

# Golden Jubilee

by Oswald J. Smith

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*Dr. Oswald J. Smith's 50th anniversary celebration highlights his dedication to the Lord and his impact on the lives of countless people around the world through his evangelistic ministry and missionary work.*

**Duration:** 1:26:59

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:13

**Topics:** "Jubilee"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker expresses gratitude for the program and the work done by Walt Huntley on a record. He thanks the People's Church and its members for their support and for providing him with a car. The speaker emphasizes the importance of making a decision for Jesus Christ and shares examples of people who have done so in his ministry, such as in South America and South Africa. The sermon concludes with a story about D.L. Moody urging a young man to accept Jesus before going west.

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## Transcript

My father, like Enoch of old, walked daily with his Lord. And as he worshipped at God's throne, he saw his heart outpoured. He knew that he would faithfully be.

On him he could depend. He's preached God's word for fifty years. He'll preach it to the end.

Now I wonder if just before the evening you would take the brochure that has been put in your hand that says fifty years in the ministry on the front. Would you find that right now? It's somewhere. And I think almost everybody in the congregation would have one.

And if you'll turn over to the back page in miniature form, you will find reproduced Dr. Smith's most famous hymn. The music written by Billy Sunday's song leader, Homer Rodeheaver, whom everybody here in Toronto knew and loved before. We're going to stand together and sing just the first verse and the chorus of this song, Then Jesus Came.

It's on the back of your brochure. We'll stand together and sing the first verse. I'd like to take you back to May 18th and 19th of 1958, where in Varsity Arena, members of the People's Church Golden Jubilee.

I have followed Dr. Smith's career with great interest in as much as he commenced his missionary work under me at Port Simpson in 1908. Dr. G. H. Rayleigh and comes from the city of Vancouver. The next comes from who incidentally commences a campaign in the People's Church for eight days the first

Sunday of June.

I hope you'll remember that. Commencing the first Sunday of June, Red Harper, Mr. Texas, in the Billy Graham film, Mr. Texas, is going to be ministering in the People's Church from Sunday through Sunday, commencing the first Sunday of June. Red Harper writes this, We shall not learn this side of heaven, even half, of what this great missionary statesman has accomplished for the kingdom of God.

The next comes from William Culbertson, who is the president of the Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Culbertson writes, We thank the Lord for Dr. Smith's allegiance to the Word of God, his remarkable Bible teaching and evangelistic ministry, and especially his worldwide vision of missions. Then from Mr. A. H. Chappell, who is the president of Marshall, Morgan & Scott, London, England, who has published all of Dr. Smith's 24 books, representing one of the largest religious publishing companies in the world.

Mr. Chappell writes, I have watched with ever-increasing admiration the worldwide growth of Dr. Smith's ministry. His books are read and treasured among English-speaking peoples all over the world and in many foreign languages. In his charming wife he has a gracious helpmate and his children loyal associates.

And then from God's businessman, Mr. R. G. Letourneau, It is now over 30 years since Dr. Smith was my pastor in Los Angeles. God was using him mightily then and has been continually blessing souls through his tongue and pen all these years. This comes from Mr. B. D. Ackley, who is probably the world's greatest living writer of gospel songs.

Mr. Ackley says this, Dr. Smith ranks among the outstanding gospel song poets. My high regard for him is comparable to that for my own brother. Then Dr. V. R. Edmond, the president of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, writes, because Dr. Smith devoted himself entirely to the Savior, he has been used mightily of God to the very ends of the earth.

And Don D. Mumaw. Don Mumaw, one of the great athletes of our generation, who has played football in this stadium on many, many occasions. An all-American football player writes, because Dr. Smith devoted himself entirely, or rather, Don Mumaw telegraphs, thank God for Dr. Smith and his ministry.

Both have challenged my own life. Then the next one comes from Great Britain, from Evangelist Eric Hutchings, who today is probably being used of God in evangelistic, Great United Evangelistic campaigns in the British Isles and from Radio in Europe, as much as any other minister in England. Eric Hutchings writes this, the recently conducted crusade in South America underlines, in my view, that Dr. Smith continues to be at the very forefront of evangelistic ministry around the world.

There is scarcely an evangelical home in Britain in which the name of Dr. Oswald J. Smith is not known and honoured. I owe more to him as a father in evangelism for encouragement and inspiration than any other world leader. The next comes from Scotland, from Mr. John M. Moore, who is the superintendent of the Great Kent Hall in Glasgow, Scotland.

And from Scotland we have this greeting. We in Scotland send our sincere Christian greetings to Dr. Oswald J. Smith on this great occasion which celebrates 50 years' ministry in the service of God. The influence of Dr. Smith's written ministry has been felt throughout the lengths and breadths of Scotland.

We in Glasgow will be wearing the Smith tartan on our neckties over the weekend in honour of Dr. Oswald J. Smith. And I didn't even know we belonged to a clan, but there you are. The Smith clan, I suppose it's

the biggest in the world.

And then this comes from a man who is beloved by God's people around the world, Dr. Charles E. Fuller of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour. Dr. Fuller writes, In these days when so many are departing from the faith, it is a great encouragement to my own heart and a blessed challenge to know that Dr. Smith is standing so firmly in his faithfulness to the Word of God. And this comes from Dr. E. L. Simmons, who is the principal of the Toronto Bible College.

And we're grateful to the Toronto Bible College for their help in this service tonight. They have given us these curtains and the bunting that is around the lower platform. And in a moment, you will have an opportunity of using the magnificent offering boxes that come from the Toronto Bible College.

And if you can't get your gift in the boxes, you can blame Dr. Simmons. But we're grateful for their help in this service. They use Varsity Stadium every year for their graduation exercises.

Mr. Simmons writes, Warmest congratulations and deep thanksgiving for your great missionary and evangelistic contributions. And then we have this from the cowboys of the world, Dale Evans and Roy Rogers. And Dale Evans and Roy Rogers send this greeting.

You have been a blessing to so many, including us. And we are sure we speak for the entire Hollywood Christian group. Finally, this greeting from the world's greatest evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham.

And Billy Graham says this in a personal letter. I continue to hear the most fabulous reports of your meetings in South America. We rejoice exceedingly at the gracious way in which God has used you.

You are the most remarkable man I have ever met. And that's signed Dr. Billy Graham. I'm sure you would like to join with these who have written their greetings from around the world in wishing your own pastor God's best on this, the 50th anniversary of his ministry and the first service of the next 50 years of his ministry.

Wherever evangelical church choir leaders gather together to discuss music, this next song almost always comes up for discussion. Johnny Ambrose joins his voice with the voices of our Jubilee Choir now to bring you the triumphant composition written by Dr. Smith, the song of the soul set free. I'm going to call now on my oldest son, Dr. Glenn G. Smith, who is a surgeon, a Christian surgeon in Vancouver, British Columbia.

I'll never forget the night in the Elgin House after I delivered a salvation message. I'll never forget returning and finding Glenn in tears. He told us that he wanted to be saved.

His mother and I knelt down beside him and we led him to the Lord Jesus Christ. He was only nine years of age at the time. Now he's become a Christian surgeon and is giving his testimony in the city of Vancouver.

And I want to have the joy of announcing and introducing my eldest son now, for I'm going to ask Dr. Glenn G. Smith, to me, Glenn, to come to the pulpit and bring you a word from far away Vancouver. He's a member of the Smith family. It's a great joy for me to be here from those cool Pacific breezes with me.

Dr. Oswald J. Smith, around the world to many people, means an author that has written many, many wonderful books. To many other people, the name Dr. Oswald Smith is one they have heard as a great evangelist in person on many of his world tours. To many missionaries, he is the statesman that has been

responsible from the human angle of influencing their life for missions and for their finding themselves on the mission field of the world.

To many of us here tonight, he is our pastor, the pastor of the people's church for many years, and he is to us a pastor. But to three of us who are in this building tonight, and only three, we can call him father. Now, a more wonderful father one would never want to find.

I was brought up, as you all very well know, in a Christian home. I was brought up, what is more, in a minister's home. Now, I'm sure many of you must wonder what a minister's home would be like to be brought up in, especially one that was as famous as my father.

And I can tell you that, in some respects, perhaps it is peculiar. And that, no doubt, is why Glenn and Hope and Paul are a little queer. You will probably think that a minister's home is a very austere place because we spend so much time going to church and just nature.

But I can assure you that we had many very pleasant experiences. On an example of father was always interested that we should get to know some of the creations that God has made and put in this world. And I think it is only the rightful heritage of every boy to have a dog.

And, as boys, we had many dogs at different times, also cats. The house was on occasion filled with 50 or 60 birds of different varieties. We had fish.

And on one trip that he came back from Florida, he brought us two little baby goats. They were very young and cry. When we arrived back at noon, we were being the mother of.

Was the importance to his life. We will never forget, not on Sundays only, or not on special occasions, or not just when we were going on a trip. We would hear him walking back and forth in his study.

He felt it important enough to spend time before God for the guidance and direction of bringing up his family. The importance of prayer in carrying on the great work that he was interested in. And that, to me, is never forget.

Now, as well, of course, I have grown out outside of the home, in the people's church. And two things. One is the seeing at the conclusion of the site.

As you get out of that, we do not see in our church. And then the other important aspect is the tremendous influence to be the son. I counted a great privilege to have a heritage of a Christian and to have been brought up where the evangelistic message was.

Thank you, Glenn. And ladies and gentlemen, if any of you have any trouble with your kids, I said a little while ago how thrilled. But I think most of you have the support that are working on many, many different fields around this work.

And in addition to our own 360 missionaries, are many thousands of other missionaries. For missionary inspiration and zeal and provocative missionary giving. Every year at Christmastime, we have the privilege of contacting some 8,000 missionaries of many of the faith missions, almost all the faith missions, and some of the denominational missionaries.

Practically in every country of the world through the medium of our Christmas books. Every year, beginning in about the month of July or August, our book room is extremely busy wrapping Christmas

presents. Books, which we send out shortly after the summer so that they will reach over 8,000 missionaries all over the world by Christmastime.

And immediately after Christmas, within about one month's time, we begin to receive letters from our missionaries. And in the course of the next few months, I suppose we received nearly 8,000 letters from missionaries around the world. I wish you could look over our shoulder and read some of those letters.

And read of the thrill and the blessing and the inspiration books are to missionaries, many of whom are alone all around this world about. As Mr. Dave mentioned earlier, the board of managers tried to make the offering at this great service, a love offering for Dr. Smith. However, he begged them not to do that and asked them if they would mind using this to enable us this year to send the books to the missionaries.

We're going to begin to do that within about one month's time. Our office staff will have to start working. And so we're going to take the entire offering tonight, whatever you give, and we're going to put it to the ministry of our Christmas book.

And you can be assured that every dollar, every five dollar bill, will send a messenger by literature to some missionary that perhaps may receive absolutely nothing else by way of a Christmas gift this coming Christmas. It takes about one dollar to send a book to a missionary. That means if you give a dollar in your offering tonight, you will be actually sending a Christmas present to one of our 8,000 missionaries.

If you're able to give five dollars tonight, it means that you will send a Christmas gift to at least five missionaries somewhere in the world this Christmas. If you're able to give a \$20 bill, you bless and encourage and inspire some 20 missionaries around the world. I'm going to ask the ushers that they will come forward at this time and put in your hand one of these envelopes in which you can put your gift, your missionary gift, for the Christmas books this year.

I'm going to ask the men to go ahead and distribute the envelopes immediately. And when you get your envelope, I want you to look at it. I hope everybody will take time to take an envelope.

And I want you to look at your envelope. May I ask you please, whatever you do, don't seal the envelope. Whatever you put in, do not seal it for just a moment.

After you have put your name and address on it, you'll notice at the bottom it says, all who give two dollars or more in this afternoon's offer will receive an official receipt suitable for income tax purposes. And you will receive the People's Magazine, published by the People's Church for two years, absolutely free of charge. And then this is very important before you decide what you're going to give.

It says at the bottom, special, and this is extremely special on this occasion, those who give five dollars or more, five dollars or more, are entitled to Dr. Smith Golden Jubilee long play record, with greetings from Billy Graham and also a number of others, beautiful Golden Jubilee in this auditorium, to get one of these records. They are not for sale. You cannot buy these records anywhere.

But everyone who gives to the Christmas books five dollars or more is entitled to receive this record absolutely free of charge. It's in a beautiful gold finish. It has a picture of Dr. Smith on the front.

And then on the back is the list of what you will get. First of all, there's a greeting from Dr. Smith that you'll want to treasure in the years to come. You'll have his voice on record.

Then you have George Beverly Shea singing Dr. Smith's great song, Then Jesus Came, for this special occasion. Then you have Red Harper singing Dr. Smith's song, Come With Your Heartaches. Then you have Johnny Ambrose singing The Soul of the Spirit.

On the other side, you have a wonderful message of greeting by Dr. Billy Graham. You will have Dr. Billy Graham on this record and you can treasure it. Then you have the People's Church Choir singing Christ Is Coming Back Again.

You have Don Billings at the piano. And you'll have Ronnie Avalon singing The Glory of His Presence. And then you'll have the Gospel Hymn.

Now, some of you have seen a great many people have come to me and said, Paul, how can I buy a copy of the record? You cannot buy it. This record is not for sale. But this afternoon, or rather this evening, everyone who contributes five dollars or more to this special missionary offering tonight is entitled to take one of these records home with you.

Now you say, how do I do it? Well, first of all, of course, put the five dollars or more in your envelope. After you have put it in sealing, put your name and address clearly on the outside. And then if you want the record, put an X in the little square at the bottom of the envelope.

The envelopes will be collected in the offering. And then immediately after the service, you can come to this table on my right in front of the platform, or this table on my left in front of the platform. Or you can go to either of the refreshment booths directly behind you in the vestibule.

And there you will find a sack of the records. Now you do two things. You walk up and you sign your name and address on a piece of paper.

And then you take your copy of the record home free of charge. And after the service is over, our workers will check the names that have been signed with the envelopes that have come in. And if for any reason there are not enough records, I believe we have a large enough supply to take care of everybody who will want one.

But if when you get there the supply is gone, you'll be able to get your record if you live in the City of Toronto from the People's Church anytime within about 10 days when we get a new supply. If you live outside of the City of Toronto and the supply is gone when you get there, and I doubt if it will be gone, we have a great many records here tonight. But if it should be gone and you live outside of the City of Toronto, if you wait about 10 days, your record will come to you through the mail.

So that everybody who gives the \$5 or a \$10 bill or a \$20 bill, and some of you may want to write out a check in the service tonight for this work of missionary books, everyone who gives that much or more will receive this beautiful golden jubilee record which is absolutely irreplaceable. You cannot buy it anywhere in the world, but you can get it here tonight. And in 20 or 25 or 30 years from now, you'll still be able to play it because it will last just about as long as you last.

It's unbreakable unless you deliberately break it over your knee. And I doubt if anybody will want to do that once you've heard it and been blessed by it. We'll wait just a moment while you fill in your envelope.

Be sure to write your name clearly on the outside and your address. And when the usher is past the offering boxes, you put your envelope in and it will be included in the missionary offering tonight. While

you're completing your envelope, may I say this, we're very grateful for the beautiful floral display that's on the platform tonight.

It comes from one of the great gospel singers of Toronto, Mr. Gunnar Knudsen, who runs a florist shop at the corner of Cotswold and Danforth, the Cotswold Florist Shop. And we're so grateful for these flowers that have been made available to us absolutely free of charge by Mr. Knudsen. We're thankful too for the cooperation of Mr. McElroy of Varsity Arena.

In the work he's done, he's helped us so much in making the arrangements for the service here tonight. And for these chairs, these very fine platform chairs that have been made available by one of our elders, Mr. George McQueen. I think the envelopes have been filled in.

Shall we bow together as we ask God's blessing? After the blessing on the offering has been made, we'll ask Frank Trenchard to lead the band in the offertory tonight. Blessed Heavenly Father, again, we ask for thy blessing upon thy people as they think of the missionaries in the regions beyond. May our gifts be adequate.

May they prove a source of inspiration. May they cheer the hearts of the missionaries. May we be grateful to God for this opportunity of reaching beyond this arena to the regions beyond.

For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen. I don't want you to feel for one single moment that I'm going to keep you long tonight.

In a moment, I'm going to have something to say to you. But it will not take very long to say it, I can assure you. This evening has been a wonderful program.

We thank God for every item on the program. I want to say before I introduce my daughter, I want to say that Walt Huntley is the one who has done the work on this magnificent record. Walt Huntley has done a splendid job on it.

He's here with us on the platform tonight, and we want to thank him for his contribution. You know, when I listened to the greetings by Billy Graham on this record, I was deeply humbled. And I'm going to treasure those greetings for a great many years to come, if God spares me.

And I'm sure that as you take this record home tonight and play it, you too will treasure the words of Dr. Billy Graham on this record. We're putting you on your honor. When you go back to the table, if you say, if you tell those who are at the tables that you have given \$5 tonight, they're going to take your word for it.

All you have to do is to sign a slip of paper with your name and address, as has been explained already, and the record will be handed to you. I trust it will be a great blessing to you in the days to come. Now you have heard from the boys.

You have heard from Glenn. You have heard from Paul. You haven't heard yet from our one and only daughter, Hope.

And some little time ago, Hope felt led to write a poem. And she wrote this poem to her father. On behalf of this golden jubilee.

So we're asking Mrs. Lowery, Hope Evangeline, to read this poem for us tonight. Just as it touched my heart when I read it, so I'm sure it will touch your heart. Now, our one and only daughter, Hope

Evangeline.

Saint, I just think of my father's life and his wonderful ministry. And think of all that God has accomplished through him. I always wanted a country boy to do such a tremendous work.

For my father was a country boy, his body weak and frail. He had to trudge barefoot and lunch pail. And no one ever thought that he would live to be able to do.

From the country lane to walk another road. Away from relatives, God led him. James and John of old left all to follow him.

Obedied his, he chose to send this country boy to every foreign. They've helped both young and old. God choose someone strong, you may be prone to ask.

He looks upon fit men, he chose a little. Well, wasn't that tremendous? That was just the conclusion of side one of this program. Dr. Oswald preaches the sermon on side two of this tape.

Now, my friends, it's just impossible for me to express my appreciation for all that has been done in connection with this service tonight. As I look at this magnificent car, my heart wells up within me. And I thank God with all my heart, with all my soul.

For those who have been willing to make the sacrifice that has been made in order to make this meeting a possibility. I want to thank Mr. Day, the managers, the elders, the adherents of the people's church. I want to thank each and every one for placing at my disposal that magnificent car to use while I'm still connected with the church.

I know that Mrs. Smith and I will find it a great comfort, a real help to us in the days to come. And I want to thank everyone who has had any part in it. And I want to thank all those who have sung tonight, all those who have spoken, all who have taken part, and all the workers who have cooperated in connection with this jubilee program in order to make it the success that it has been.

I'll never forget it. You know, I believe God calls men into the ministry. I believe he calls men today just as he did in olden days.

When I was only a boy about 12 years of age, I heard God's call. I was sitting in my Sunday school class. A farmer's daughter was teaching the class.

Suddenly she turned to us and she said this, Any one of you boys might be a minister. I don't know what the other boys said. It was in the Cody Corner Schoolhouse there where I was attending school.

But this was Sunday school. But I answered instantly, not out loud, but in my heart, I'll be that boy. Do you know that from that day to this, I've never had a desire to do anything else in life but to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's been a glorious ministry. And I thank God for it all down through the years. Three times I tried to leave Toronto, and each time God brought me back.

First of all, he brought me back to Dale Presbyterian Church. Then he brought me back to the Alliance Tabernacle on Christie Street. Then he brought me back to the People's Church.

And now for the last 30 years of my life, it's been my privilege to be the pastor of the People's Church in this great city of Toronto. And I'm so glad that I've had little parts in connection with the evangelism that has been carried on in this city. God has kept the fires of evangelism burning in my soul.

They've never died out. I pray God that they never will die out. But that as long as I have breath, I'll still do everything I can to win men and women to the Lord Jesus Christ.

For that, after all, is the great mission of the church. I want to thank all those who are helping to make that possible. All who are cooperating and have been cooperating down through these years that have passed and gone.

I came to this city 43 years ago after I'd been ordained to the gospel ministry. I came as the associate pastor of Dale Presbyterian Church, corner of Queen and Bellwoods. And you know, when I came in 1915, I was the youngest minister in the city of Toronto.

Today, after 43 years have passed since I came to Toronto, I find myself perhaps the longest in service of any minister who is still in active service in the city of Toronto. For 50 years, I've been preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. I started preaching when I was 18 years of age, and I've been preaching ever since.

And I trust that I'll be able to preach as long as God gives me breath. I thank God for evangelism. I thank God for evangelism at home and abroad.

I thank God for the privilege of ministering for the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to express a word of appreciation for the way my wife has stood by me. During these 43 years that we have labored together and has helped to make possible this great work that God has enabled us to carry on.

I thank every member of this band. I thank every usher and all those who have helped us with their service tonight. Now, I am not going to preach a sermon, but I do want to read just a verse of scripture.

And it's found in the seventh chapter of Matthew's gospel, verses 13 and 14. Enter ye in at the straight gate. You see, you must enter in.

You'll never get in unless you enter in. Enter ye in at the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction. And many there be which go in thereat.

I didn't say that. God said it. God tells us that the broad way is strong.

There are many on the broad way. And then he says this, Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth on to light. And few there be that find it.

This is God's book. This is the word of the living God. This book means more to me than any other book in the entire world.

This book is authoritative. This book comes from God. I believe it.

I believe it from cover to cover. I believe that it's God's word. And when God speaks, you and I must pay attention.

This, I say, is the word of the living God. Now you say to me tonight, you say, Dr. Smith, Why all during the years of your ministry, why have you pressed for decisions? Why is it necessary for a man to make a decision for the Lord Jesus Christ? I've talked to Billy Graham. Billy Graham does the same thing.

I've done it for nearly 50 years. Billy Graham is doing it constantly. Men and women are making decisions for the Lord Jesus Christ.

And Billy Graham is going to call for decisions continuously in his great evangelistic citywide campaigns. You say, why do you do it? Let me tell you why I do it. I do it because the Lord Jesus Christ did it.

I do it because my Savior did it. I do it because as I study those with whom Jesus dealt, in this word, I find that he too demanded a decision. Let me give you just one illustration.

Do you remember one day the Lord Jesus Christ was speaking to an audience of people? Presently saw a man in the audience with a withered arm. Now he knew that that man needed to have his arm healed. But did he heal him? Not for a moment.

Why didn't he do it? He could have done it. He had the power to do it. He could have healed that man right where he was.

He could have healed him instantly, but he never did it. Why didn't he do it? Because he always demands a decision. There must be a public acknowledgement of some kind.

What did he say to the man? He said, stand upright on thy feet. And the man stood, and every eye was fixed on him. Everyone was watching him.

He stood there all by himself, absolutely alone in that great crowd, because Jesus had asked him to do something. He had to make a decision. Did Jesus heal him then? Jesus did not heal him even then.

Jesus wanted another step. He demanded another step of faith. And listen to me.

The reason so many never get anywhere with God is because they will not take that step of faith that Jesus Christ demands. What did he say to him then? He said, stretch forth thine arm, thy hand. Raise your hand.

Put your hand up. Oh, you say, I thought Billy Graham was the only one who ever asked anybody to raise his hand. I thought Dr. Smith was the only one who asked people to raise a hand in a meeting.

I didn't know that Jesus did it. Nineteen hundred years ago, Jesus Christ told a man to raise his hand, to stretch forth his hand, to put up his hand. And the man did it.

Right before everybody. What happened? He was instantly healed. Now, my friend, listen.

That's exactly what this book says. And if you want results, if you want something to happen in that life of yours, you'll have to take a step of faith. You'll have to walk down an aisle.

You'll have to go to an inquiry room. You'll have to stand before a platform. You'll have to kneel at an altar.

You'll have to do something if you want results. And all during my ministry, I've demanded action. I've insisted on a decision.

Because I know that there must be a decision before there can be conversion. If you want to know Jesus Christ, you've got to take a step. You've got to take a step of faith.

You've got to step out for God. You've got to get up. You've got to stretch forth your hand.

You've got to stand. You've got to do something, somehow, some way, by some means. You must act if you want results.

When I was 16 years of age, I read the newspapers about the great Tory-Alexander campaign in Massey Hall, Toronto. Something in my young heart burned as never before. I was living at Embro, in a little railway station, 16 years of age.

I had no church to attend. And I could only go to Sunday school two months of the year. My mother was a Christian.

Two weeks ago, tomorrow, my dear mother went home to be with Christ, how I wish she could be here tonight. How I wish I could have presented her to this audience tonight, at 89 years of age. I went to my mother, and I said, Mother, may I go to Toronto and attend the great evangelistic meetings that are being held by Dr. R.A. Tory and Charles M. Alexander? And she said, Yes, you may go.

And I said, May my brother go with me? And she said, Yes. I often wonder what would have happened if she had said no. I wonder if I would have been here tonight if she had refused.

But she said, Yes. And I went to Toronto. I listened to the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time in my life.

I had never heard it before. And when Dr. R.A. Tory gave the invitation in Massey Hall, you know, I said, Yes. You know what I did? Before 3,400 people, though I was only 16 years of age, I got up out of my seat.

I walked down the long aisle. I stood at the front. I shook hands with Dr. Tory.

I went down to the basement. I stood at the front. And there, Jesus Christ came into my heart.

And I was born again. Listen, it only took a few moments. It has lasted, it has lasted a lifetime.

And it's going to last through all the countless ages of eternity. And it happened in this city when I was only 16 years of age. But I made a decision.

I didn't just sit there. I got up and I did something about it. I made a decision for Jesus Christ.

That's what you've got to do. That's what thousands have done in my ministry down through the years. That's what they did last year in South America, 4,500 of them.

That's what they did in South Africa. That's what you've got to do. And with this, I close.

D.L. Moody had a class of young men. One young man wouldn't yield to Jesus Christ. One day he came walking up to Mr. Moody.

He said, Mr. Moody, I'm going west. Mr. Moody placed his hand on the shoulder of the young man. He said, wait a moment.

I want you to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior before you go west. The young man shook Mr. Moody's hand off his shoulder. And he said, no, Mr. Moody, I'm going west first.

When I come back, then I'll settle the question of my soul's salvation. He left. Mr. Moody turned away with a sad heart.

A few weeks passed. Suddenly one day he heard that the young man was sick in the hospital. He went to see him.

He leaned over his bed. The young man could scarcely whisper he was so ill. And again, Mr. Moody pled with him to make the great decision.

But again, the young man shook his head and whispered, no, Mr. Moody, I'm not going to die. I'm going to get better. Then I'm going west.

I'm going to make my fortune. And then I'll settle the question of my soul's salvation. With a sad heart, Mr. Moody left the hospital.

A few weeks passed. One day, to his amazement and astonishment, he saw the young man walking rapidly toward his home once again, apparently strong and well. He said, Mr. Moody, I'm going west.

I got better. I didn't die. I want to say goodbye.

And again, Mr. Moody placed his hand on the shoulder of the young man. And he said, please, before you go west, decide for Jesus Christ. The young man became angry, shook Mr. Moody's hand off his shoulder.

Mr. Moody said, don't ever speak to me again about my soul's salvation. Until I come back from the west, something snapped in Mr. Moody's heart. He felt in that moment that the young man had crossed the deadline, committed the unpardonable sin.

He watched him walk away at night, in the dead of the night. There came a knock on his door. Mr. Moody looked out a window from upstairs.

He saw a woman with a shawl over her head. What is it, he said. Oh, Mr. Moody, she said, it's my husband.

He's taken seriously ill. He's dying. I want you to come and pray for him.

It would be no use, said Mr. Moody. I talked to your husband this afternoon. He said no for the last time.

He'll never change his mind. He's crossed the deadline. He has committed the unpardonable sin.

He has rejected Jesus Christ for the last time. He'll never change. She broke out weeping.

He went with her to comfort her. Mounted the steps. The young man was lying on his back.

In bed. His eyes were wide open. But he was unconscious.

He was calling out just two words. Mr. Moody read the word of God. Mr. Moody prayed with him.

He shook him. He tried to arouse him. He did everything he could.

To bring him back to his senses so that he could deal with him. Young man paid no attention to him. And repeating the two words, too late.

Too late. Too late. He went out into a Christless eternity.

My friend, that's your only trouble. You haven't made a decision. You haven't walked down an aisle.

You haven't gone to an inquiry room. You haven't decided for Jesus Christ. One of these days, it will be too late.

You'll cross the deadline. The Spirit of God will never strive again. You'll be gone.

Gone forever. I've preached to some of you now for 40 years. I've preached to others for 30 years.

I've preached to others for 20 years. And others for 10 years. And others for 5 years.

But in all these years, I have been urging you to make a decision for Jesus Christ. If you are not right with God tonight, I want you to make that decision tonight. At this great jubilee service, before it's forever too late, I want you to allow God to write your name in the Lamb's Book of Life tonight.

I want you to lead the broad way and to get on the narrow way. And to settle it for time and for eternity for the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you do it? Will you make that decision? Will you let me demand a decision as Jesus demanded a decision? Will you make that decision now? May we bow our heads for just a moment.

Every head bowed. Every eye closed. If you've ever prayed, I want you to pray now.

Now, how many will say, Dr. Smith, I'm not right with God. I need Jesus Christ. I want you to remember me in prayer tonight.

I'd like to make a decision. Will you just raise your hand and put it right down again all over the building? Put your hand right up quickly way up there at the back. Wherever you are, raise it quickly.

Just raise it and put it down again wherever you are. And say, yes, I'll make a decision for Jesus Christ tonight. I'm not right with God.

I'm a backslider. I'm unsaved. I'm out of touch with God.

I need Jesus Christ. I need help from God tonight. And I want to make a decision at this great jubilee service.

Raise your hand right now. Wave it so that I can see it a way back there. Just put your hand up and wave it a little bit so that I can see it.

Yes, I see those hands. Put them up wherever you are all across the back there. Raise your hand and wave it just so that I can see it.

If you're saying yes, I'll make a decision tonight. Those on the ground floor, put your hand up quickly wherever you are. Raise them right up now as we wait just a moment.

And wave your hand so that I can see it without a moment's hesitation. Those way over on my left, in this section on my left on the ground floor, will you raise your hand right now? Put your hand up for Jesus

Christ and say, I'll make a decision tonight. Those way over on my right, will you raise your hand now? Put your hand up as we wait just a moment.

And way up there in the balcony, raise your hand now for the Lord Jesus Christ and say, yes, I'll make that momentous decision. I'll make it tonight. Lord Jesus, thou knowest what thou hast done in the hearts and lives of men and women tonight.

We know that a decision must be made if we're going to meet God. We know that we cannot drift into salvation. We know that we've got to enter the straight gate and the narrow way.

And it's up to us to enter. And unless we enter, we'll never get in. God, help us to enter and to enter tonight before it's forever too late.

Some of us may be backsliders. We need to come back to God. Some may be unsaved.

We need to make a decision. Some of us may have no assurance of salvation. We need assurance.

Speak to us, Lord Jesus. As thou alone canst bring us to thyself tonight, we ask it in Jesus' name and for his sake. You see this space here at the front in front of the platform? We're going to stand in a moment.

And I want no one to move for the next two or three minutes. I want you to stay with me. I want everyone who needs God tonight, everyone who wants to make a decision, every backslider, every unsaved one, everyone without any assurance of salvation.

I want you to come and stand at this platform facing me. I want to pray for you. We want to give you a little booklet.

We want to help you. I want you to come and stand at this platform facing me on this great jubilee night. I want you to come and join those who will be coming and standing here tonight as we sing together, just as I am, without one plea.

Don't hesitate a moment, but come the very moment we start singing. And if someone's sitting beside you, you bring that one along with you. But let's come to the front as quickly as we can to this open space.

And you stand facing me so that I can pray for you tonight. Let us stand together. Everybody's standing and everybody's singing.

And you come quickly as we sing. All right, together, sing. Our gracious God and our loving Heavenly Father, again, we thank Thee for grace and power in this meeting tonight.

We thank Thee, Lord, for coming forward to make a decision that we know will change their complete life and change their destiny. But, O Lord, our hearts go out still to those in the congregation who are still outside the fold that have never made that decision. And shouldst Thou stop the day of grace tonight, we'll go to an endless eternity.

O gracious God, wilt Thou speak to their hearts and draw them to Thyself even in the closing moments of this service. Now dismiss us with Thy richest blessing, we pray. May the blessing of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest and abide upon each one now and until Jesus comes.

Amen.

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