

Grieving the Spirit

by Leonard Ravenhill

Leonard Ravenhill's sermon emphasizes the necessity of glorifying Jesus and the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers, warning against complacency and the grieving of the Spirit.

Duration: 57:08

Scripture: John 4:24, John 6:35, John 6:48, John 7:37, John 8:12, John 19:30, Acts 2:1-4

Topics: "Grieving The Spirit"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the concept of worldliness and its impact on society. He shares a personal experience of witnessing a young lady being shocked by a prayer during a church rally. The preacher emphasizes that God loves every generation and offers grace abundantly. He highlights the tendency of people to seek fulfillment in worldly pursuits, but Jesus offers true satisfaction and fulfillment. The preacher emphasizes the importance of the Word of God, stating that it is eternal and powerful, and encourages the audience to focus on Jesus as the source of life.

Transcript

When I was a little boy, I was very fond of cake that they make in England, and they put sugar on it, and all kinds of lovely things. And I would eat my share of that, and then say to my mother, now, I'd take another piece of that. Oh, no, mother would say, no, not good for you.

I used to wonder why she gave me the first piece if it wasn't good for me, but anyhow, she said, another piece isn't good for you. And then a bit later on, when I wasn't feeling too well, she'd say, now, open your mouth, and she'd get a spoon and a bottle, and she'd say, now, take this. And I'd go, oh! And she'd say, open your mouth, take another one.

And I said, but mother, I wanted to take some cake, and you said a second helping wasn't any good, so this couldn't do me any good, it's really horrid. And usually you find that you only get what we don't like. Dr. Sangster of Westminster, living in the city where I lived, and he had two children.

One little boy said, Daddy, at Christmas, amongst other things, I want a diary. And he said, all right, you'll get a diary, and you'll get a pen if you're a good boy, and that great morning came, and he discovered, amongst other things, that he had received a lovely leatherback diary, and he also had a pen. But you know, he couldn't get through the rest of the week, he wanted Sunday to come, because Sunday, he said, just before I went into my room, I turned into my bedroom, and he said, I looked at him and thought, what

a pair of angels they are.

He said, don't they really look wonderful? And he said, as I turned to him, my little boy stared dead under the light. But he said, I went, and my first diary, the first day, went to church, daddy preached. He said it was told and rendered.

Only twice, as far as I know, Jesus has made three stupendous claims here in chapters 6 and 7 and 8 of John. You see, Jesus is not a luxury, he's a necessity. He said, I'm not only taking them back historically, every Jew knew what he meant.

He said, we've been guided, and people coming behind us, and in commemoration of that, we're here at this very feast that Jesus speaks of, in the seven of the day, the temple orchestra, and at the pool of Shiloh, and he bore the burden. God is bypassing us, provoking us, says, oh, I have stirred up this nation of mine, and God will send me by. But God loves my people.

And he will say, I had a great prayer. You remember, dear pastor, he said, some of you, you never had one. The prayer you had, Jesus, and the song.

That's why, my dear friend, you need to ask the church, including all the other families. If he is, then it will be an instinct in life. God is life, and life begins in the church.

These are the words of men done. Banned it, slain it, burned it. This word lives.

He went up. He's going to reverse it. He's the Lord.

And the spirit of pruning, the spirit of pruning, of the same Holy Ghost, went there when they locked Jesus up. If Jesus tried, Jesus. Because like everything else, it's power Jesus raised.

You have no power today without it. And it was a work of love. Can all souls pick it up? Our people can't tell the difference between a psychic meeting and a spiritual meeting.

That's right. You stir the emotion. Jesus' power.

Courageously went. And they'd seen that water poured out and said, our fathers. Jesus says, I'm not wrong.

And he that brings it up. This spake he on the spirit, which was not yet given. The spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.

In the next ten minutes, but let's go ahead. Because the holiness churches. We leave the Pentecostals and somebody and what have you alone.

Some of you boys are trying to wriggle out. Why? Because Jesus was not glorified. Well, how are we dealing with spirit? The Holy Ghost will never come until.

In fact, you'll never get the blessing. But I was in a meeting the other day. I'm preaching.

I happen to make an illustration point. And that was a young lady. Too many died on the spot.

The pastor of the church is here this afternoon. And she loves the young lady next to her. She followed the priesthood and she really encouraged me.

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. Yeah. You were mistaken.

You didn't see a ring on my finger. Lose, lose. I don't have it.

Now don't you shout about that. Because I'm going to tell you that I just as much see a girl than a God. You know, some people do it.

They get a heaven. They're running around the street. Hey, you have to know where the father will probably go when he came home.

Put a ring on his hand. You know where Joseph live in? Joseph. Which Joseph? Joseph, the pattern of Christ, isn't it? Uh, yes.

Oh, Georgie, yes, the great man wants to see you. Say, brother, you, you compromised, you know. Pull your finger! Peace be still, isn't it lovely and quiet? Now, don't you go home and say I defended the ring.

You say, this is the first time. If we let that ring in, you don't know what will happen next. Well, I mean that because you just have these things, that that necessarily means you've got the Holy Ghost around.

And some of the folk are the most rigid in tradition, and I said I did. You can't get off your knees if... Ah, the sausage, your sausage machines. But I can get it for you, I'll tell you.

And you lambaste the man or the woman that has a ring. I said, oh. And the man said, you know.

He said, uh. Do you think you've got what we need, I said. Give us a date, I said, I don't have any dates anyhow.

So he talked to the other man, and the other pastor said to him, how are you getting on? What are you selling now? All he said, I'm selling a defroster. You know, you put it inside of your refrigerator, switch it in, and, oh, how many do you... Well, he said, Brother Abel, let us know sometime when you have some dates. I said, well, it's been a millennium, maybe, but... But, brother, he said he's a nice preacher, too, and he's a clever preacher, but, oh, he's so dead.

He said, what would you think is wrong with a fellow like that? I said, well, he wants to get one of those gadgets he sells. Why, it used to be when I went to the Holyness Church, the accent was on worshippers. Now it's on visitors.

Get them in at nine o'clock. This is how many people we had in Sunday school. And hell is a... Just what Dr. Anderson said this morning, maybe in a more clever way than I said last night.

The thing is, you get the brooding of the Holy Ghost. You know, folk will always come where there's a fire. You don't need to send postcards out of the telephone and say there's a fire.

They'll come where there's a fire. Brother, I want to tell you, they don't want to come anyhow. We click to shibboleth.

The ring, it's the ring. It's the... The world, what do you mean? Well, I love people who wear rings. Or take them off.

That doesn't necessarily mean that one thing or the other. People have no conviction about it. Come on.

You say, but the Word of God says so. All right, come on. I'll take it to task.

Your doctrine's right, your life's wrong. We can be very careful. John Wesley powdered his wig.

Isn't he a Wesley, I think? But you know, one of the great... He preached in short. Oh, don't let the man... A ring is worldly. Yes, but if it goes to plain dress, I say, go down to the... You talk about sacrifice? Jehovah's Witnesses run two factories in this country and nobody... You've nearly to extract that, getting teeth out of people, to even give a tenth in some of the churches.

And then he said the other way... And if you feed it well enough, it will... The spirit is grieved, and the spirit doesn't come because... I'll tell you another reason why the spirit is grieved. It's by this thing. Brother, we talk about tongues.

You don't need to talk about the tongue. You only need to look after the one you've got. Listen, preacher.

If you're leading your church, you're leading a movement... I've suffered enough from other people's tongues. I'll let nobody suffer from mine anyhow. It's a fire.

It's set on fire and hell. And you might have preached... The Holy Ghost is not given because Jesus is not glorified. He's not glorified.

You've got heart trouble when you come to a meeting. As I said last night, coming to an altar isn't the cure for your problem. Don't you suggest to people if they make a second trip to the altar that they're all right? The problem isn't dying to sin at the altar.

The problem is dying to self every day. You say there's no sin in fishing. And the spirit is grieved.

I'll tell you how the spirit's grieved it up. I've been in and out of so many denominations on this trip. And you know what I found? The most irreverent churches in the whole of America are holiness churches.

Not a bit of reverence. Think I'm going to work. Somebody said to me only the other day what we... The Puritans were in Raphael last night.

People come... They don't come to meet God. They come to hear... They don't come in saying... He was in the Heavenly Revival said that... He took a bunch of young girls down to the Keswick Conference in England. Sit down and ask... Six months.

And my church has grown from about 120... Pardon me. From about 50 to 120. And he gets a pat on the back.

And he deserves it sure enough. But he says this is the thing that troubles me. Across the road there, a young Pentecostal preacher came.

And this week he's striving to touch 1,800... And I don't know the answer. Because at least Sunday morning they spend that hour. Many of them have no preaching.

They spend it in worship. In worship. In worship.

Now I don't know about your country. I've been in one or two. They sing quietly.

Oh come let us adore him Christ the Lord. And sings it maybe 20 times. The atmosphere is just filled with worshipping.

They never start worshipping with a hymn at this time. For old-fashioned holiness and all. I've been in two or three churches in four weeks.

You know I said that... I just finished a two-week meeting in... You see I... We've lost... Yes you may nod your head. Hypocrisy. The only way to get power is by the Holy Spirit.

Now I know we can get fed and we can get life. But there's something wrong my friend if you... He was the first prophet. Now I say this... It's going to be a hard thing to get it.

And I'm preaching to my own heart as well as you. Good theology and preaching sound doctrine. The answer is not preaching merely to this generation.

We need prophets. And God found Amos, a man gathering sycamore fruit. And he found Obadiah.

And he found Joel when a lamb was having waves after wave of locusts. They were eating everything up and there was darkness. And he found Habakkuk.

And Habakkuk says it's a picture of absolute, complete death. The fig tree shall not blossom. In the darkest and most desolate hour that God raised up his prophets.

Why? Because out of them... You get the answer in those men that went there to the upper room. Nervous... Ghosts came upon them. Now what a difference.

You know, the more you have of God inside... The less you need of material things out there. You don't show me a man that saw the Lord in things... Until God left him. And now we're interested in... Look what I've got.

And the more we reach out... Church for a moment... The church never had more things than she has today. Because she never had less power. Sixteen walked 77 and read the life of Thomas Boston.

A man that went to an air... When he preached he could see through the windows and then... He didn't know the person... She got... And God came upon him... And then we discover him beginning... To move out and as soon as... If you get God's blessing... If you get God's favor you'll get the devil's crown. And those things began to move. His wife lost her mentality.

And he kept to that in a room for years and years and years and looked after her. But that man got down there before God. 1764 about.

And he stayed there for 20 years. I'm going to get out of this. I bet it wasn't a perfect church on the day of Pentecost.

I don't know, maybe Ananias and Paul can stand what you and I can give them. In those days we have had... If you talk about having another Pentecost do you think people would stand for... You think if somebody came to my church... Or Ananias first of all. Come on! Elders.

Here's Ananias. Pentecost meant what? Pain. Here's a hypocrite.

Smart. I don't think your healing ministers do that on TV do they? Well they'll do that, they'll do that. There's one thing you can be sure about friend.

Revival never fits into our theology. Right. You can make a little narrow vessel like that.

But when Jesus comes there'll be a well. Let me mention one. Kiss him.

The old man. The younger, the elder brother. He said he's dead.

That's the body product. Jesus came to make dead. And it doesn't say anything.

But I'm convinced of this at all. The first time I came to America it's not as fashionable now. I used to see on the side of the windows of cars.

They used to stick a little thing up you know. Visit the... This shrine. Or visit this... What do you call it now? National Park there.

Yellowstone Park. Or come and see the Mammoth Caves of Kentucky. And I looked at cars plastered all over with signs.

I saw a young man one day. He'd a broken down jalopy. He had all the labels on nearly around the country.

And I said you must have some money to have been around all these places. He smiled. I said what are you smiling at? He said I've never been to one of them.

I said you've never been to one of them? I said what are you doing with all the signs? I bought them in a shop down the street he said. So you weep like Jesus wept dear. Let the beauty of Jesus... You go on trial for your own sweat and blood.

And you go on trial sister for that long tongue of yours. And you'll go better because you had so much money in the bank and wouldn't get it out. What does Jesus thank the Father for? Well it says laid it out.

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