she just shakes her head. And she remembers the prophecies that once came.

One time an unknown prophet came. And said, Eli because of your compromise your sons are both going to die in one day. She heard that.

That's her husband. And the prophet saying because of your sin in one day you're going to die. She lived under that.

See, Shiloh according to the word was the church. This was where God moved. And now a compromise high priest.

Who lived on prime stake. They would take the offerings right at the door of the tabernacle. And take the finest of the meats for themselves.

The pastors were committing adultery. You picture a modern day church with the spirit of Shiloh. And today it would be internet.

It would be pastors who are delving into pornography. They would go through all the motions. Go into the sacrifice.

With a heart and a mind full of adultery. May I say that this is the battle among pastors. Many pastors.

In a recent survey in the United States among pastors they took a survey. No one signed their name. Twenty percent of the pastors acknowledged they were hooked on pornography.

Can you imagine standing in the pulpit and trying to feed the hearts of hungry people. Standing before a holy God talking about the Holy Ghost trying to reach young people before the devil gets them. And he's just come from his study.

He's just come from his computer. And he's fed his mind with these images. He's a part of the Shiloh church.

And soon God answers. Ichabod The glory of the Lord has departed. And I get letters from pastors' wives who say I don't understand.

My husband's message has lost its power. He's lost the fire. And he no longer shows Christ to me.

He's changing. And I don't recognize him anymore. You see this modern day church that we are in now is becoming the Shiloh church.

Thousands of people gather in great churches where pastors are afraid to offend anybody. Sin is never mentioned. The cross of Jesus Christ is never mentioned.

Hell is never mentioned. And it's peace. And it's prosperity.

Listen to me closely. And this is where it all ends. And this is the Shiloh church.

One of the most famous preachers in America who preaches only prosperity said this. And millions love his preaching. He said Jesus can't come back until you have a new house and a new car.

Now that's a lie from the devil. That's from the pits of hell. Preach that in Mozambique.

Preach it where they're being killed left and right. Go ahead and tell them when they've had their uncles and their aunts and their fathers' heads cut off. Jesus wants you rich.

This was the church of Shiloh. She stands at her husband's casket. You see the Shiloh church doesn't want to hear prophets.

Eli has a prophet come to his house. And he knew God had sent him. He knew God sent him.

He said because of compromise God's going to judge. Those sons are going to die in battle. Nobody pays attention.

And may I tell you if you know your Bible and if you study it with an open heart you will find that just before God judges nations prophets are hated. They don't want to hear the prophetic word. It's just like when Jehoshaphat joined Ahab.

And to go up to battle against the Assyrians. Jehoshaphat said would you call a prophet? He was still a man of God. Ahab called 400 prophets.

All who said the same thing. You are going to prosper. They preached a borrowed message.

400 all said the same thing. Jehoshaphat said isn't there a man of God? Where are the prophets? Where are those who are not afraid to preach the gospel? Are we going to be pastors who preach the same thing? Someone gets a program. Somebody gets a method.

And you're going to take a shortcut. You don't want to hear a prophet. They said where's the prophet? Ahab said there's one man.

Micaiah. But I don't like him. Because he doesn't preach what I want to hear.

He always preaches something that gets me. Jehoshaphat said go get him. He comes.

The ambassador says I want you to preach what everybody else is preaching. They're all telling Ahab that he's going to prosper. Go preach the same thing.

I don't want to preach the message the world is preaching. I don't want to preach a borrowed message. And if you're afraid to get on your knees and seek the face of God and hear from heaven for yourself, you have nothing to say to the church.

Micaiah said I will preach what God tells me. I almost got discouraged in the United States. I was on television recently with a pastor.

He said by the day what's going to happen? What's the word of the Lord? I said I don't have a word. Americans don't want to hear it. They don't want to hear it.

Micaiah said I see Israel scattered over the hills with no shepherd. And the leader of the false prophets. I'm not naming any name.

I'm not saying that if a preacher said God wants to bless you, I'm not calling that a false prophet. I'm saying that a false prophet refuses to preach judgment, refuses to name sin, and tells you you're all right no matter how you live. The leader of the false prophets said send him in jail.

Put him in jail. The Spirit of the Lord is on me and it's not on this man. They threw him in jail.

But he made a prophecy. He said the sheep are going to be scattered and you're going to hide from the people you've been preaching to. I want you to hear this.

The Lord put this in my heart this afternoon for you. The Spirit of God came on me. I want to say it lovingly.

I'm not going to shout it. The Shiloh Church, God said Ichabod. In other words, that's not my church anymore.

I have nothing to do with it. But the day is coming a calamity not just on the United States but there is a calamity coming just as in the Old Testament. God had to send a calamity.

30,000 dead. The nation in defeat the economy crashed. Everybody's weeping because you see, God was doing something.

God is a patient God. He's a merciful God. We shouldn't even be alive today if we got what we deserved but we serve a loving God and he said that the goodness of God would lead you to repentance.

He has blessed America. He's blessed Costa Rica hoping that the goodness of God would lead to repentance but then we look upon the church and we see nothing but entertainment. We see much foolishness coming into the house of God all across America.

I see big screens and now they illustrate their sermons with clips out of the movies and some of those movies are the most filthy movies ever made in the United States. They have now what they call wrestling churches. They took away the pulpit and they put a wrestling ring in it They have wrestling matches with fake blood They beat each other with chairs just like the world and then a 15 minute sermon came out.

Ichabod the glory of the Lord has departed. God said that's not my church That is not my church. This wife of Phinehas she died of a broken heart when she gave birth to her son her handmaidens tried to cheer her up but she lost heart.

See there are two things that can happen You can look at the condition of the church Now folks, I want you to know that there are places where God is moving In just a minute I'm going to tell you the good part but if you're a man of God if you're a woman of God and you've been close to Jesus you have an intimate walk with Christ you're living in the power of the Holy Spirit You look at the church and there has to be a grief in your heart there has to be something in your heart that says, Oh God what's happening to our nation what's happening with homosexuals taking over control what's happening with so many foolish things coming into the house of God so much sin in the United States the divorce rate among evangelists the divorce rate among Christians is greater than the secular world something is wrong there has to be grief in your heart I told you when I started preaching you were going to get angry at me you'd say I don't agree with you I didn't come to impress anybody with this message God showed me something and I have to preach it and I'm trying to do it in love Do you feel God's grief for His church?

How many people go to church on Sunday and they're so hungry and not being fed until they run off for some program and they get into something new and then they forget to pray they forget to check in with the word of God and pastors they don't know which way to turn anymore so many new things churches grow to thousands overnight and then they come home to their little church and say I'm going to the big church and people don't want to go to the small churches now they want to go to the bigger churches they like the big screens they like all these great things I have thousands of pastors on my mailing list and from all over the world and many are quitting the ministry pastor's wives say honey we can't take this anymore we have to quit incredible stress beyond anything I've ever known in my

50 years of preaching and I feel that pressure and I feel God's grief and see the problem is almost every month there's another church growth program another way to build a quick church and get a crowd if

you're a pastor and all you want is a crowd rather than getting to know Jesus whether anybody comes or not and so you quit worrying about what people say if you can't say all I need to do is to be in the word of God and get the revelation and preach that revelation I don't need somebody else's revelation I want my own revelation then you're going to get caught and you're going to get in somebody's program and for a while you're going to wear everybody out they're not going to be able to read your bible they have no more time to pray because they're busy fulfilling your vision I'm not

looking for hand claps I'm not trying to work on your emotions but folks, something's wrong I have about 700,000 people on my mailing list and the number one question the number one problem from thousands I'm hungry I want to see God move I want to see the Holy Ghost in our church my teenagers are tired of entertainment I don't want this stuff anymore I'm hungry for the word I'm starving for the word of God I'm praying for our pastor that the Lord will help him just set himself in with God and just come to the pulpit with the word from the Lord that's what the people want more than anything else they're not looking for some program they want to feel Jesus in the meeting they want to be under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit so what is God going to do? just what he did at Shiloh

you see, while all this was happening and there are people like this widow they've given up they say God has given up on the church things are too bad God has departed well that may be true in some places but God had a plan there's a Samuel living in her house and he has the word of God he's a praying man he's got the anointing and he hears from God and she missed it she should have been excited because while Ichabod is being born Samuel's over here in the midst of all the mourning in the midst of the death of the Shiloh church a new church is being born the Samuel church the Samuel company and they're coming to Samuel and he has the word he said God has promised to show himself again God is still with us God has a people and here in Costa Rica God has a hidden people he has hidden

pastors you may pastor a small church but if you're in the Samuel company you watch what's going to happen a calamity is coming that overnight is going to bankrupt that whole system now I'm going to tell you something don't be afraid because God said he's going to take care of his people he said you have a heavenly father who clothes the grass he feeds the birds he said your heavenly father knows what you have needs and your heavenly father will feed you clothe you he said don't worry but I'm telling you it's going to collapse and it's coming soon it's going to affect the whole world the collapse of the towers in New York the first six months the churches were crowded six months later fewer people going to church than when it started people are hardened by calamities but there's a

calamity coming it's going to shake every nation in the world the United States is heading for a collapse of its housing an incredible realistic collapse folks we've had tsunamis we've had hurricanes we've had terrorism and people are getting used to what I'm talking about is God saying no I have tried love mercy prosperity and he said in my mercy I have to do what I have done from the beginning of time there was a flood there was a sodom and all through the bible and so what happened at Shiloh 30,000 in a day and God began to move and up came the Samuel church God is going to bankrupt every church and every false doctrine God told Jeremiah he said tell them I'm going to spoil their green pastures I'm going to spoil it I'm going to take it away and he said it's going to happen speedily it

happened under Jeremiah it happened under Samuel's time it happened in the New Testament and it's going to happen again when the towers fell in New York people crowded the churches all over the United States people were weeping they were getting up in the middle of the pastors preaching because the pastor wasn't saying what it was about there weren't a handful of preachers who knew what God was

doing and they were standing up people who had never been in church sitting on the edge of their seat and they said pastor preacher we don't want to hear what you're saying what about these the towers falling was that God? was it the devil? was it just an accident? and when they didn't know the people walked out you see the Samuel company those who've been seeking God you're going to hear the same

thing I'm hearing and others are going to hear you see the prophetic word now is rejected except by a remnant except by a praying people and God is saying the same thing He's a just God and He's a merciful God He's just though He's a holy God and there comes a time when God says if I don't move now if I don't deal with the Shiloh church I cannot have the Samuel church and there are hundreds of you some of you are not in the ministry and many of you are in the ministry and your voice is not being heard and even if you try to say what's in your heart even Christians will think you're crazy we don't want to hear doom we don't want to hear any more gloom I hear that everywhere I go I've had reports they say our pastor was at your church at your meeting he got up and said he's a good man but

he's 75 years old God has bypassed that we don't want to hear that any more I may be 75 but I came to you from the throne of God from Costa Rica and God's the same today as He's always been He's the same God yesterday today and forever and you're going to be heard from people are going to come to you say what's God saying help me and there are going to be some preachers like the preacher who said you have to have a car and a new house before Jesus comes the prophet said you're going to run and hide the congregations are going to come looking for you you said there's no judgment you said it's all peace and prosperity you lied to me you lied from the pulpit they're going to run and hide am I preaching too hard for you? folks, in my feeble way I'm trying to say something what do you really

want? pastor, what are you looking for? why did you come?

I believe this with all my heart there are thousands of young preachers I've met a couple of them already since I'm here they're not looking for something great they're not looking for some big mailing list they're not looking for fame they're not wanting to be pastors of great churches there's nothing wrong with great churches I pastored a church of over 8,000 that's not it that's not what the drive is they want to know Jesus you need to love more of Christ people want something from the ministry they want something that touches people's hearts we don't want to entertain people we don't want to get somebody's book and say I'm going to get his message God is so big He has so much truth He's got something for you not for somebody else it's not my message you can't borrow my message you get your own message God's waiting to give it to you I am so excited I don't want to see a calamity but I'm in touch with men of God all over the world these are godly men godly women and they all say the same thing it's right at the door everything that God said can be shaken is going to be shaken and those who are with the Samuel church those who get alone and they hear the voice of God God is speaking to them in the face of calamity you can shout God is still working thousands will be saved because God's going to open their ears He's going to open their eyes because all the other stuff has made them sick they're not happy they're all stressed out and now they don't need an evangelist they don't need a big name evangelist they need you because you came through it and you know what you're talking about stand up please just hold it really please if what I preached was of the Holy Spirit if this is truth that God wanted you to hear He'll honor it right now He won't honor me but He'll honor His word did God speak to you? now there are some pastors here and their wives and the enemy has come against you and you're in the battle for your life it's never been like this before it's gotten so heavy and your battle is so strong you have thought of quitting the ministry you've come to the point it's almost I'm going to have to change I can't take it anymore many of your wives say I can't take it anymore and God's speaking to you you see God's not wanting you to do some great thing for

Him you don't have to write a book you don't have to do something special and I'm going to tell you what the problem is you've got your eyes on what others think so much pressure that you don't need to carry and tonight He wants you to lay it down and say Lord only one thing now just to be faithful to you just to be faithful no matter what happens I'm just going to be faithful to you I'm going back to prayer I'm going back to the word and you won't care what man thinks about you you're not going to try to keep up with the crowd I'm going back to loving Jesus if you'll be honest I want you to step out of your seat and come

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