

Woe, Lo, and Go - Part 3

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the importance of living a life filled with holiness and the power of prayer in demonstrating that holiness, and calls for a revival of holiness to make the bride ready for Jesus to return.

Duration: 21:06

Scripture: Genesis 4:8, Genesis 6:9, Psalm 24:3-4, Psalm 29:2, Proverbs 29:18, Luke 11:51, Revelation 3:17

Topics: "Vision"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of having a vision and being filled with compassion. He refers to the story of Isaiah, who had a vision of God and recognized his own depravity and duty to the world. The speaker also shares a powerful story of a woman who, despite living in a corrupt and sinful environment, was able to lead people to God through her prayers and compassion. The sermon concludes with a call to seek a deeper relationship with God and to expect great things from Him.

Transcript

So this is what this prayer, listen, you talk about power, this to me is the evidence of a life filled with holiness. She's going down the street, she says, I prayed and prayed, prayed and after six weeks I began to lead the people without even trying. Gangsters fell on their knees, she lives in the one outpost of hell on earth, she goes down the street and there's human filth there, she can't step because there's blood there.

Girls at 15 are prostituting, women 60 years old are prostituted 58 years or 50 years after the 60 and yet she says the most diabolical men in the world, there's no altar call, there's no music, there's no preaching the word, she's so filled with God out of her flow, rivers of living water that gangsters kneel and say, listen, pray for me, have mercy on me, that to me is revival, that to me is being filled with all the fullness of God. But look at the cast, would you believe after all the tremendous manifestations of God that she had, casting out demons, not only the rottenest people in the world coming, but the society people coming to say what's happening, that old prostitute isn't there anymore, we're not afraid as we used to be, people don't break into our houses, why? Because of you. Do you know what? I think Jackie, bless her dear heart, I think she's an embarrassment to the devil and more than that she's an embarrassment to me.

Why is this happening in a country far away, why doesn't it happen in America? What's choking it? Unbelief, familiarity with the Holy Spirit, the only thing you know about the Holy Ghost is you speak in tongues, but where's your power, where's your tears, where's your brokenness, where's your travail? I believe God Almighty started something last Friday that if you're obedient, and I'll be obedient when I'm

here or not, the birth pains are on this assembly, for this particular assembly and for the vineyard. I look for the whole vineyard to be reborn in two weeks, that's no difficulty to God. I'm tired of playing for small stakes and so many people came forward and so many people bought your book, forget it, it's time to see majesty of God.

But listen, this woman has seen the meetings go until when they had no buildings, the government came and gave her 14 huge buildings entirely free, now she's casting out demons, people are being delivered from insanity and would you believe it, she says with all this, I lost the anointing, it all disappeared. John, if you don't get reward for anything else, you get a big reward in heaven for the way you handled this, only John Wimber would give her any comfort. Well, weren't you running away, what was happening to you Jack when you came here, were you an orphan, spiritual orphan?

Yes, don't be embarrassed, Jack came and what a blessing he's been, you see the open door, who else came, one of the only great to me prophets in the world today, Paul Cain will be here tomorrow night I believe and John opened the door to him, he'd been to 27 other ministries in America, they all slammed the door in his face and John took him in, then I came along, poor orphan and he took me in, but you see this is the kind of person we need in the last days, come on we've got 10,000 Pentecostal churches in America that should take the sign off, they're not Pentecostal, when did they last see a miracle, when did they last see some lunatic delivered, when did they last see some man with an unholy fever or a girl who's a prostitute and you say listen you can't go to that church down there

and they have no power, but go up the street to the Pentecostal church, you'll see the power of God there, you know we're a million miles from Pentecost, when I read this I tell you I'm embarrassed, pride came in she said and so we lost our anointing, but now listen to what she says, God restored that strength to us and again she's out getting the scum of the earth, she's not offering them free meals or free banquets or free clothes, she says we have something here which is not of man, it's not theology, it's not doctrine, it's a living God, come and bring in your paralysed, come and bring in the lunatics, come and bring in the filthy unclean people that could make hell blush with this lifestyle, come and bring them, you know she says the spirit of God came and we began to exercise

spiritual gifts and those who came to the walled city about asking about our drugs withdrawal program, rarely came in the room and they weren't there five minutes, did you hear that, not five hours preaching, not singing a song, there's room at the cross, but there's something in this room, they said this room is filled with God, I think before we're through these two weeks people will come trembling through those doors, the awesome presence of God will so subdue us, I say I want to see this precious woman, but more than that I want to see it happen in America, but it's costly, let me say this to you, we need a vision of the holiness of God, we have vision of our helplessness, we see a vision of lost people, if I asked you about the Salvation Army, you say it was launched by a man who had

been trained as a Methodist, he got kicked out, took his half crippled wife into the streets, I'll tell you how it was started, if you have those wonderful books, there are 10 volumes of the sermons of Campbell Morgan called Westminster Pulpit, it's in chapter 6, volume 6, now listen, this is an unbeliever, can you listen to this a minute, this atheist says were I a religionist, did I truly firmly consistently believe as people, millions of people say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this earth, on our feelings, if I believed it was transforming, then he said religion would be my first waking thought and my last image when sleep sunk into my unconsciousness, I would labor in its cause alone, I would not labor for the meat that perishes nor for the treasure of earth,

but only for the crown of glory in heavenly regions, I would take no thought for the tomorrow, but for eternity alone, I will be neither worldly prudent nor calculating circumstance to engross my zeal, earthly consequences should never stay my hand or seal my lips, I would speak to the imagination, awake the feelings, stir up the passions, arouse fancy, earthly joys and griefs should occupy no moment of my time, I would strive to look for eternity alone and for immortal souls who will soon be in everlasting bliss or everlasting darkness and torture, I would deem all things that men have outside of that as pure madness, I would not give a second thought to materialism, I would say live, move and have your being in me God, control my life, control my eating, control my sleeping, make me a

slave, I don't want to be a servant of Jesus Christ, a servant knows what time to start, what's time to finish, a slave doesn't, he's looking for slaves, that's why the apostle Paul declared he was a slave, in the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord and everything in life was totally transformed, he became what Spinoza called a God intoxicated man and it's going to take that to move this generation in which we live, I need a vision of a holy God, holiness is the residence of God, because his word says holiness, what the psalmist says, spring from the habitation of thy holiness, you go to the other end of the scale, he says in Ephesians 2, we're the residence of God, you're the habitation of God, would you dare say that?

I've gone around holiness churches around the world for at least 40 years, I've heard people say I was saved and then I'm sanctified or saved and I never knew till today, I've never once heard a person say I'm holy, we sang in that hymn tonight, only thou art holy, holiness is originally God's but he demands holiness, you can't pray without holiness, you say my prayers don't get through, the devil hinders, it doesn't hinder you, you hinder yourself, why? Thinking of Bob again, remember that word you gave me up in Kansas City, Psalm 24, who shall ascend the hill of the Lord even have clean hands, that's our relationship with men, you know you think if you're righteous you get blessed, well Abel was righteous, what did he get for it?

He got killed, what was Noah? A preacher of righteousness, what was Zechariah?

A preacher of righteousness, he was killed in the temple, people hate righteousness, righteousness is my relationship with God, holiness is my relationship, no, righteousness is my relationship with men, holiness is my relationship with God, and God demands holiness, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, you can't worship God with bitterness in your heart, you can't worship God with a grudge in your heart, you can't worship God when all the time you're catering for selfishness and your own ambition, no, that's totally impossible, I could give you a whole list, I won't, but just say why did a young man go from, I think it was America, a young preacher and he went to, what country am I thinking of now, I was going to Siberia, it wasn't Siberia, it was out that way, anyway he went

there for one reason, he had a vision of the lost people there, vision motivates us, if you get vision you get action, you can't say you have a passionate love for soul without compassion, then Salvation Army sang when I was a kid, except I am moved with compassion, how dwelleth thy spirit in me, in thought, word and deed, burning love is my knee, I know I shall find it in thee, so here is a man in the year the king Uzziah died, everything changed, he had a vision of God, as he had a vision of deity in the heavens, a vision of depravity in his own heart, a vision of duty in the world outside, but wait, he also had a vision in chapter 1, he sees his whole nation full of wounds and putrefying sores from the head to the feet, there's no soundness, it's corruption, it's corruption, but he

doesn't cry there for the nation, it's when he sees his own corruption, 20 times in his writing he says, woe unto you, woe unto you, sit up late at night, woe unto you that gossip, woe unto you others, but then finally, the greatest woe is me, it's not my brother nor my sister, it's me O God, standing in the need of prayer, it doesn't say woe to the priests and others, he says woe is me, I'm undone, that takes an awful lot of saying, let me wind this up quickly, I've leaped around a bit I'm sure, but you know what, don't get edgy when I say this, for the last 50 years or a hundred years, evangelism has been ridiculed, you know, you talk about Elmer Gantry in American history, but it's only this last three years it's been scorned and joked about, the misconduct of some of the leading men

had had millions of dollars, one took 20 years to build the Christian Disneyland at PTO, another one got millions of dollars to build a place with his name on, but wait a minute, I don't care a hell of beans what people say about Christianity, but when Jesus says it, I'm torn up, I don't need to want my Bible at night, I lay in my bed and weep and say Jesus, you said it, Paul didn't say it, what do you say about the day in which we live, I checked this with Jack the other day, I keep picking on Jack, but he's helped me so much, what did Jesus say, he wasn't Paul, it was Jesus that said of the church for which he gave his blood, that she's poor, wretched, naked, blind and miserable, are you telling me the church at this moment is ready, the one thing that holds Jesus Christ back is not all

the rotten damnable sin of the world and heresies and cults, the one thing that keeps Jesus from coming is the bride is not ready, he's not coming for a crippled bride, our young men in England in the royal family usually want to get married in Westminster Abbey, it seats only 3,000 people, everybody going to a royal wedding gets excited, oh you can't sell the ticket, you must use it, if you sit on a chair in the hours you can take it home and all the celebrities are there, all the leaders of the nations, presidents, principals, men of money, men of talent, the cream of science, the cream of society all flock in, they borrow clothes to go, they're going to see a royal wedding, so let's figure it, some of those ladies wear, what do you call them, tiaras, precious stones, and they wear the

gorgeous gowns, a lot of them rent them, so here's a man up in the music loft and this fellow in the loft says, how do I know when to start playing here comes the bride, well there are trumpeters at the door and they'll sound a blast and when they sound the blast you start playing here comes the bride, so the trumpet sound this fellow up there plays here comes the bride and here's the royal prince standing there immaculately with his suit, gold buttons, gold handle on his sword, looking the model of sartorial perfection and everything else, he's scholarly, he's well trained, he speaks three or four languages, maybe like Prince Charles, he's been in charge of a boat, he can fly a private jet, he can do all this thing, here's this most envied bachelor in the world and there's a woman coming

down the aisle and everybody gasps, isn't she gorgeous and just before she gets there a woman over here jumps out, she has an artificial tiara on, she's a dress she's borrowed and just as the prince comes and the bride's going to go up and the prince going to say, darling this is it at last, she shrieks out, she tears her clothes, she stinks, she isn't bathed, she's blind, she crashes into something and gets bloody knees and rubs them, then rubs her hands and then gets it on her dress and there is despicable stinking and a soldier gets hold of her, what are you doing here, she says I'm the bride, I'm the bride, you idiot, you're the bride, you think our royal prince is going to marry a dirty stinking smelling blind woman like you, well that's what your preacher says, your preacher says

Jesus will take the whole church, I don't believe that, you say I believe Jesus will come at any moment, I don't believe that, if you believe that you're walking in purity at this moment, I read it this morning in John,

when we see him we should, when we see we should what, be like him, no that's the old version, when we see we should say Lord I'm sorry my prayer life is in rags, I have a disobedient heart, I have a will that isn't set to do the will of God, I'm behind in my tithing, I don't love prayer, friend if you went to heaven as you are just now it would be hell, you'd be miserable in the holiness of God, no Jesus did not come for a bride that's impure and dirty, he's coming for a bride that's pure, so dear brothers sisters I'm prepared by the grace of God, whether I'm in or out of

this place, I'm prepared as some other people are up there in Kansas city, I'm prepared to lay down my life to see a revival of holiness, to make the bride ready, not to make the church feel better, but because Jesus Christ has been waiting 2,000 years, isn't it amazing, isn't it staggering, he looks through the latch and he sees this dirty filthy rebellious woman that we call the church, he should spit on her and kick her out of his life and he threatens to do that, and yet mercy upon mercy, mercy upon mercy, patience upon patience, the blessed son of God stands outside of the door as he'd done for 2,000 years and looks in and sees this rotten woman and he says behold I stand at the door and knock, if you repent I'll cleanse you, I'll come in and possess you, I'll come and make you pure,

I'll carry you into my presence for eternity to be made pure because of my own blood, but the church doesn't want that, she's sleepy and lethargic and indifferent, but Jesus Christ is waiting for the church to be purified and I guarantee you the Holy Ghost can come and sweep not America but the world in six months and purify, purify the bride in a short time, he's waited long enough, I find it terrible to ponder that, he's waiting, okay let's take this precious man for a moment, do you know what purity does?

It drives you to prayer, it drives you to realize we have no resources of our own, you may be stacked up with theology or buddhism if it isn't on fire, we've got to see as God sees and love as God loves and sacrifice as God sacrifices, there's no other way.

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