

Honestly Speaking

by Don McClure

Don McClure's sermon emphasizes the transformative power of Christ in our lives and the importance of living authentically as Christians.

Duration: 36:49

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12, Matthew 5:33-35, Matthew 5:37, Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Honest Relationships", "Godly Living"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the political realities of the world we live in and the deceptive tactics used in advertising. He emphasizes the importance of the interconnectedness of the messages in the Bible, highlighting the Beatitudes as the foundation of the Sermon on the Mount. The preacher explains that Christianity is based on the concept of God replacing sinners with Himself, rather than trying to rehabilitate them. He also emphasizes the importance of honesty in relationships and the power of living a life connected to God.

Transcript

Matthew chapter 5. If you'll turn there, we'll continue on. Sermon on the Mount. Tonight, verse 33 is where we're gonna pick it up, so if you'll turn to that and then stand, I'm just gonna read it.

Matthew 5, verse 33. Again you have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform thine unto the Lord thy knows. But I say unto you, swear not at all, neither by heaven, for to God it is God's throne, neither by the earth, for it is his footstool, neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. This was before modern times. But let your communication be yea, yea, nay, for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Father, we thank you for your word, and Lord, we thank you for your wonderful desire to help us. Your unbelievable commitment, Lord, to come not just alongside of us to observe us, but Lord, to come inside of us and to indwell us. And Lord, everything that you would ever ask of us to do, you only ask that you may be allowed to be the one to do it.

We aren't the power. We aren't anything. We are merely the ones that have the authority given to us by your divine creation to release our lives to whomever we will, to serve whoever we will.

And Lord, we ask that you would teach us more of how our lives can serve you and be offered and yielded up to you. So we ask that you would take your word now and minister to us in Jesus' name. Amen.

You may be seated. And I want to assume, I'm not going to go back through the Beatitudes. I almost every time kind of do a little run-through with them.

But tonight I'm just going to make the assumption that you can already do this whole sermon by yourself anyway by now. And but hopefully just to touch on a couple things is to remind ourselves that this Sermon on the Mount is one sermon. It's one magnificent, beautiful, flowing sermon.

It isn't just a series of messages that kind of get connected to each other as if they lack real relationship to each other. They are intimately related from one verse to the other. It's one great concept and one great thought.

In the moment you would try to pull anything out of it, separate it from it, not to say that you still don't have a truth, but at the same time you've lost the ability to make it work and to put it together. Because as you recall, the very foundation of the Sermon on the Mount is the Beatitudes. And in the Beatitudes there's this wonderful transfer of life.

Christianity essentially is Christianity by the replacement plan. God replaces us with himself. What Christianity states is that we are sinners.

And that we are terrible sinners, we're too bad to be true, and there's no effort to try to rehabilitate us. Just replace us. That's what God does.

And that's essentially what is happening in the Beatitudes. I am stepping off of the throne of my life. I'm giving up.

I'm turning it over to the one who created it and to whom I realize now it always belonged to in the first place. I was never created with any potential or power or capacity to live out the Christian life. There was never God's momentary expectation when he created man.

We were but dust that God breathed his life into. And then as the breath of God's life of his presence was breathed into us, the capacity to live was there because the one who did the living was there. As God told Adam literally in the garden, he says, the day in which thou sinnest dying thou shall surely die.

You'll die the moment you sin to go on to ultimate death. But the wonderful thing is that when Jesus Christ comes into our life, he replaces that death with his life. Adam died the very moment he sinned.

His life is real life, the power to live, the dynamic, the strength, the love, the wisdom, all the requirements to make life work were severed. They were gone with God's presence being removed. But the wonderful thing here is in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus there, he's telling us that's all right.

I understand all that about you. So if you will simply get out and let me in, we can do this. And I'll share my life with you.

But it is something that absolutely requires the life of Christ, the presence of Jesus in my life every day. And to do it. And without the Beatitudes, it's the most absurd thing.

It goes from a wonderful message to the greatest of all impossibilities. And to sit down and have Jesus, if you take away the Beatitudes and then you just say now, you know, don't go on, you know, don't lie or maintain your relationships or don't hate anybody or don't lust after anybody. Now you're giving somebody the greatest of impossibilities humanly to do.

Because that is our nature to do those things. But in the Beatitudes, the transference happens. But without them, there's no hope.

It's almost like if Bill Gates was to sit down with me and carry on a conversation. Say, Don, I got a few things I want you to do. There's a hundred million dollar software company I want to bring into the Microsoft, you know, umbrella of companies.

I want you to go out and buy Microsoft or buy this software company. And then I want you to sit down with all of the vice presidents, all the corporate heads of all of the Microsoft companies. And I want you to integrate this software into the whole process of it.

Meet with them, put it all together and make the whole thing gel. Decide how it's all going to happen and work it through. Well at that point, I'd find myself saying, excuse me, I have a tough time balancing my own checkbook at home every month, you know, and I'm a little short of a hundred million bucks right now to buy the company.

And I also don't know what the software is and I don't know how to make it work and I don't know how to integrate it into Microsoft because I really don't even understand the company. And so if you really want this to be done, you're going to have to give me your checkbook and then you're going to have to give me a lot of power and authority and wisdom and understanding and capacity to do it. Otherwise, you're going to be looking very silly with me, you know, doing this job.

It'll be a very poor reflection on the both of us. And essentially, on one hand, to tell you the truth, if I was given Christianity to live or Bill Gates's proposition, personally, I'd take Bill Gates's in the sense because at least I know human beings can do that. Highly unlikely I could ever go out and scrape up a hundred million dollars, but it has been done.

Nobody's ever succeeded living the Christian life without Christ. Nobody can ever do that. At least somebody has done this, a few people, very remote, but I'd rather take that.

But however, if I had the power and the capacity, I and hopefully all of us would much rather take Christianity. We realize as exciting as it may be for Bill Gates to give us some power and some some prestige and some some wealth to do something with for a short temporary piece of time, how much more wonderful it is to be able to sit here as a Christian and realize Jesus said I'll give you my life forever, my power, my ability, my wealth, my riches, and live it in you and share with you forever and ever. Which one do you want? And hopefully we're here tonight because as attractive as Bill Gates's, you know, proposition might be to somebody, we'd sit there and realize that that's not the issue of eternity.

That is not why I was created. It could be very deceptive, but when somebody there, if they would ever think of themselves as a blessed man to have Bill Gates's benefits, how much more somebody ought to think how blessed they'd be to have Jesus's offer that he comes with us. How sad sometimes that many

Christians lose that.

Start off in Christ, but the next thing you know, some other thing. Somebody offers us, you know, the software company and we're gone or whatever else, but that's not the way we ought to be. But here is Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount.

As he carries it on, all right, I've given myself to you through the Beatitudes. I'm living in you. I'm filling you.

I love you. I'm replacing you with myself. The greatest joy in all the world, the world is now given to us.

And now Jesus goes right on after that and he says, now you are the salt of the earth. The salt is lost, it's savored, it's good for nothing but to be cast out and trod under the foot of men. And he says you're the light of the world.

But there he looks at us now, he says you are now three things. You are the happiest person, because that's what the Beatitudes are all about, making us tremendously happy. Nothing in the world will ever make a person happier than when they have exchanged their life for Jesus Christ.

His love, his life, his power, as happy as any exchange would be with anybody else on any other terms, none will come near to the joy that the human soul will know when it's exchanged itself for Christ, because that is precisely what we were made for. Nothing else fits the heart and the life and the joys like somebody that says, Jesus take over my life. Then when that joy comes in, now he looks at us, he says now you are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world. And then he tells us the qualities that are so remarkably different about somebody that is happy and that is salt and that is light. For he goes on in there and he says I know what you used to be.

You used to be somebody that you could be very angry. You could be hostile. He says you know you have heard that has been said by them of old time thou shall not kill and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of judgment.

But I say unto you, don't even be angry with your brother. You're in danger of judgment. He says I am actually giving you a life that you don't have to be an angry person anymore.

You don't have to be under its spell. If you've given your life to me and I'm replacing you, anger is no longer a requirement. It's no longer a necessity.

And the wonderful thing here is he says you now instead of writing off a whole bunch of the planet, I don't need them and I don't like them and this group over here, I'm angry at them. These here are worthless fellows. These here are fools.

And how easily we write people off but he said you don't have to do that because now my life is in you and my love is in you. I'll give you the capacity to love anybody, everybody. He'll talk about that more in the sermon.

Then there's another weakness we have. If it isn't where by nature I'll hate people, there's another part of my nature. I'll covet people.

I'll lust after people. Some people I throw out. I don't need you and I don't want you.

There's a whole other group my flesh will look at and I want and I lust and I care and I covet and I want. Bring this in. Shove this one out and it's interesting on how part of our flesh hates, you know, whatever it is and then it has a warped sense of love that it brings things upon itself as lust.

And Jesus said you don't have to go on lusting anymore. I can give you the power to overcome that. And then he goes on to say and I realize as well you couldn't keep commitments well any longer.

And you know it has been said that if a man put away his wife, let him give her a ride into divorcement. And then he goes on into the whole thing of broken relationships. Don't even put your wife away.

You make a commitment. Keep it. And the wonderful thing that a Christian can have is now this whole new life that has happened within them.

What makes us happy. What makes us salt. What makes us light.

In the world is the fact that the world now looks at us and says as it watches us where everybody else can hate, we don't do it any longer. Everybody else is sitting there watching the people go, oh I gotta have that. I want her.

How about him? Or we're drawing in. We there and we know how to keep things out of our life that shouldn't be in it. And there's day and people look at that and then they see somebody that makes a commitment and keeps it.

That finds themselves working things through whatever they are within it. And here this is what salt and light is. Being salt and being light and being a witness for Christ isn't just merely verbal.

It's something that's very livable. It's carried out in our lives. And if it's and if we're having a difficult time in our life with anger, we're having a difficult time with lust, and we're having a difficult time maintaining commitments in relationships in life.

We shouldn't be angry that we're angry or angry that we're lustful or angry that we can't keep commitments. We should be angry just that we are. That tells that those are the things that tell me I'm on the throne again.

I'm back. I undid the Beatitudes. I went back to myself somehow or another because these are not the nature of somebody that's filled with Christ.

Living in his power. Sharing his life. And so when we are having difficulty with these, it's not so much that we try to drive the darkness out as much as we turn on the light.

As we open our heart and say Lord come in and take over. And now Jesus goes on and he tells us again, you have heard that hath been said by them of old time thou shall not forswear thyself, but perform thine oaths unto the Lord. But I say unto you, swear not at all.

He says neither by heaven, neither by the earth, nor by thy head. And he says, but let your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay, for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. Here now Jesus is looking at them and dealing with another area that is so important to maintain happiness.

You see is one of the things that I'm sure we all know enough about ourselves. You can come to church here and we can worship. We can renew our covenant with the Lord through communion.

We can say Lord cleanse me and forgive me and I love you. And we can get all everything dialed back in. Right relationship.

Hopefully through the worship and through the service so far. Just in our own life. It's reinstated if necessary the throne of Christ.

We've sitting there saying Jesus be Lord, be master. What was I thinking? Get back in your rightful place. But yet we can have all these things going on but there are certain things that will just move in right off the throne.

Anger, lust, broken relationships, lying. You know a misrepresentation of who we are. Here he looks at you and says you want to lose your joy here's how you can lose it.

If anyone notices you, you can be a very happy camper. You can have a wonderful time at church. You can go out and get on the road and before you hit the freeway you're already having to turn around go back to church.

God be merciful unto me a sinner because I already hate five people. You know or something. They're just driving down the road.

Your joy is gone. Because he's you and we take over and we do it. And here Jesus is saying here are the things.

Here's the real battlegrounds that a Christian wants you know to lay down his marker and fight for. He wants to go to battle in the sense of Lord this anger, this hostility in me it's got to go. You've got to fill me and take over.

This covetous heart, this lustful heart there that I've got that wants to just bring the whole world to me. You know it's funny on how easy we can go down the road and covet. I find myself I mean I got a little Toyota.

I'm very happy in my Toyota. But you know something I don't look all that great in a Toyota. But I have found I don't know about you but I have found with me at any rate.

I look unbelievably good from about here up me and the rest you know Porsche you know or something. You take your shoulders down and I look I look better than ever. And how easy you can go down there I look good in that.

And how easily we can covet and we can lust and we can want and just distract ourself from a right loving flowing relationship with God. It robs us when we make commitments and we don't keep them. It robs us of our joy.

It hurts us, wounds us, takes it down. We hear Jesus as he says to him. He says you know now you have heard.

You know don't thou shall not forswear thyself. Don't have to you shouldn't be going around taking that you know that or pardon me thou shall perform thy to the Lord thy knows. Here he says let every time you open your mouth every word you say is in God's presence essentially.

A little background on this back in Deuteronomy 6 13 and here's what Jesus is referring to. Moses told him he says thou shalt fear the Lord thy God and serve him and thou shalt swear by his name. In Leviticus 19

12 it says and ye shall not swear by my name falsely neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God I am the Lord.

And here what was happening back in the Old Testament is the children of Israel had gotten out of Egypt but now they're starting to have to deal with lying and deceit. And here Moses is trying to bridle this behavior towards sin and towards lying, towards deception, towards misrepresenting themselves and life was becoming chaotic. It was becoming difficult with each other.

They weren't getting along. The next thing you know the people weren't trusting each other's statements.

So Moses has got to come out and he says wait a minute God brought us out of Egypt and he said you you know when you before God and you be able to swear in a sense before God as you live and there Moses was wanting to bring to the people a sense of a gravity of the power of human speech that when you open your mouth and you say something you say it honestly you make sure it's a true representation don't lie to each other don't misrepresent each other don't cheat each other don't defraud one another and here essentially though what was happening within time is so they were like okay well you know commit to the Lord will swear before God that we're going to be honest but then what was happening is then when people had a difficult time doing that they would look and want to make them swear

and they would do interesting things back in those times just like we are today I suppose they found out that some places were holier than others they decide if you're in the temple if you're in the synagogue boy you don't lie there don't don't say something there that you don't mean now if you're on the road in a distance away you know from it yeah I mean you can fudge a little I mean we just can't hold up this standard all the time and then if you're in the marketplace well then you can say whatever you got to do to do business essentially in fact the marketplace was so crooked that the priests were not even allowed to go into the marketplace they said don't you guys go in there you'll you know either you either you know you'll be so bummed out when you see how the people treat each

other now they lie and everything else or else you'll get hooked up in it yourself and so just don't go and to think they're even the priesthood being warned to stay out of it you do because in the business world in the marketplace they could you know if somebody was selling something they'd look at this and say was that is that really a pound of beef yes it's a pound honest honest is that a hundred percent USDA choice no it's Hebrew National or whatever but I mean they but they look at him and they come back with they could they whatever it was they had to sell it to say to sell it they could say seemingly in the marketplace it was a buyer we were beware sort of a place the way that kind of and if any of you are used car salesman god bless you we're glad you're in church tonight you need

to be here but the but in the is the image so often that used car salesman have oftentimes you know you go on to use car lot and and you're gonna hear this story seems like every car has got at least every dealership has got three or four cars that were driven by some little old lady in Pasadena you know or something it was just driven by my grandmother to go to my grandfather's grave to visit him you know or something and that's what the smell is or whatever I don't know but but they would have something you know it and I know how it was okay to do business that way it was almost the way that our society we look there and say hey if you're gonna go believe people selling stuff like this you know you deserve it it's almost like if a man maybe is a really good man but somehow another if he

decides he wants to run for office and while he is running for office you can say whatever you got to say to get in just say it and so many times you look at that's our society and then afterwards you look there well

you know how you do well I mean come on you knew I was lying I knew I was like well no I was lying now let's get down to political realities and that's the world we seem to live in the way that people are you know you turn on the television and you look here right on over the television you know buy this stuff you will lose 300 pounds in two weeks you know or something they'll tell you all these weight loss things have you ever seen the whole world you can't turn the on without here's how you lose weight I mean you look at these stupid things to get us to buy them and they

don't work they I mean I went ahead I shouldn't say that maybe they do work they don't work for me but the may work for somebody else on one hand actually I'm thinking of diet writing a diet book someday because I've actually lost somewhere between three and four thousand pounds during my lifetime but I just came back a few more but on how that so often these people tell you you look at this or you turn on the TV here somebody buy this little gizmo and you will have washboard abs in two weeks you know or something they show mr.

America they're flexing for you you know and washing his clothes on his stomach or something there but I mean on how and this is wow I want one of those but it's like buyer beware if you really believe these things but our whole culture has come down to that and when I we just sold our home up in San Jose to move down here it literally honestly honestly I swear believe me it took us four hours sitting down with the reader to fill out the paperwork and two hours of the paperwork alone was just questions about the house that if all of them have been a lawsuit somewhere you know or something you know how much noise is there around are there any you know weird insects flying around your house have you ever had any burrowing things coming up through your house if you ever had you know anything

die in your house have you ever how many have died what they die of you know I mean it just goes on and on on every one of these things because the fact that now I mean all these things nobody trusts anybody any longer there is such a breakdown in trust in living in trust because nobody keeps their word almost it seems and so then we look and when we really want to know the truth we look at somebody and say are you telling the truth yes and then we'll look at that we add radical things like today you know you know well we may look at a lot of people say swear to God or they'll look at swear on your mother's grave you know we're gonna go over there's heaven you're gonna stand on your mother's grave and now tell me this I mean is like as if your mother's gonna I don't know what she's gonna

do in there if you lie but anyway some some terrible you know thing is gonna happen or something but on how that all of these promises and the ways that we have of making them you're looking across my heart hope to die stick a needle in my eye I'm telling the truth you know or something to where we try to convince people that we aren't just making up stuff and the thing is is when people do make up stuff it ruins their testimony it ruins their joy they misrepresent themselves they misrepresent the Lord and they lose their credibility as a human being and also it's hard to live that way Mark Twain once said the difference between a person who tells the truth and a person that tells a lie is a liar has to have a lot better memory I mean you got to remember who'd you tell what to you know

and then hope they don't get together to compare their stories and but life is when somebody there has gone through the Beatitudes Christ is enthroned and we find there that that he's dealing with my with the world that I reject he's dealing with the world that I covet and he's dealing with my capacity to make and keep commitments and then he's dealing with my representation of myself through my my mouth through my words through my behavior am I trying to give somebody an image that isn't true and so often our nature is that the old man has to protect himself at all costs and thus we lie I'm a little boy his mother

asked him you know what is a lie honey and he said mother a lie is an abomination unto the Lord but a very present help in time of need in the but so often I mean there's

something there that we know it's wrong but I gotta do it it's the only way out of this that's the way that the old nature things that's the way you know they are flesh things situational ethic something there to where we we come across with all sorts of deception and it's a lie and people really say you really telling the truth and we're not we're misrepresenting things and so often we live in a world of deception an interesting little survey I happen to find and ladies nothing personal just happen to be with women but that 15% of ladies tinted their hair I'm sure you know that's wonderful I think that's very nice thing to do but anyway the 38% wore wig 80% wear rouge 98% wear eye shadow 22% wore false eyelashes 93% wore night and nail polish and 100% of the women that took this survey

voted in favor of a resolution condemning any kind of false packaging I was just an interesting survey but the I'm not saying that anything by that in fact but so often though we go hey I think it was my wife I think my wife got it from K but if the bar needs paint paint it but anyway the but anyway the thing is is it so often though when something comes through deception and we and we allow that to happen the wonderful thing about Jesus he knows nothing of the cares nothing about deception other than it's corrupt when they came to Jesus were trying to figure out who he was and what he was all about he said hey you can ask anybody ask any of my followers everything I am is wide open anybody and everybody anytime I have no secrets and this is the wonderful thing when Christ is enthroned to

want to come and say Lord I want to have my yay be yay and my nay be nay I don't have to swear by anything they don't have to you know you really tell the truth or would let's go to Jerusalem well let's go down to the temple let's go to the synagogue you know or something let's step inside there let's go to your mother's grave but rather than that that there is something about this wonderful person called this Christian who's experienced the Beatitudes that God is in his heart in his life and he's transforming him taking away the old hatred taking away the misguided love and giving them making it pure giving them the capacity to make and keep commitments and relationships and he's giving them the ability to speak the truth in love that there's somebody that now they realize that they've

got a tremendous power in their words and here Jesus said this is what salt and light is this is when somebody is really a witness the world looks at them and says wow that's how I wish I could live and when we find herself truly wanting to grow in the battles I suppose that we ought to take on in our life I look at so many times we since spend so much time fighting a lot of the wrong battles we can in our marriage have all sorts of tension and we're fighting about this or we fighting you know with our children or we're fighting with finances we're fighting with health and we're fighting with other people but I think the greatest battles that there are in all of life that a person ought to look there and say Lord these are the ones I want to fight is Lord I want to go to battle with my

anger Lord I want you to be so enthroned that one angry man is gone I want I want to go to battle with my with my lustful heart my covetous heart that looks and sees and wants and has to have Lord I want you to transform that and to make me at peace with such as you have given to me to be able to rest and rejoice in the life that I have in you and what you have given to me and then as I make a commitment God give me the capacity to keep it these are the these are the things that makes a person happy keeps them happy and also makes where the world looks at them and say you are salt in your light when they look when they look there and watch their life and when it all costs these are the battles that they want to fight and they want to win Lord you do these things for me and I'll love you

and I'll be the happiest guy in the world I didn't know about you but I'm I love seeing people saved obviously I love to see people grow I love to see wonderful things happen in people's lives but I'll tell you maybe selfishly but also honestly one of the greatest things I love is when I see something in my heart something in my life some area some battlefield that's been in defeat and when I see the Lord give me a victory in it and change something under my own skin in my own heart these type of things this to me is the greatest of joys and it's also something when we realize the power of our speech I'd suggest I was gonna go through a bunch of James tonight because James looks a whole lot and he says you know your tongue is a very very powerful thing and it is something on one hand we

can worship God and then we can turn right around and we can blow it and we can do terrible things with our tongue and when we'll open it and it's something we can bless God and in another time we go and we hurt and we wound and when we realize the power of our tongue and say God let my yag be yag my nay be a nay that when I go to my wife when I go to my children when I go you know to work tomorrow when I'm you know doing my business that there's something there that when somebody says do you think this thing will really work I buy it no if it doesn't work but tell him the truth where we can look there with our own heart in our own life and find ourself there just wanting to have God take our tongue and control it lastly just let me leave it here because I wanted what's been a wonderful

night the music and communion but there was a man one time that visited George George Mueller wonderful man of prayer and as he came into a study one day happened to look into his Bible that was open there and he noticed there is he kind of open it there at Psalm 27 or part of 37 23 it says the steps of a good man are ordered by Jehovah but then he noticed that right next to a George Mueller had written up by the side in the margin it says and the stops he had written there the steps of a righteous man or order the Lord and then he put and the stops of a man are ordered by the Lord do and when we can look there and say God order my steps and my stops Lord allow me just to what I say is right it's the happiest man in the world those build those build happy relationships wonderful

relationships there's something there that when we just look and realize God help me to speak the truth in love otherwise we go on misrepresenting ourselves people look at us and they and they realize the things that we told them aren't true it breaks down the relationships makes us insecure with one another and ruins our life our joy the story once heard of a fellow who fell in love with this wonderful soprano opera singer and I'm sure it's not Nadia but the positive it isn't her but anyway he just never been up close to her the closest he's ever been is with his binoculars up in the third balcony but she sang so beautifully he just fell in love with her and and he didn't even realize that she was quite a bit older than he was and she walked with the limp and they didn't notice anything

he was just so starstruck and so he just started writing her and corresponding and they wrote back and fell in love while they wrote back together and then they had this whirlwind you know courtship and got married in very very short time and then though when he gets married there he on his honeymoon there he looks and there is she is there at home he looks there and watches her she takes off her wig and puts down you know she had a wig took out a glass I put it in a little container over there watch her take out her dentures put them in another container take off her glasses and her hearing aids fall off and he looks at her there as she walks over and then she unstraps and takes off a false leg and then she and then he's looking at her and amazed and he said oh my goodness woman sing

sing sing you know but but we so often you know we build a relationship on a little deception sometimes instead of honesty how important is we come there and say Lord I want to always sing the same thing I

want to sing the same tune it's always the same with my heart all the time and that is the simplest truth but when we do it how powerful it becomes in our life and in our relationships amen let's pray father we thank you for your word and your love and Lord I thank you that you want us to know joy in the deepest of ways and Lord there's so many simple things that dethrone you so many simple ways Lord that we can do business that literally ruin our witness ruin our testimony so many ways that we can maybe carry on or we can be a gossip and our mouth can go and run and get us in trouble

and people look and they see this and the next thing you know they said this isn't this isn't a transformed life this is a life that's still doing its own thing this isn't salt this isn't life and Lord what did people look and what they see isn't you and when we look inside it isn't you either it's our own nature it's our own flesh just doing what we think is needful at the time to get out of a jam that our flesh got us into Lord I pray that tonight we would just find ourselves saying Lord fill me with your spirit fill me with your love Lord I don't ever want to have to say any to anybody more than yes and no and no one would even ever have to ask anymore that Lord our word would be our word and they would know it Lord give us that type of of a commitment to you and let us so be filled

with you that when you live in us and you speak through us people believe it and they look at our lives and they say I wish I could live like that you're incredible but then Lord we can turn and say no my Lord's incredible and he's doing incredible things in me teach us these truths we ask it father in Jesus name amen

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