

Resurrection Life

by Gary Wilkerson

Gary Wilkerson's sermon 'Resurrection Life' emphasizes the transformative power of Jesus and the importance of compassion in ministry.

Duration: 37:47

Scripture: Luke 7:11

Topics: "Resurrection", "Resurrection Power", "Compassion in Ministry"

Description

Gary Wilkerson emphasizes the transformative power of Jesus in his sermon 'Resurrection Life,' illustrating how Jesus confronts death and despair with compassion and authority. He recounts the story of Jesus raising a widow's son in Nain, highlighting the clash between joy and sorrow at the city gate, and urges the congregation to be sensitive to the needs of those suffering around them. Wilkerson calls for a revival of faith and boldness in ministry, encouraging believers to confront the pain and suffering in their communities with the same power that raised Christ from the dead. He stresses the importance of seeing individuals rather than crowds and the necessity of acting with compassion and authority in the face of life's challenges.

Transcript

Thank you, Pastor Teresa. We appreciate you and all the labor of love that you have poured out to make this conference possible. You and your staff here at Summit have done such a wonderful job of making us feel at home, mowing the lawns, giving us great meals, providing these great sessions for us, bringing in some halfway decent speakers, and it's been a joy.

And after hearing Greg and the team lead worship, who needs coffee? I mean, if that doesn't wake you up, you need to hear this message I'm about to preach called Resurrection Life. A couple items just before I pray and go to the Word of the Lord and the message that God's laid on my heart is, well, I'll explain it this way. There's a comic strip called Calvin and Hobbes.

Anybody ever read Calvin and Hobbes? Calvin and Hobbes are fun. So there's this one where Calvin's a little boy and Hobbes is his imaginary tiger, big tiger, three times the size of Calvin. And one day Calvin has his football, and he tells Hobbes the tiger, he says, go deep.

He's going to throw him a long pass. And so Hobbes the tiger says, in the sovereignty of God and the free will of man, what is the significance of the place of evil on the earth today? And Hobbes, the little Calvin

little boy, looks at him and says, I didn't mean that deep. So, and I say that to say, I'm the not that deep guy here at the conference, okay? Because what we've been hearing has been blowing me away.

I am sitting on the edge of my seat, like seeing things like, how many times have I read Luke about the wineskins and heard it, you know, transcribed, said this way, and I go like, that doesn't seem right. And then this way, that doesn't seem right. And I'm just like, I want to just keep passing over that passage of scripture because it doesn't make any sense.

And then it came alive to me last night. And so many things like that have been deep to my soul, not just deep intellectually, right, but deep to the spirit in our souls that are crying out, just to hear words from God. And that's been really significant and wonderful for me.

So that's kind of just where I come from. Just want to share a little bit more of my heart with you. So let's pray.

Let's pray and ask God to bless his word here today. Father, we are delighted to be in your presence. Once again, we're looking for more of you today.

We thank you that your grace is sufficient. We thank you, God, for the living word. It is powerful.

It is sharp. It is a two-edged sword. We've come here today to do business with God.

We've come here today to see you accomplish great things in our life. We've come here today because we are desirous of our ministries never being the same, our hearts being transformed, our minds being renewed, our vision being enlivened once again, God, clarity coming into our hearts, soul, mind, healing and forgiveness and letting go of things. Thank you, Jesus, for your goodness.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. In Jesus' name. Everybody say together, Amen.

Amen. Turn me to Luke chapter 7, please, Luke chapter 7. And it says in verse 11, soon afterward, Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. So here you picture Jesus.

He'd been out in the rural places where thousands would gather to him, and he would heal the sick, and he would preach the good news, and sometimes he would multiply bread and fishes. And so where he went, the 12 that he had chosen would come with him. We know there's also the women in ministry that help support his ministry and serve and bless him.

We're with him, and we know that most likely the 70 that he later on sent out were probably with him, and then a large crowd of people. So you get this caravan feel, and they're coming into the city of Nain. And in the city of Nain, the Scripture tells us there was gates.

And so a large crowd followed him in verse 12, and a funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. And what was coming out of the village? A young man who had died was the widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart was overflowing with compassion.

Don't cry, he said. Okay, so let's just, instead of just reading this, let's picture it in our minds. Let's get an understanding of this.

Here's Jesus and a large crowd. They're excited. What would you be like following Jesus? He had just healed you, or your little boy, or you were hungry and he just fed you, or you heard words like the Beatitudes, and he said, blessed are you when you're poor, or blessed are you when you're mourning, and you felt this overwhelming sense of joy and life and victory.

So you're coming into the city almost with a celebratory spirit, and now coming out of the city, out of the gates, is a funeral procession. And in there, there's this mourning. Life is hard.

We're met with all kinds of difficulties. Life is pain and suffering. I asked God to heal my son, and here he is.

We're conducting his funeral now. We're taking him out of the city to his burial place, and the mourners were crying, and they were weeping, and there was sorrow. There were the things that people face on earth today.

We live in a broken world, don't we? There's hurt. There's pain. We're ministering to people in our churches who are suffering from marriages that are falling apart, children that are getting addicted to drugs, even overdosing on the opiate epidemic in our country today.

And we see this horror in the people's lives that are coming to us, let alone those who are outside of our church as well, who we meet in the city streets, who we meet in the malls, who we meet at the restaurants, and we don't even sometimes stop to hear their story, but their story is one many times of having gone through something horrible or going through something horrible right now. And some of you live in places of poverty where you're ministering to the people who are constantly under the weight of, can I feed my children today? One out of four, I think Pastor Carter was telling me, in New York City, children are eating one meal a day, going to bed hungry. We are ministering in a generation, even though America is a prosperous nation.

I've been in 60 plus nations, and America is, I believe, the greatest nation of all that I've ever been to, and it's prosperous, but yet there's still suffering in the city. And so people are mourning their sorrow. They're wondering where to turn.

What am I going to do? And they're coming out of this gate with a sense of, this is my future. I'm coming out of the city with all this horrible stuff to deal with in my life. And then all of a sudden there's this contrast.

Can you picture that? They meet at the city gate. Maine is about to come into almost a conflict. There's going to be a clash at the gate.

Something's getting out, and something's trying to get in. And what's trying to get in is in conflict with what's trying to get out. And it's almost like the Lincoln Tunnel, if you've ever been there, it's like you're moving along pretty good until you get, and all of a sudden it's two lanes, and then you have to, it gets congested, and people get irritated and stuff.

So you wonder what's happening as all these people are coming out and say, we have first right. This is a funeral. Respect us.

Move out of our way. And all these happy people are singing and dancing, and they're like, that's so disrespectful. It's, oh sorry, we didn't know it was a funeral.

And there's this clash at the gates. And so Jesus sees what's going on, and sees what's coming out of this city. And I think it's important that we see what's coming out of our city.

I think it's important we see what's coming out of the people's lives, the stories, the processions of their life proceeding through sickness, proceeding through the diagnosis of cancer, proceeding through processing on and through loss of loved ones, people suffering in the hospital, all kinds of horrible things that people are facing. And we need to realize that's the city that we're living and ministering in. And then we need to have this.

This is what I love, and it says, when the Lord saw her. That's so important. Here he was in this mindset, we're coming into the city, we're coming in with joy, and we're coming in with love, and we're coming in with unity, and we're coming in with great anticipation of God being with us.

And yet he is sensitive enough to know, wait a minute, let's stop this for a moment, because there's a need among us. And I believe with all my heart we need in our churches to celebrate like never before. We need the joy of the Lord to be our strength.

We need to laugh, and dance, and pray, and delight in the Lord, and have the greatest time of all. I believe, it's not a great theological word, but I think church should be fun. And people ask me, how are you doing? I say, I am having fun.

And they look at me like, is that a Christian word? I don't know if it's a Christian word or not, but it's my word. I love to have fun. But we also have to be very careful.

Here's what I want to bring our attention to today, is that as we're enjoying church, as we're enjoying being taught, as we're enjoying new covenant, as we're enjoying the word coming to us in powerful ways, let's make sure that we have a sensitivity to the Spirit to stop and say, wait a minute, there's somebody right at the gate who needs us to turn our attention away from our joy, and our delight, and our laughter, and our songs, and our dance, and our sermons, and put it on somebody who's not there right now. Somebody who's struggling right now. Somebody who's hurting right now.

Someone who's in pain right now. Someone who feels like it's over right now. It's all over.

It's the end. Somebody who might have even prayed, God help me, and their prayers didn't seem to answer. So they're coming out of the city with this sense of defeat.

And I love Jesus, that he saw her. Isn't that good news, that he saw our pastors? It's so important that we see people. We don't see crowds, but we see people.

Amen? It's so easy to see crowds. But as I was sharing with you yesterday, as the Lord is just transitioning my heart into a place where I just love people everywhere. It's not just only love my congregation, or only love to preach sermons, or only love to drive into my church on Sunday morning, and we have a big parking lot, and say, look, there's a lot of cars there, and it's going to be a good crowd today.

And not just delight in that, but delight in people. I went to our grocery store, it's called King Super, it's a weird name for a grocery store. That's our local grocery store.

And I drove in there on a Saturday afternoon, and I looked at all the cars there, and I said to myself, oh, it's going to be a great crowd today. You know what I mean? Because that's really just as important crowd as

the crowd that comes into the parking lot of your church. All right? And so see every person as an opportunity for you to have this conflict, so to speak.

They're coming out one way, but you're coming into them in another way. And Jesus looks at them and says, he sees her, and then he has, look at that, he has compassion on her. Isn't that beautiful? His heart overflowed with compassion.

Don't cry, he said. Then he walked over to the coffin, and he touched it, and the bearers stopped. When a man or woman of God comes to his or her city with the power of the Holy Spirit, when a man or woman comes into their congregation, into their city, into their neighborhood with a sense of, I have, God's authority lives in me, the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in me, when there's a confidence in the Lord that nothing's impossible for God, when you look at the most fearful situations, and you believe that God has sent you, there, things are going to stop.

Things that are moving towards a negative end, they're going to stop dead in their tracks. And then Jesus does the miraculous. If you like a good funeral, don't invite Jesus, because he ruins funerals.

He never, ever in any scripture did he attend a funeral that ended up a funeral. Every funeral, look at it in scripture, every funeral Jesus went to, he raised the person from the dead. That is, that is amazing.

You know, it's just, if you want to, if it was your enemy that died, don't invite Jesus, because he'll just raise him back up. There's power. He, he, so it wasn't just compassion.

We need a heart of compassion, but there has to be a power in us. There has to be an authority of the Holy Spirit in us. There has to be this sense that Jesus said, I'm going to give you the Holy Spirit.

And then because of that, you're going to do greater works than even that I've done. You're, you're going to be like, you're going to, to not only be a student who learns from his master, but, but, but, but the student who learns from his master will become like the teacher Luke tells us. You're going to become like your teacher.

That, that is, that is a call of God on our life. Not just to read about Jesus, not just to understand about Jesus, not just to study Jesus, not just to get doctrines about Jesus, but to become like Jesus. By his grace, by his power, freeing us to become a people that, that, that literally operate in the spirit of Christ.

That we do the things Jesus did, that we talk the way Jesus talked, that we preach with his authority. When, when Jesus preached, all the crowd said, we've never heard preaching like this. We've never heard such authority.

And he didn't go to any of the rabbinical schools that we know of, and he wasn't trained to be a rabbi. He was a carpenter. And yet he spoke with authority more than, excuse me, more, far more than those who were educated in that way.

We need that power, don't we, in this generation? We, and we need a holy boldness. We need a confidence. We need, this is so not new covenant, what I'm about to say, but I'm going to say it anyway.

If you're dealing with lack of confidence, get over it really quick, okay? Deal with it today, get it done, and get confident, because we need confident men and women in the ministry. We need men and women who are standing up and saying, not of me, not of myself, but there's got to be a power in me. I'm not going to

stand up here, milly mouse, wishy-washy, two-time and divided in mind.

I'm going to come here, and there's going to be a word from heaven. And when I'm going to pray for people, they're going to get healed. It's not like my early ministry.

I hated praying for sick people, because if they had a cold, not only would they not get healed, I would catch their cold. And so, so I just didn't want to pray for people. And now, now, now I'm wanting, God, I want to, I want to see that power.

I want to see that power. Man, I was raised in a Pentecostal church, and all the preaching about the power and stuff, and so I got turned off by that. I just want to be nice, and like people, and be normal, and be friendly.

But as I got a little bit older, I said, that's good, but there has to be power. There has to be, there has to be, you have to have an authority, as you're coming into the city, that's greater than what's coming out of the city. You cannot be afraid of death.

You cannot be afraid of demons. You cannot be afraid of what's spewing out of the pit of hell. You can't be afraid of what's happening in our government.

You can't fear these things. And Jesus, and I love that Jesus was coming into the city with his mindset, I'm going to have compassion, and then I'm going to ruin this funeral. I'm going to lay hands on, I'm going to, I'm going to call this boy out, and he's going to come alive.

And I love that, because that's where Jesus' mindset was in the city. Forgive me if I'm off base where you come from, and what your agenda is, but I thank God that Jesus wasn't coming to the city to say, I'm coming to name, because I heard they took the Ten Commandments down from the courthouse. You know, get out of my way, funeral.

We have a political agenda to deal with here. I'm glad Jesus didn't do that. Now, there could be a place for that.

Please, please don't hear me saying something I'm not saying, okay, and if that's your whole ministry, I'll pray for you afterwards, because we need more than that. Okay? Some of the people that are advocating, get the Ten Commandments back in the courthouse, ask them, ask them, do you even know the Ten Commandments? Some will say, like, I know three or five or seven. No, it's not just, it's not just political power that we need, it's a spiritual power that this nation needs.

There is a hunger in this nation for someone to stand up, and there's such power, and so Jesus comes to this funeral, and all of a sudden, the funeral is no longer there. Remember when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead? Have you heard that old preacher said that he had to call his name, Lazarus, come forth, because there was such power and authority in Jesus that he just said, come forth. There have been hundreds coming out of the grave.

So he had to actually name him, just Lazarus. The rest of you guys wait. Hold on, we'll be back for you.

But right now, I just need Lazarus. That's, that's the power of our Savior. The power, the miracle working, the wonderful working power in the blood of the Lamb.

Jesus is powerful. Jesus is amazing. Jesus is wonderful.

And he wants to do this kind of stuff in our society today. He wants the, the pain, the sorrow, the suffering that's coming out of the city to be, to be confronted with a power that's greater than that. A power that is, that is of God.

And so, so in, in this message here today, I come and stand before you, and I'm a gentle soul, but I want to come here. I want to pick a fight today. I do.

I do. I want to, I want to pick a fight today, because far too long, even those of us who say we have the Spirit of God living in us, we have the power of the Holy Ghost, we're Pentecostal charismatics who, who we believe we have gifts of the Holy Spirit, and yet the enemy's coming out of the gate, and we're moving out of the side saying, life is rough. So sorry for your loss.

I don't know how to deal with this. You see, it's, there comes a time in our ministry we say, no more. We got to pick a fight with this thing now.

We got to pick a fight with this thing. And as for some of us, it's even in our own lives and in our own families. We're tolerating and allowing things, and we're saying, sovereignty of God.

The Lord's teaching me, he's teaching me how to, he's teaching me how to suffer well. Maybe, because God, I believe God can do that, right? How many believe that? God can take us through difficult times to, to teach us patience, to train us in righteousness. But sometimes, well, you need discernment to have power.

And, and sometimes we don't have discernment, and therefore we bypass the power that we could have, because we're not employing the discernment that he's given us. So discernment in itself is a power, but then the follow-up of, to that discernment. So the discernment is, wait a minute, my marriage is falling apart.

Maybe there should be discernment there. Maybe this isn't a sovereign lesson from God. Maybe I need to pick a fight, not with my wife or my, my husband, but with the devil to, to, to, to, to say there's a reason Ephesians tells us to put on the armor of God.

And, and it's not to show it off at a Sunday school class to show which parts of the armor are. Here's a shield. It's, it's, that's not why that lesson was taught.

That lesson was taught because Christians are meant to put their armor on and, and, and not to march in a parade, but, but they're going to go pick a fight. And, and there's going to be a spirit of gumption and unction within us. We're going to say, this is a fight.

This is a battle. This needs spiritual authority in my life. I have to come against this with the sword of the spirit, with the armor of God.

I have to defend myself, but I have to also be an aggressor in this. And I have to claim for my marriage healing. I have to claim for, there are, there are sicknesses right now in this, in, in your bodies, in this place here, and in spouses and family members that, that, that if your theology is, well, maybe God's just allowing me to go through this to teach me something that again, there could be a time for that.

But I think we're, we're allowing a whole lot more under that guise, under that label, label of sovereignty of God, learning lessons. We're, we're, we're putting, we're lumping almost every work of Satan. Well,

sovereignty of God.

God doesn't do the same thing Satan does. They're different. Okay.

God is good. God is loving. God is powerful.

God is a healer. God is a transformer. God is, God is, God is a change agent.

God comes into the city with life and love and joy and power and strength. And if we come in and say, well, there's a dead boy in sovereignty of God, we won't act. And so I'm getting to the place where there's this kind of holy roller unction within me.

Now there's that saying, like, no, let's confront what's at the gate. Let's, let's, let's confront sickness. Let's confront death.

Let's confront sorrow. Let's confront ache. Let's confront pain.

Let's believe. Let's pray. Let's trust.

Let's move. Let's fight. Let's go on in the things God has for us.

And just, just as I was beginning to learn this lesson, I was, I was driving, it was afternoon after church, Sunday afternoon. And I was driving to, from the church to a restaurant I was going to, going to meet my wife and family there. And there was a, I saw way in the distance, a lady on the street corner there.

And she had a little sign like, you know, please help me with something. I was going to, I'm going to pull over and stop my car and, and I'm going to pray for her. Now this is not, you know, normally pastors like to give their success stories.

Here's my failure story. Okay. And I was going to pull the car over and pray for her.

And, and it was really strange. I just, I kind of, and this is embarrassing to say, but I looked at her and her face was severely deformed. She had, the only I could describe it is like a, an inch around, almost like a worm looking thing that came all across her face, like a growth.

It was a growth. And, and I felt like the spirit said, go and pray for her that that growth would be removed. And I was just like, no way.

And I blew it. I missed it. Now I don't know if I would have stopped it, that Lord would have healed it, but I want to try.

Why not try like and fail a thousand times. And then a thousand and one, somebody goes like, oh my gosh, this is gone. I'm healed.

I'm delivered. I'm set free. Don't worry.

We're so worried about how many times we fail. I told somebody the other day, it's like, hey, I fail and this, please don't come after me afterwards and try to encourage me about this. This is not a low self-esteem issue.

Okay. This is, but this is honest assessment from Sunday to Sunday in my pulpit, I fail probably 60 to 70% of the time. I get down after my sermon, I go, that was a bomb.

And that was, you know, and you know, people come up to you after it's a good sermon. You say, oh yeah. Which part did you like the best? And they go, Ooh, I wish I didn't have to ask you that.

And then you get in the car, you get in the car with your wife. And normally she says, man, that was a great message. And she's saying like, is it too cool in the car here today? It's like turn the air condition up.

It's, it's 20 degrees outside, honey. It's like, what do you need air conditioning for us? Oh yeah, heat, you know. And so, you know, 60, 60 to 70% of the time, it's just, you know, it's not a home run.

It's not, you know, you wish you were, but you keep getting, you still preach, right? How many of you are preachers? Do you still preach? Even if you blast, even if you bombed last week or last four weeks, you still, you still get up there because there's a confidence that you're called. Right. And, and occasionally you, you, you know, the bat connects with the ball at least.

And so you feel, you feel up next time I could, could get a home run here, but you keep at it. But sometimes when it comes to confronting the powers of darkness, fighting the good fight of faith, believing that God can do miracles on the streets, believing that the worst gang members, the, the, the roughest looking people, the, the, the, the deformed, the, the, the, the outcasts, the homeless, the, the, the, the, the up and out that, that have so much money. You feel like they're not going to need our message of, of hope.

Man, just if we can fail occasionally in our pulpit, we can fail occasionally in our ministry to people that are coming outside of our city, outside the gates. And so don't be afraid. He has not, like I said yesterday, has not given you a spirit of fear.

So when you feel that, and so with this lady, I just said, Lord, please, we had to leave the next day to fly to Texas. Please, Lord, I think she's going to be back there. And when she gets back there, I'm coming out of my car.

I will not, I will refuse to pass her by one more time. Give me another opportunity. You know what? God will do that.

He's going to give you chances to, to believe him for great things and see, see the supernatural take place in your life, in your ministry. The supernatural God that saves a soul is the same and forgives sins. Jesus asked that question, which is easier to forgive sins or to say your body's healed, to be healed? We answer that question, to forgive sins is easier, right? In our theology, right? In our, in our, in our, in our ministry practice, if we give an altar call and 50 people come forward to get saved, don't you believe all 50 are saved? Or, you know, unless some deceiver comes in the crowd or something like that, or, but, but, you know, you pretty much, oh good, we had 50 people come to But what if 50 people come forward for healing? We don't, we don't, we don't believe it.

We don't believe it's as easy. When I, you know, if there's 50 people come forward for healing, Lord, please give us one, you know, this, that's my ankle deep faith, right? Just one, please, Lord. But I think God wants us to have the kind of faith, and it's not that weird kind of name it, claim it, just like, you know, you're, you're healed.

Really? You know, it's like, you're just, you know, it's, it's, if you're, if you're still like that, you know, if, if your arm's like this, and you can't move it after you're done praying, you're not healed, and you're gonna say, well, I'm healed. It's like, and so when your arm's like this, and you pray, and you can go like that, then you're healed, all right? Now, now you can, you can claim the authority of Christ and the cross, the blood of Christ, but, but, but you want to see the reality that take place, just as when you want to see when people came to the altar, and they got saved, you want to see the fruit of that, you want to see them change. If they go back, and they're still living with their girlfriend, and doing drugs five years later, maybe that didn't work too well at the altar, right? Maybe they need to come again, but the same thing with prayer.

Believe in God that, that, that, that our sons and our daughters who are addicted to drugs can be set free. I, I, I saw that in my own life. I, I probably, I'm not going to go into the whole testimony, but one of my sons got on drugs, uh, ran away from home, was living homeless, and one day he called me.

It's probably two in the morning. He was in prison. He got put in prison.

He was scared, and, uh, but he said, you know, dad, I got in here. I was frightened. I'm a, I'm a good little kid from a Christian home.

I don't, these guys are big, and tough, and rough in here. I don't know what to do, but he said, but I was laying on my bed last night in the, in the prison cell. It was totally dark.

Lights were off. I was frightened. I was, I was scared.

I was addicted. I was withdrawing, and he said, but all of a sudden, the light of Jesus came into that. Literally, he said, literally, the light of Jesus, the, my room turned bright, and, and he said, for the first time, there's this warmth, and this glow, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and he said, dad, you've been talking about that Pentecostal stuff, that, you know, Shundada Bible stuff, all, you know, you've been, uh, I've been listening to all that, all those sermons for years, uh, and I thought it was the most foolish thing, but all of a sudden, in my prison cell, I just started saying, I don't know what, and he started praying in tongues, and, and, uh, if you're not from that school of thought, it's okay.

You could, let's, let's, your story would be, he started glorifying God, uh, whatever, whatever theology is, that's fine. It's, uh, but, but just God, God came, God came, and, and, and, and, uh, and, and so, my wife and I, we have confidence, we really believe, we have faith to believe that, that our addicted sons and daughters are going to come home, and prodigal children are going to return, marriages are going to be restored. We really believe that that's, that's a fight we need to pick, that's coming out of, it's coming out of the gate, and we need to, to go into and say, God, I'm going to stand for my marriage, I'm going to stand for my children, I'm going to stand for, I'm going to, I'm going to stand for, for our churches that are going to come to life.

I was with a pastor a week ago in Texas, and, and he asked me to come in his office for a few minutes, and he said, he said, Pastor Gary, uh, this church is on life support. He said, literally, I think it only has a few weeks left, uh, before, before it goes. This church's been in existence for decades, and it's about done, and you can see on his face, just like, like he's coming out of this, he's coming out of the gate with total defeat, like this can't be done, it's, it's, it's too far gone, you know, call for the coffin, it's, it's over, and some of you have situations here today where you're saying that it's, it's too late, it's, it's too difficult, it's, the, the coffin's already closed, the, the, the, the, the blow has already been dealt, and you've lost faith,

you lost confidence, not just, and, and when you speak about confidence in this conference, it's not just a confidence that is a good self-esteem or feeling better about yourself.

This may not be correct, but I would rather feel bad about myself and have the power of God than feel good about myself and, and not do anything with my life, you know, because, because I, you know, I, I think when I stand before God, He's not going to ask, how are you feeling? You know, it's, it's, it's, it's, do you know me? Do you walk in my steps? We love Jesus, we should walk, the scriptures tell us, walk even as He walked. Walk as He walked, that is awesome. Ever since I was 19 years old, I had this vision, I want to be like Jesus, I want to be like Jesus.

I, I almost thought, maybe I'll go buy some sandals and a robe, that's how much I want to be like Jesus, you know, but it's not an outward imitation, it's, it's the inward habitation of Christ, and He lives in you. The same Spirit that raised Lazarus, the same Spirit that raised Christ, the same Spirit raised this boy in the city of Nain from the dead dwells in you, and that Spirit should today bring life to you, that Spirit today should bring life to your family, your marriage, that Spirit in you should bring life to your body, a physical healing if you need it, that Spirit in you should bring life to a church that might seem almost dead, almost lifeless, that, that there's this, and, and I want to say today, the reason God had me, had me preach this message, because He wanted to pick a fight more than I did. He's wanting to pick a fight with what is that that's coming through your gate right now, that, that hardship, that pain, that sorrow, that suffering, and God wants to deal with it today.

So if you need a physical healing in your body, would you stand right now, wherever you are, stand up if you need a physical healing in your body. In Jesus' name right now, we're going to pray, Lord, we're going to believe for healing. We're going to believe for healing, Jesus.

Let it flow right now. Lord, let it pour out right now. Lord, there's, there's, there's some who are going through a situation and, and they've put it under the label of sovereignty of God, I need to learn a lesson from this.

If that's it, so be it. But Lord, we don't want, by your Holy Spirit's power, remove from that category which is of the devil and not of you. And what is of the devil? Now, we rebuke it now in the name of Jesus.

We say, go, you have no place, even in our physical bodies. We, Lord, we're not so advanced in our old school Pentecost that we can't still pray for the sick and see the sick healed. And Lord, we're asking now for bodies to be healed, delivered, set free.

What's come into the gate is now going to go out a different way. It's going to go in Jesus' name. Hallelujah.

Somebody near him, just put a hand on their shoulder. There's something about just laying hands on the sick and they shall recover. This is this, Mark 16 gives us this authority to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

Thank you, Jesus. Thank you. Thank you, Jesus, for healing our bodies.

Thank you, Jesus. Lord, we, we want strong bodies to contend for the faith because sometimes when our bodies are weak, our mind gets distracted by that. Thank you, Jesus.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Father, give us faith now.

Give us faith to believe this. This is the day. Oh, Kelly, Kelly, Kelly.

Yeah. Hallelujah. All right.

All right. That's good. Why don't we be seated for just a moment? If you would go ahead and be seated.

Uh, for those of you who have family issues, things happening in your family that are, that are difficult, um, maybe an unsaved loved one, uh, marriages that are struggling. Sometimes pastors have the most difficult marriages because it's a hard job. I've been a pastor for 30 years, uh, 40, almost 40 years.

And in January I transitioned and my life is so much easier. It's like, Oh, I almost want to say, if you want peace, leave the ministry, but it's not true. That's not true.

So don't hear me say that. I didn't say that and you can erase it from the videotape, but pastoring particularly, I'm still in the ministry. I'm going to be in the ministry until I die.

I'm not going to retire, but pastoring is, is especially difficult. And it's difficult on the family. This is my wife.

And, and we want you to stand. If you want to pray for your marriage, for your children, maybe that are far from God, uh, children that are lukewarm or backsliding, would you stand down? Kelly's going to sing this song. Uh, it's an old fashioned, it's an old gospel song called there is a bomb in Gilead.

Uh, and just let that bomb minister to you right now for your family's sake. Okay. Kelly, sing this for us.

Bless you, Jesus. Lord, we're standing in the gap for our marriages right now. And we trust you, Jesus.

We're standing in the gap for our, our prodigal children right now. And we trust you, Jesus. Holy spirit.

I'm asking you right now in the name of Jesus, that our faith would arise, that we not say eventually Jesus might come through that gate one day and touch my son, my daughter or my marriage. We're asking you in your holy compassion, uh, to, for, for an immediate healing, like a testimony healing, like, like a today miracle, but Lord, we, we believe you, you clash the gates all the time. Not just after six months of prayer or two years of prayer, or the sovereignty of God's taken us through eight years of struggle.

Lord, there could be a time and place for that, but there's also a time and place. We believe in faith where you immediately come. And that's true.

And that, that, and that transition happens in an instant where we believe that even today in this place, father, I would pray that, that, uh, there'd be parents here that get a phone call from, uh, from, uh, from a daughter who they haven't talked to in five years. And, and, and they're going to hear their daughter say, I don't know what happened today. But I just want to tell you something, something, something stirring in me is, and you can tell them what it is, or they may already know Jesus could come to listen to me.

If we were just in Amman, Jordan, if, if God can come to a Muslim in a dream and say, I am Jesus follow me, then why not to our own children? Right. I'm glad Muslims are getting dreams, but how about our, our, our prodigal families are those that are far from God. And how about as we just prayed for healing that you check it out, you know, you go to the doctor Monday, um, or if your arms like that and see if it moves, you know, just, uh, and then tell people about it, tell people about it.

That's what happened in Jesus ministry. He'd heal. Somebody say, don't tell anybody, right.

That's going to really work. It never, it never worked. They are always disobedient to Jesus when they got healed and they, and they went and told people because of such good news.

I couldn't hold it in. Uh, I pray for you in the name of Jesus, such good news that they can't hold it in. Lord, give them testimonies, give them testimonies.

Lord, when pastors preach in the pulpit, not just theology, which is good. We want that, but to be able to say, I pray for so-and-so and they got healed. I pray for so-and-so they got saved.

I prayed for that gang member. And he's here to church today. He got, he got delivered.

Here's, here's my son. He's coming up. He's going to stand in the pulpit me today.

And we're going to pray over him because he just gave his life back to Jesus on Saturday night. And here he is Sunday morning with us at church. Those are the kinds of things we're believing God for, right? Because, because, because Jesus came here today to pick a fight.

And, and when he, when he fights, right? No, nobody beats him. When he says this is a fight. Well, whoever he's fighting, loses death, loses sickness, loses fear, loses discouragement, loses loss, loses suffering, loses.

Jesus is victorious. Amen. Amen.

Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus.

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