

Three-Fold Vision - Part 1

by Leonard Ravenhill

The speaker emphasizes the need for revival and prayer, and criticizes the wealth and complacency of Americans.

Duration: 1:02:26

Scripture: Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Vision"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of having a vision in life. He explains that having a vision without a task makes one a visionary, while having a task without a vision leads to drudgery. He also mentions that having a vision aligned with a task makes one a missionary. The preacher then discusses the concept of prophets and how they are different and often misunderstood. He uses examples from the Bible, such as Moses and the burning bush, to illustrate his points.

Transcript

My voice isn't very good, it will get better, I'm sure. I think the first thing we should do is to remember that while we sit in peace, and you've had a good supper, we should remember that people are dying in Bosnia. I remember a few years ago there was a conference at a place called Camp David, you may remember, when I conveyed in the leaders of the Jews, and Mr. Carter was the president, clasped their hands together with somebody else, and he said that this was a period of peace from here to the end of the world.

Mr. Bush told us that the, what he called, desert war was over. The fact is that at this very moment there are 35 places in the world where there's war. I have a few heroes.

One of them is a young man that came to my office just a couple of months ago, he'd just come back from Bosnia, and he said it's the most terrible sight he ever saw. He'd been in Vietnam, he'd been in the central states when the Sandinistas were fighting, but he said to go down the street in Bosnia was terrible, here's a body of a young lady and there's a head over there, there's a river of blood down Main Street. Children were starving, and the amazing thing is he's gone back again this week.

He doesn't have any church behind him. He's a very wonderful individual. And there are others like this.

So I'm going to ask that we just cry for him. All of us have a minute of prayer, and pray particularly for the Christians who are in Bosnia, who are suffering so much. Everybody is suffering.

Religion doesn't make any difference. Suffering comes to everybody, whether you're black or white or rich or poor, but we live in luxury. I don't know why we sing God Bless America.

Do you know some women in India? You're in India. Women in India got their towels done today, to bake a meal tomorrow. God Bless America, why? Do you have two ovens, or do you have three? Do you have two cars, or do you have three? Do you have two telephones, or do you have three? Do you know how rich we are in America? We flush our toilets with drinking water.

Do you get a thing to that? What you put down the toilet every day will cost a stack of money. Oh, but I'm an American. You know the greatest fear I have? I'm not afraid of death.

I've been at death's door many times. I'm afraid of God who withdrew his spirit from America. He said, my spirit shall not always thrive with man.

I checked the Billy Graham's office, and they're pretty accurate there. I said, how many Bible schools are there in America? How many, how many seminaries? Well, as you know, America and Canada are joined together. America and Canada have 450 Bible schools and 250 seminaries.

Did Sodom have one Bible school? Did Gomorrah have a seminary? That's a similar kind of battle. Let them all go, all go if you want. Don't break up the meeting.

I'm afraid we don't treasure what we have. Some parts of the world don't. On one page of this sacred book we have 26 translations.

My judgment on the Bible is this. It's either absolute or obsolete. You can't believe what you want like David was saying.

Believe this stuff, forget the other. Forget the dispensation of it. The Christ I serve, he's no older than he was 10,000 years ago.

He lived before creation. He's the only potent saint who lived before he was born. The only potent saint who lived after he died.

I like the emphasis David made on the throne. The British throne is impassive just now. It's a mockery to the world.

I go back again and again and again to a Hebrew one. Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever. David didn't dwell long enough on that this morning on worship.

I'll spank her afterwards. Well, I'll tell you what. I don't keep you listening much older than I am.

You'll never hear the best of preaching than you heard this morning. People asked me about this conference months ago. I said if you only come to one meeting, if you only come Saturday night, come Friday night.

David has a rare combination of being a teacher and a preacher at the same time. And today he reminded us about the throne in that wonderful fourth chapter of Revelation. What did he say? Who sits on the

throne? Jesus.

Who sits with him? The Virgin Mary? Forget it. The Catholic Church actually does. You know, one day Jesus will not bow the knee to the Pope.

The Pope will bow the knee to Jesus. Will the Virgin Mary sit on the throne with him? No. Who will? Those that want them.

Overcomers. People say sometimes, Oh, you know, I'm a survivor. I say, I'm not.

I'm an overcomer. Surviving means you're going down for the third time. Somebody drags you by the head and saves you.

No, brother. I'm not living to celebrate eternal life. But there, I've got it now.

We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. Well, I listened very attentively this morning. And I listen to that message again.

I get a tape, I'm sure. They often tell Martha, I say many days to her, darling, we're rich. After meeting this morning, a man said to me, your change of son, very well.

He's a good preacher. No, he isn't a good preacher. He's a great preacher.

And his brother's great. And the mother's great. She used to supervise one of the largest hospitals in England.

For three years she had to do all the main surgery, everything, because she's still in her head. I don't have that genius. There's two boys, two of the best preachers in the world.

The other one is one of the big teachers, mixed all the museums. Mixes with kings and princes and people. No, to me, the man, he never praised him at all.

He's never lost, lost tipping to all the common facts. But you know, if you strike, if you take a piece of metal and put it in a furnace, the first thing is, the metal goes into the furnace, then the furnace goes into the metal. I used to watch a blacksmith, and he'd take a piece of metal, and, I won't use your words, David, turns it into the fire, and he'd pull it out, and it was red at the end.

Then he'd put it back and turn up the bellows, and they'd fall off. You'd look in the furnace, you can't tell one from the other. Not only does the metal enter the fire, the fire enters the metal.

You see, we've sung many of this for many years. There's room at the cross for you, forget it. I changed that, I have a good card.

I sent it all over the country. Not there's room after the cross for you, there's room on the cross. Most of us have never been crucified.

I remember, dear Dr. Joseph, one thing you knew about the man going down the street carrying a cross, he's not coming back. It's a one-way ticket. I want to tell you this morning, I was richly blessed.

I couldn't follow you very much all the way, because just when you put a piece of metal in the fire, and the fire enters the metal, and then you strike it, sparks fly off in every direction. I preached in the conference of

preachers when the best-known author and preacher in America was there, and he said, God really spoke in that meeting. I said, how do you know? Because while you were saying one thing, the Spirit was saying another to me.

Well, I was doing the same thing. There's a little, there's a book here. See this beautiful book? It's nearly as old as me.

That's why it's falling apart. I was going to say, I won't sell you it for a hundred dollars. I was going to say, I'll sell you it for a thousand, and give the money to Mitchell, but a man came in my office, and he looked down, he saw a book.

He said, I've wanted that book for years. I said, I bought that from England. I said, well, if you can't have it for a hundred dollars, I'll sell you it for a thousand.

Oh, he grabbed his wallet and brought me a cheque for five pounds. I've still got some books with him. But I gave the book to Mitchell.

This is an old, old Methodist hymn book. I've taken it around the world. I read some of it every day.

But there's a book at the back. Jack has some, I think. Where's Jack? Where's your hand, Jack? Good.

Do you have Dr. Toth's book? I can't hear. Oh. Well, you didn't get Dr. Toth's book.

It has many of the hymns that are found in this book. Dr. Toth's book is called The Christian Book of Mystical Verse. He's gathered lots and lots of hymns.

I'm saying this. Let me put it right here. When David was talking about worship, I remember going to a town called Bradford.

I never went for three-day meetings. There are churches in England standing today that we started 60 years ago. We went to towns, took a tent, slept in a tent, ate in a tent, prayed in a tent, fasted in a tent, walked from city to city, Wesley left London to go north to Newcastle.

Came back to London, went to Bristol. He rode on horseback. I didn't have a horse, so I walked it.

I walked it with five other young men. For three years we walked to England, 22 to 30, 22 to 25, four miles a day. Now and then I'd be walking across the room.

But I'd do it again if I could. So we went to Bradford. I remember going to Bradford because of this reason.

They made the best cloth there and I was in the clothing business. At least I was a tailor. And while we were there we met one of the world's most wonderful men, Smith Wigglesworth.

Any of you ever heard about Smith Wigglesworth? Boy, any of you ladies pregnant, be careful. He was in a meeting one day, not far from my home, and here's a woman, obviously something wrong with her, had a great big tummy. So he went down.

And he's shouting at her, are you pregnant? Hold on, what about this? I've got a big ulcer, a tumor, a big tumor, a tumor, it's growing and growing. So he said, shut your eyes. And he punched her in the belly like that.

He said, you're healed, but you'd rather heal the dead. He didn't worry him a bit. He was going down the street with a few of his friends in France, and a boy comes through a garden gate, and he stepped back.

A little fellow had a terrible, well, I had this talk a while ago, it interfered with my, with my voice. And this little boy had a terrible, he couldn't speak. And he said, Lord, don't let these men speak to me.

Everybody makes fun of me. I mean, Mr. Eaglesworth had never seen this kid in his life. And he came up to him and said, son, come here.

This boy came forward and said, speak! And he talked right away. They could do it in Rome right now. There's so much fake healing in there, I'd have some fake healing.

Okay. I went to Bradford, there I met this wonderful man. But then the lady came to our meeting, oh, mercy.

She needs oil of the lay from her head to her feet. She was on the front row when noses were given out. She had a nose like a banana.

I'd often said, she wouldn't win a, she couldn't win a beauty competition at Crocodile Farm. And to my amazement, he said at the end of the meeting, and she had a horrible voice. Boy, I thought she'd be made up all the way around.

And she just said, I forgive you. So we went to her house. I can't forget it.

You wouldn't give her \$10 for everything in the house. And then she said what I wanted her to say. Those words.

So we knelt down at this wooden table. She had a living room to live in. She had a bed over the bath in the toilet.

She had a kitchen stove in the toilet. And she lived in that little coop of a kind of thing. Boy, I could hold up that table as though it was in the upper room.

And somebody said to me, this woman does nothing but pray. I thought about what you were preaching this morning, David, because I heard a man talking about something David said this morning just kind of nailed down what I'd been saying during the week. One thing, I thought, since this is Saturday afternoon, 80 years ago today, I went to a Methodist Bible study with my mother for a moment.

I don't remember. I can tell you the names of dozens of men. They said that they know me.

And they asked me, do you know so-and-so? No. Well, he preached with you. Well, you haven't had dinner with him.

Well, I don't know him. Are you getting old? Yeah. Why don't you know him? Why don't you know him? For one reason only, I never heard him pray.

It's one thing for me to stand here and talk to you about God. It's another thing to talk to God about you. And if I wanted, if I started my life over again, I'd give more time to prayer, more time to Bible study.

But again, I listened to that precious old woman pray and never forgot me. And the other thing that David said this morning, I was going to say, I have a whole shelf of books on how to be filled with the Spirit, fruits

of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, love of the Spirit, joy in the Spirit. Except, David, I've never heard anybody ever mention the grief of the Holy Ghost.

If all your experience of the Holy Ghost is clapping your hands and stuffing your feet, you didn't get the real thing. There's an old saying, laugh when the world laughs with you. It's true.

Laugh when the church laughs with you. You weep and you weep alone. But the key to revival is what? In this book.

You don't need a new book. You don't need to buy those wonderful books for the back, except mine. But, what does it say? He that goes forth, what? Weeping.

Isn't it amazing, Paul says to Timothy, I remember your tears, did he give you five lessons on weeping? What does it say? In Jude, praying in the Holy Ghost is not praying in tongues. Some have made, I believe in tongues, but some have made chapters. Praying in the Holy Ghost is praying with the strength of the Holy Ghost, the wisdom of the Holy Ghost, the grief of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus wept. Are you better than Jesus? Daddy mentioned this morning, what, Genesis 34? He mentioned it. Genesis 32, Moses comes down from the mountain.

What did he do? Well, he'd been with God. You get like the people you live with. He'd been with God.

What did God say? These people have seen signs and wonders and miracles, they forgot all they needed was a golden calf and it blotted the world out. Aaron, the anointed of God, was leading half-naked people. He shone back to it.

They'd seen the sea divided. They'd seen signs and wonders. And Moses starts praying for them.

God says, go down the mountain, see what your brothers have done. I'm angry with them. What does it say there? I'll tell you what the paraphrase of it says in the Methodist hymn book.

Let Moses in the spirit groan and God cries out, let me alone. Does God ever say that when you pray? Do you want him to pat you on the back and say the most sanctified person on earth, the best preacher, gift of tongues, you'll sing at big meetings and honorable armies? Later in the chapter, the high priest says to Moses, not only says God is angry, he was exceedingly angry. He was very angry.

And Moses said, I stand here between a living God and dying people. Then he says, God says, Moses, let me alone. Do you think he said that without tears? Do you think that most amazing prayer a little bit further in the chapter where he says, God let me die.

Wasn't your wonderful hero Nathan Hale who said, I'm sorry I have only one life and one body to give to die for my country. The wicked English killed him. The reason we don't get revival is we don't pay the price for it.

One word is the key as David said. I don't mind keys either, David. One word is the key.

Obedience. This is David's first time here. I'm sure he'll come again.

It's such a blessing. Everybody who's gone around the world, they all need that. This may be my last trip.

I'm not sure. If I can have my church, I don't care if I never preach again. What I'd like to do, I can't.

I've got a precious, wonderful gift in life. She lives in a home where they have servants. Now she's a servant to everybody.

A woman, 83 years of age, works from 7 in the morning and hardly goes to bed before 10 at night. We get 20 or 30 visitors a week to the house and now she serves everybody. Put me to shame.

I'd like to find a little house somewhere quiet where nobody knows my address. Every week people come from the ends of the earth to talk. What do you do when a man calls from Australia and says, will you talk to me for half an hour if I fly over? I said, yes, he came.

He took me to a prayer meeting and some of those great prayer meetings Jack Morrison was in and his wife, men would pray. We took the man home to supper. He stayed the night.

Mother said, Doctor, he's a medical doctor, do you have prayer meetings in Australia? He said, oh yes, we have prayer meetings in Australia but we don't get upset. He thought praying with tears and agony was being upset. How do you think the Apostle Paul prayed in Romans 9? I should wish myself a curse.

We don't want to die the way the Pope David said. We won't die. Not sanctify a victim but he said, sanctify your holy.

Okay, I count one of the greatest moments of my life to talk time and time again with Dr. Chaucer. One day as I went in his office well he said, don't ever come to Chicago without talking with me. So I went down to his office one day and he said, I've told this so often, look at the rug.

Well at that time there was no K-mark. There was a place called Kresge and he told me, I think he paid 59 cents for that little little rug made of a twisted bit of cloth. So I looked at the rug I wish I'd known if I'd been given some money for it but I might have made a fetish of it.

To me he's the greatest man of God I've ever met. Not the greatest preacher but he had an intimacy with God. And he just said this thing, he said, I'm not sure.

He said, I come to my office at 8 o'clock in the morning he used a good old bible word I get down on my belly at 8 o'clock I get up at 12 o'clock and I haven't said a word of prayer. I've just worshipped. You'll find in his hymn book I'm trying to put a hymn book together with Lillian Harvey we've quoted quite often from one of the favorites of Dr.

Tozer I can't think of his name right now William Faber Faber wrote and quoted Tozer often quoted how here's Tozer on his belly four hours without saying a word of prayer gazing that's the very thing that the greatest minister that ever entered China said gazing, gazing thou hast made me gaze upon thee and thy beauty fills my soul by thy transforming power thou hast made me home but Tozer will quote over and over again laying there as though Christ were visible how beautiful how beautiful the sight of thee must be thine endless wisdom boundless power and awful purity O Jesus Jesus dearest Lord forgive me if I say for very love thy sacred name a thousand times a day burn burn within me love of God burn fiercely night and day till all the dross of earthly life is burned and burned away if

you want to go and get sanctified put your knees to the ground raise your hands get there are millions of people filled with sanctification come on be honest aren't we here to talk truth how many people are in the upper room about what about what a hundred and twenty I have it written in my office I know the man that broadcasts to the world every Sunday Dan Betts you know that he's in Florida anyhow and he's written in

I shall know him, I shall know him by the prints of the nails in his hand. A quick thing. I didn't find a lot of stuff to say, just to kind of stir your minds up tonight.

I don't know much about opera. I know that Verdi played his opera Aida in the great, what do you call it, in Milan, in Italy, in the opera house. And when he finished, the people clapped in cheers.

The young Hitler horse is from his carriage. And let him go down the stairs, pushed his carriage, they pushed his coat. And they pulled it down the street, yelling all the time, Verdi, Verdi, Verdi, Verdi.

That was ten o'clock at night. They were still shouting at midnight. They were still shouting at three o'clock in the morning.

He went to the window and there were people dancing in the street and shouting, Verdi, Verdi. I ain't going to sing as the Italians do. All because he wrote an opera.

They did so without making vows. If he used to make them in the heat of a meeting and then tomorrow there's no atmosphere. You face the world of flesh and the devil.

You won't gain an inch of ground in this meeting, but what the devil will try and get five inches back. So here's hundreds of people shouting, Verdi, Verdi. They're intoxicated with joy because he wrote an opera.

Wait, there's a man. He's in a tomb. They put a stone on the tomb.

They put wax over the stone. They put sixteen soldiers. They put all the sinners in the world.

They put every demon in hell there. Christianity hangs on one thing and not on the cross. Do you remember the chorus? Living he loved me, dying he saved me, buried me, carried my sins far away, writing he justified freely forever.

But David, I don't know if you've done it, I'd like to hear you do it. I never once heard a sermon on the ascension. Jesus has to more than die, he has to ascend to the Father.

Every demon in hell is nervous and shaking when he rises from the dead. Every angel is waiting to proclaim it. And some of the tomb rogues, I don't know why we only sing as David, David said, David, why do we only sing up from the grave he rose every Easter time? We ought to sing it every Sunday.

The most disappointing day in the life of Jesus when he rose from the dead, nobody was there. Not one of the lepers he healed was there. Not one of the blind barculers was there.

Nicodemus wasn't there. His own mother wasn't there. How many times he told them, destroy this body and I'll rise again.

And there was nobody there. Do you think he didn't feel it? The simple question, did you thank God today that he rose? Isn't it amazing, in a Christian kind of way, isn't it like a miracle? The outstanding Sunday is not Easter Sunday or Christmas Sunday, it's what? What do you call it, Sunday, football Sunday? Yes, Super? Super Bowl Sunday. Everybody lives for Super Bowl Sunday.

They spend so much time watching football, and spend about Jesus, up from the grave he arose. You know what I believe somebody needs to go to America and preach the new birth. I don't believe 5% of all the Christians, apostolic, Pentecostal, Methodist, Nazarenes have saved.

And that's true of England. You go to your own pastor and say, Pastor, I want to ask you one question. Do you have a witness of the Spirit? John Wesley, one of the greatest friends I've ever met, do you know who he is? I read it today.

Charles Wesley put John Wesley's theology to music. And one thing that Charles Wesley wrote, my heart is full of Christ. And long as we speak a glorious message, you know what John Wesley said? I went to London, I went to Birmingham, I went to Manchester, I offered men Christ.

We don't offer Christ, we offer them heaven. Do you want to go to heaven? Raise your hand. Do you want forgiveness of sins? Raise your hand.

The one battle David didn't tell you, he had three cruel years of conviction of sin. Why? Because as Paul said to Timothy, you've known the scriptures from being a child. Your mother knew it, your grandmother knew it.

We took David and the family every time we could, to England, to conferences, and in Ireland we did, and in America we did. David didn't sign to an artist. He does wonderful painting.

But his battle was, he wanted to design his own studio, a follower. But he knew, a scripture that stuck with him then, he often preaches now, is this, you're not your own, you're bought with a price. So he dropped his brush and never picked it up since.

And I appreciate that. But, three hundred years ago, there's a great preacher in Scotland by the name of Philip Douglas. He wrote the greatest thing ever written outside the Bible on regeneration.

And he wrote that lovely hymn we hardly ever sing anymore, we're not too up and going. Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away. He taught me how to watch and pray and live rejoicing every day.

Happy day. And he goes on to sing happy day. And when he got from his knees, he'd had wrestlings too.

But when he got up, he put it on record forever. I sang it hundreds of times. My granny sang it in the fireplace.

It is done, the great transaction's done. I am my Lord. And he's mine.

Don't come in my office unless you're living and walking with God. I'll put my finger out between your eyes and say, does Christ live in you? Well I'm a Methodist. I didn't ask you that.

I got the baptism. I didn't ask you that. Does Christ live in you? Does Christ weep through you? How do you think God looks down on a hell of a world like this? He looks on bodily at night, running with blood.

One of America's most gifted preachers, he doesn't count generations by 40, he counts them by 70. He says we had 70 years and then judgment came on America. What was it called? The Civil War.

Then we had another 70 years. We had judgment. What was it called? It was called 1929, the crash of all the banks.

Another 70 years goes to 1998 or 9. We're ready for another thunderous, devastating demolition that God gives. Nobody's going to escape. Our precious other son, he had to go do some business for Smithsonian

Museum in Italy.

So they put him under one of the Rockefellers' multi-million dollar mansions. He's up in the third story, manicured lawn, fabulous scenery. And he had to write an article there.

But the next crash, these guys don't get through it. Do you know, he put a new man in office. Do you know, let me tell you something.

There's a fellow, used to be a Baptist preacher called Bill Moyers. Bill Moyers has been around the world with David Rockefeller, a billionaire. Do you know what he said when he came back? This world is run by 15 men, that's all.

They regulate the price of money, regulate the price of everything else. Do you know what happened these last three weeks? Do you remember? Gold went up \$40 an ounce in three weeks. So there's something growing in the world.

Fifteen men control this world. No, no, no. I thought I'd go to bed in a nightmarish bed, but he's not.

God rules this world. The earth is the Lord's. And he's going to collect the rent for it soon.

He's loaned a bit of it to you and loaned a bit to me. Well, come on. You see, I don't want to wait to get to heaven and be put in a dunce's class.

I don't want to be a stranger when I get there. I want to know him. I want him to indwell me.

I want him to say no and say yes and govern me and rule me. Because, and if you're going to do that, there's going to be times when I'm, just as I have ecstasy I can't bear, there'll be times when I'm broken, I can't do anything but weep and grieve. There aren't enough demons in hell.

There aren't enough sinners on earth to hinder revival. The hindrance to revival is in this room. It's in your disobedience.

It's in your rebellion. It's your unwilling to suffer. Those amazing Christians in Scotland were hunted all over.

I'm not hunted. If Jesus came back to earth today, what would he do? Crucify him? No, ignore him. The world doesn't crucify us, it ignores us.

Do you think Flint never worries? Oh, Mr. Gore, sit down and say, what were the Christians? Say no, sirree. I grieve over all this illegitimate kids that are born. I've got a precious granddaughter.

The last thing I do when I go to sleep at night I pray for my precious granddaughter, Lisa, in China. Oh, it's wonderful. Our second generation.

Now, David and Nancy have a daughter there and another girl that's been around the world. She wants to find God's will. It's wonderful.

Every day I feel there's an extension of my life through David, an extension of his life through Lisa. She knows God. And then I read in a paper, the new threat of the government in China is they're going to wipe out the underground church.

Now what? Do I worry and cry my granddaughter may be slaughtered? No. I say God is over all. If you had a Holy Ghost revival in Dallas, what would you do? You get old man, book him up to go to New York, book him up to go to Philadelphia, book him up to go somewhere else.

There's a Holy Ghost revival in Scotland in the time that, what is his name now? Robert Mary McShane was there. Robert Mary McShane, a friend of mine, a neighbor went up there recently and he said, he stood outside of St. Peter's in Aberdeen, in Aberdeen, Aberdeen I think. And he said, look there.

Then I went inside. I saw outside the stone about six feet long with one word, eternity. And every time the preacher went in to preach, he looked on the stone, eternity.

He put his elbows on the desk, put his head in his hands and wept and wept and wept and had a broken heart for years over that city. Then God took him away. He got a call.

He said God took him to speak to the Jews over in Israel. And while he was there, W.C. Burns came. W.C. Burns.

The whole city shook with a Holy Ghost revival. St. Peter's was packed with people. They did revival in the schools.

They did revival in the universities. They did revival in the business houses. Conversation wasn't football.

Conversation wasn't sport. It was God. It was eternity.

All through a little man who had prayed and prayed. So what do you do? Book him up to go to London, New York, nursery. God takes hold of him and drops him in China.

He died in China, unknown. What happened? Jonathan Goforth, American, went in that area in that revival. Why? Because the fallow ground was broken up.

The seed had been sown. One man sows and another man reaps. This man comes in and reaps in a harvest.

He died unknown. When I was in India, I don't know how far you went. I didn't get to any Carmichael's area, which I had.

That woman took a single ticket from Ireland out there and eventually had 350 children. We had Jackie Pullens in our house. She took a single ticket at 19 and got off the boat in Hong Kong.

She's still there. She got married three months ago, 46 years of age. She played the hobo.

She was a classical scholar in the Royal College of Music in London. The Queen gave her a knighthood. What's the equal? Gave her an order of the British Empire anyhow.

She's lived in poverty by choice. She's lived in a slum. I talked to her and felt totally amazed at what God would have done for a woman.

The hand of things. Even the very clothes off her back she gives away. She said, Brother Len, the last thing I did, I went into China.

I saw a man, shaky, 86 years of age. His wife is 82 and they're both legally blind and they haven't furniture worth a dollar in the whole house. And I talked to him and he said he didn't know his wife was in prison.

He didn't know his wife was alive. She'd been in prison 23 years. He'd never seen each other.

And they talked about the Lord. And he said he walked and felt across the room to an old pump organ. And he got there and settled his feet.

Oh, it's a funny thing. Martha, remember? That leaves me. Martha, you can't remember again.

You must be getting old, dear. What was he saying? It's one of the greatest old hymns we have. Oh, that was it.

Thank you. All the way my Savior leads me. And there's the old man feeling for the organ.

And he sat down and pebbled and played and he cried and she cried. All the way my Savior leads me. What's the verse? What have I to ask besides? What's the last verse? Well, all the way my Savior leads me.

What have I to ask besides? Can I doubt his tender mercies? And he forgot them for 25 years in jail. She'd never been to a meeting. That's why you need to store the Bible in your mind.

Thy word abideth in my heart. It almost protects us. But also there's danger coming to America.

All the way my Savior leads me. Well, it's almost time to quit. No, it's not yet.

I didn't give you my text. I'm going to give you my text. What I want to do is talk about vision.

Because vision is the most vital thing that we have. If you have a vision without a task, you'll be a visionary. If you have a touch without a vision, it's drudgery.

If you have a vision tied to a task, you'll be a missionary. The greatest missionary we feel in the world, you're living in it, is America. It's so confused with false doctrines.

There are 1,000 cults in America today. Okay, Isaiah 6. I'm reading from the NIV, the never-improved version. King James, good old King James.

Isaiah 6. 1. In the year the king Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up his train to the temple. Above it stood the seraphim, each one had six wings, with two in each of his face, with two in each of his feet, with two in each heart. All right, look at verse what? 5. Then said I, woe, after what I preached in God.

Verse 5, woe. Then what? Verse 7, in the middle of it, low. And then verse 9, go.

Three divisions I did not make. Woe, low, go. Vision.

Read the first chapter. You think you're reading about America. Be very careful.

Don't candidate to be a, a. This man is one, let me make a little mark here. He belongs to the most amazing group of men that ever walked the earth. He's a prophet.

Prophets are different. Prophets are dangerous. Prophets are defiant.

The people get, they get the name for a prophet is a seer. He sees. He sees what nobody else sees.

The people don't understand him. A true prophet suffers for the people, he suffers with the people, he suffers by the people. Come on, do you want to be a prophet? Moses was a prophet.

What happened? God chopped 40 years of his life, the backside of the desert. Oh, I'd like to see a burning bush, would you? Did it take 40 years? David mentioned this morning in that message, you must get it, hear it. Was it the fourth chapter of, again of Revelation? The heaven was opened.

Oh, people say, I'd like to see heaven opened. Didn't when heaven opened, just before you go to the cross, the heaven opened for Jesus and he was baptized with the Holy Spirit. The most beautiful man that ever lived wasn't 20 years of age.

He's the greatest theologian in the world. He's full of religion. No man can stand by him.

He had a colossal intellect. He had a marvelous revelation. He'd memorized the first five books of the Bible.

And there he is watching a young man by the wall. Before I came tonight, I read 22nd chapter of Matthew. What he got, Jesus, gentle Jesus, meek and mild, says to the most religious people in the world, you humbug, you hypocrite, you get the damnation of hell.

If you're looking for gentle Jesus, meek and mild, forget it brother, he's not coming. I'll tell you how he's coming. He's coming like he says in the second book of Thessalonians, chapter one.

Well, the greatest hymn that was ever written by Charles Wesley, wrote 3000, was, I sang it to my mother's knee from being six till I was ten every night. Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon a little child. Wesley wrote, that bit he wrote this, low heat comes with clouds this time, every eye shall then behold him clothed in dreadful majesty.

He's coming in flaming fire. He's not sneaking the world through the back door, a wolf of a woman. Let me say this because I know I've put you about it.

This is the most amazing book in the world. The more I live, the longer I love it. I don't want to buy more books, I hardly buy books.

But then I've got 3000 at home, more than that. But listen, one of the things that Dr. Tozer taught me, and I wish you could have had him teach. One thing he used to say, Leonard remember, the Holy Spirit is not the junior partner of a Godhead.

He's equal with the Father, he's equal with the Son. Jesus said, my business is to glorify my Father. The Holy Ghost said, my business is not to give you tongues and make you a very fruitful Christian.

My business is to glorify Jesus. There's no rivalry in the Godhead. David remember this morning, he brooded over chaos and brought cosmos.

He brought order into this world. He broods over a little woman, dear God, why? She's a peasant. He came to an empty womb and he filled it.

He came to an empty cross and he filled it. He came to an empty tomb and he filled it. And then he left us an empty cross.

Then he left us an empty tomb. The greatest miracle in the world is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, above all principalities and all powers. It's more than the blood of the cross.

I need more than the blood. People all over the world call me, please pray for me about this. Very good, but wait a minute.

I say, listen, I'm not here just to take orders. I'm telling you that I'm here to serve God. And if God tells me I'll pray, what do I do? But I think if you pray, wait a minute.

The longest prayer meeting ever held was lasted a hundred years, when the Malaysians caught the fire of God. Sir, the greatest prayer meeting is Jesus for a thousand, two thousand years has been living to make intercession. I get up every day knowing he makes intercession for me.

I marvel more and more reading and new young people listen. You're going to be soldiers of Jesus Christ. Are you going to be wimps or warriors? What does Paul say to Timothy? Not only I'm mindful of your tears, he said be a good soldier that you may please him.

What would I do if the Queen of England wrote to me and said, will you do this for me? Oh, yes, I'll do it. Oh, surely for the Queen. Please him.

Tell me there are billions of stars. I'll tell you what Isaac Watts said, he made the stars of heavenly flames. He counts their numbers, calls their names.

His wisdom's vast and knows no bound, and deeper all our thoughts are drowned. What is a creature's skill or force? A sprightly man, a warlike horse, the piercing wit, the active limb. All are too mean delights for him, but saints are lovely in his sight.

God isn't capricious. That child you're facing, now you'll come out bitter or better. You'll come out with a stronger confidence in God and less in yourself and realize.

That's why I say you women, dear God, do you think God loves your face every time you come in here? Only if you spend two hours painting it and didn't spend two hours with God today. Put all your makeup on one side, do some fasting, get rid of the junk. You only do it because you're vain, you're on detraction.

What a whole realm of day to night. Don't sing that again, you might be struck dumb. You won't get in the idol in your life.

There was some searching stuff said this morning, we all need to reconsider. In the year that King Uzziah died, let me say this quickly. What do you know about King Uzziah? I'll give you his life story in a few words.

Look at the 2nd chapter of Chronicles, chapter 26. I'll read from verse 1, let me read it quickly. All the people of Judah took Uzziah who was 16 years of age.

What's your boy at 16 doing? Gathering baseball time? He's 16 years of age. It's mentioned again in verse 1.

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