

The Captivity of the Righteous Part 5

by Phil Beach Jr.

The sermon emphasizes the importance of finding true significance and peace in God, encouraging young adults to prioritize their relationship with Him over societal pressures.

Duration: 1:14:39

Scripture: Isaiah 53:1, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 11:28, Matthew 22:37, Luke 14:26, John 12:43, John 21:22, Acts 4:32, Philippians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:3-4

Topics: "Christian Life", "Devotion to God", "True Discipleship"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the importance of finding true satisfaction and peace in God rather than in worldly concerns, particularly for young people who often fret about their future. He encourages them to devote their hearts fully to God, assuring that if they seek Him first, everything else will fall into place. The sermon highlights the need to prioritize following Jesus over seeking the approval of others, as true discipleship requires a willingness to lay aside personal ambitions and societal pressures. Beach also addresses the dangers of being captivated by health, wealth, and family, urging believers to seek freedom from these distractions to fully embrace their relationship with Christ.

Transcript

Father, we stand amazed in your presence. We thank you for the Holy Spirit. We thank you, Lord, for the grace that you have given to us, Lord, enabling us to see you, enabling us to experience your love this morning.

Oh, God, what a joy to know that you are speaking and that we're hearing. Father, we are amazed at your goodness, we're amazed at your kindness, we're amazed at your gentleness, and we're amazed, Lord, at the incredible passion that you have to make yourself known to us, Lord. And in these next few moments, Lord, as we look to your word, we pray that you would speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us, Lord, by your word. Your word is so precious. And may we not only hear your word now, Lord, but may we seek to hear your word every day.

May we be as Mary, who longed to hear your word. Oh, God, we honor you and your presence this morning. Do what only you can do, free us from distractions, we pray, Lord, in Jesus' name.

Amen and amen. There's a few young people here this morning or young adults. I'd like to address you for a few moments, if I may, please.

Listen carefully, all right. This is a word from the Lord for young adults here. All of you here are precious to the Lord.

I want to encourage you this morning by the Lord to guard your heart, guard your heart against fretting and worrying and undue concern about two things, about the future and about what you're going to do. You don't need to fret. You don't need to worry.

You don't need to be concerned about these things. Young people, there's one thing that you need to be concerned about today. One thing, not two, not three, not four, not five.

One thing, and if you will ask God to give you a heart that will be concerned about this one thing, everything else will take care of itself. Now, I suppose that this is not only a word for the young people. I suppose that there's some adults here who might be saying, my, my, my, I think I might need to hear this myself.

One thing is necessary, young people, and here's what it is, that you would devote, set yourself aside, spirit, soul and body. And offer yourself to God and ask him for one thing, God, make my heart, make my affections, make the depths of my being to find supreme satisfaction, supreme joy, supreme delight and pleasure in you alone. Young person, I can promise you with no doubt in my heart or mind that if you would consider and heed this challenge from God's heart and God's word this morning and you would make it your occupation, make it your business to ask God every day to give you a heart that finds supreme delight in him alone, God will order your steps in his timing, in his way, in a most marvelous manner.

Just devote yourself to him. Jesus, help me to love you. Help me to find significance in you.

Help me to find peace in you. We live in a world today, young people, where people are relentlessly looking to find significance and peace and value and worth in what they do. And God is calling us to flee such a mindset and to find our significance, to find our peace in Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace.

Father, I pray that everyone here, particularly the young people, would be able to hear this short word of exhortation and that you would, by the power of your Holy Spirit, free the young person here this morning who has fret in their life, undue concern and frustration and anxiety and care over the future and over what they shall be. And I pray you'll help that person this morning to lay all of that at your feet, to give it to you, and to come and say, Lord Jesus, help my heart to find satisfaction in you. Help my supreme goal in life to be obeying you, following you.

And then I know, Lord, that your word says that you will lead and guide my every step. And you will take thought to fulfill your purpose in my life. Lord, I pray for every young person here that you'll free them from the dreadful pressure that this 21st century puts upon them and that you will, by the Holy Spirit and by the word of God and hopefully by the prayers of their mom and dad and loved ones, that you will rescue them from being driven so that they can find peace in Jesus Christ.

Father, we join our hearts together, believing you to do this for Jesus' sake. Amen. Mom and dad, I hope and pray that you can see these things, you can see the pressures that are upon our young children and young adults today, and that you can stand together in prayer and exert your young people to make it their business, to make it their supreme goal in life, to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, mind, strength, and soul, and that they don't have to fret and worry and be overly concerned about the things

that the nations who do not know God are devoted to.

What sweet release, what sweet joy, what sweet freedom, what peace, what a song comes to the heart when it finds rest at Jesus' feet. As we've been discussing for quite some time now, the Lord's goal in our life is to secure in us a place where he can call his home, a place where he can call his home, a place where he can live, a place where his kingly reign can reside. I'd like to turn your attention for a few minutes to the book of John, chapter 12.

John, chapter 12. There's a section of scripture that I would encourage you to consider with me this morning because the truth contained in this scripture is vital for you and I. If, listen, if we are going to be followers of Jesus, how many here want to be a follower of Jesus? And as I mentioned earlier, unfortunately, many times when people say, I'm a Christian, they're not saying, I'm a follower of Jesus. Being a Christian means a whole lot of different things to a whole lot of different people in this present hour.

And it's very easy to be led astray by taking security in the fact that we might call ourselves Christians. I'm a Christian. People didn't die in the New Testament because they were Christians.

People died in the New Testament because they were followers of Jesus Christ. You say, Brother Phil, the two are the same. No, they're not.

Not today. Maybe originally they were, but not today. People were followers of Jesus.

People lost everything they had and laid their lives down by the grace of God at the feet of Jesus Christ and surrendered everything to him, claiming to have no rights, claiming to have no say, claiming to have no plans, but simply offering themselves to a crucified, risen Savior who had conquered them by his love and conquered them by his eyes, conquered them by his power, who were willing to lay aside all things, selling their property. Nowadays, we're told to buy property. But the early Christians were so united to the living Christ, they were compelled to sell their property, to sell what they had.

They didn't want anything to hinder. They were keenly aware that being a part of the way meant that Christ was the preeminent one and that following him meant obeying him. You remember when Jesus spoke to Peter in John chapter 21 and Peter questioned Jesus regarding John and what the Lord's will was for John's life.

And Jesus looked at Peter and said, Peter, if I will, that John remains alive and doesn't die until I come, what business is it of yours? And then he closed his statement with these words, and these are the words that he is speaking to those who are called by his name today, in the day that we live in. He said, what is it to you? Basically, he was saying, Peter, I love you, but it's none of your business. But you, Peter, you follow me.

You follow me. A lot of young people, and a lot of older people, get up in the morning, go to bed at night, get up in the morning, go to bed at night, and this is their mindset. Look what he's doing.

Look what she's doing. Lord, what's your will for this one? Lord, what's your will for that one? Well, they're doing it. But Jesus is saying, what is it to you? You follow me.

See, there is a Christianity present today that is not concerned. It is not concerned with following Jesus Christ. It's concerned about what everyone else is doing.

But you, Peter, follow me. Now, John chapter 12, beginning in verse number 35. Then Jesus said to them, Yet a little while is the light with you.

Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come upon you. For he that walketh in darkness knoweth not where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may be the children of light.

These things spoke Jesus and departed and did hide himself from them. But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believe not on him. That the saying of Isaiah, the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke.

Lord, who has believed our poor and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore, they could not believe because Isaiah said again. He hath blinded their eyes and hardened their heart that they should not see with their eyes nor understand with their heart and be converted. And I should heal them.

These things said Isaiah when he saw his glory and spoke of him. Now notice the next few verses. Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many believed on him.

But because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue. Verse 43, this is the word, this is the verse. This is the heart penetrating, piercing word that Jesus wants to speak to each and every one of us this morning.

For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. And because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God, they believed on him. But they did not confess him for fear of what the Pharisees would do to them.

There is coming in your life, my life, and in the life of the church corporately. There's coming a day when we are going to have to decide during a moment in the presence of God. It could happen while you're gathering here in the auditorium, and God's Spirit will come upon you, and God's presence will be revealed in your spirit.

It might happen while you're driving in the car. It might happen when you're at home. I don't know where you'll be when it'll happen.

But brothers and sisters, this is a prophetic word to you and I this morning. It will happen. And young people, listen, listen, listen, listen.

There's coming a time in your life when God is going to speak this word to you. He's going to speak it to you somehow, some way, in a divine appointed time, when the windows of heaven are open, and you are suddenly aware of his voice. And God is going to ask you a question, and he's going to say, Do you love the praises of men more than the praise that comes from God? Taking the Scripture at face value.

They were believers, but they were closet believers. Because they were more concerned about what people thought, than they were about what God thought. Brothers and sisters, Jesus stands in our midst this morning by his Holy Spirit, and he's saying to us, if we become followers of him, not if we are Christians necessarily, not if we profess publicly to be a Christian, because it's not really that hard to publicly confess that you're a Christian today.

Everybody's doing it, on TV, on the radio. So, if you want to be a follower of Jesus, and obey his word, and be numbered among those in Revelation chapter 14 that we mentioned earlier, verse 4, For these are they

which are not defiled with women. They are virgins.

They are they which follow the Lamb wherever he goes. Followers of the Lamb wherever he goes. Do you see what we are called to as Christians? And do you see what Christianity is today? We are called to follow Jesus wherever he goes.

Whatever he's doing. But you know what? If we go on a journey with Jesus and walk with him, guess what we're going to find out real quick? He doesn't care what kind of reaction people have when he speaks his truth to our hearts. He doesn't care.

Listen, Jesus is not intimidated by anyone. Jesus is not afraid of anyone. Listen, Jesus is not so insecure that he has to say all the right things to us in order to ensure that we'll still like him.

But oh how we're like that, aren't we? Come on, be honest. Listen, we are not going to hear his word to the full measure that God is looking for in this late hour. We're not going to hear his word.

We will not follow him. We'll continue to be Christians because Christianity nowadays is a religion that has been created to where you can stay in your comfort zone and you can just have everything nice and yet continue to profess Christ. But following Jesus is a whole different ballgame.

And if we follow Jesus and his word, we must come to him and be delivered from our love of praise from men. And we must ask God to give us a desire to please him. First and foremost, do you know that we cannot hear God when we want to please people more than him? Do you know why? Well, if we do hear him, we won't believe it's him.

Because we've got God all figured out where God will lead me in a certain kind of life that is going to keep me safe, keep me secure, keep my friends happy, keep my children happy, keep my wife happy. Everyone's got to be happy in this modern Christianity. But when we begin to follow the Lamb, not everyone's going to be happy.

Because when we follow the Lamb, we come to where he, listen, he interprets life for us. And he interprets it a lot differently than we do. You remember when the disciples walked with Jesus and a few brothers were feuding over an inheritance.

And what did the one say to Jesus? He said, Jesus! Well, he did not know what he was getting into, did he? Jesus, come here. Would you tell my brother to share the inheritance with me? I tell you, Jesus is so awesome. The first thing he said to me was, Man, who made me your arbitrator? Who made me to judge whether or not your brother should give you the inheritance? Now, this is what it means to follow Jesus.

Then he said, Beware of covetousness. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of things which he owns. And then he went on to tell a story.

You see what following Jesus means? Hearing his word. Being changed by it. I want to hear Jesus, do you? I want to follow him.

I want to hear his word. I want to love his praise and his approval more than I do man's. You know, some people go into deep, deep depression over the thought of doing something that will make someone unhappy.

They go into all kinds of convulsions. Beloved, following Jesus will mean I want him more than anything. Now, ask yourself this question, alright? Just ask yourself this question.

Lord, am I every day seeking earnestly to know your will and to follow you? That's what he wants. That's what he wants. For they love the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Let's turn our Bibles to Luke. Gospel of Luke. As you know, we've been discussing the captivity of the righteous.

That's certainly one of the captivities that we need to be free from, isn't it? Loving the praise of men more than God. Luke, chapter 14. We're going to look at a few Scriptures.

Listen carefully, okay? As we have been looking at the three major areas of our life that the Holy Spirit has to put His hand on so that we can be given an opportunity to be free. Free so that it is Christ only. Christ always who's got our heart.

And we learned last week the three areas were health or our physical well-being. And then we looked at... we mentioned wealth. And then we look at the third area, family.

These are the three areas that God touched in Job's life. The three areas that God touched in Job's life. Thank you, Norman.

Actually, let's... I'm just going to move this down here so we can see a little better. Oh, that's good. Thank you very much, Norman.

Number one, we saw... We'll just call it health. Number two, wealth. And number three, family.

The objective, the goal, the purpose for which God touches these areas of our life is to address the captivity. The captivities in us that are manifest, are seen in these areas of our life. You see, it's not these things in and of themselves that is wrong.

It's our hearts' relationship to them that God is after. It's our hearts' relationship to our health. It's our hearts' relationship to our wealth, our career, our possessions, our positions.

It's our hearts' relationship to our family and the affections that we have. And in all of these areas of our life, God is after one and one thing alone, and that is to release our hearts from inordinate devotion to any of these things so that, as we learned last week, it can be true in us what Jesus said in Matthew 22, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, with all thy strength, with all thy mind, with all thy power. You see, God is jealous.

I don't think there's any husband or wife here that would accept an agreement, a marriage agreement that said, I shall be married to you, and you shall expect no more than 64 percent of my heart's devotion. And I shall expect no more than 64 percent of your heart's devotion, so that each of us have room for our own thing. Does that sound like a reasonable marriage agreement to you? Then why, why do we think that the Lord would want to settle for something like that? He's jealous for our love.

You say, well, where in my heart, what in my life would be a sign to the Lord that I'm not wholly devoted to Him? Because I really want to be devoted to Him. That's good. And that's why we're looking at these things.

Listen, if you ask God to give you an open heart, He will speak to you. He will deal with you as He did Job. And you will come out, the other side, double blessed.

Free from all things. Nothing matters but Him. Now last week we learned about the body.

And we discovered that within the heart of man there is a danger to have an inordinate affection, an inordinate love, an inordinate attachment to the things that pertain to our physical bodies. And we see that in society today, don't we? We see an undue concern about the way we look. We see an undue concern about clothes.

We do. We do. We see an undue concern about the importance of our physical look.

Now as last week we mentioned that we need to distinguish between the things that differ, it is not wrong to have a normal, natural concern for one's physical well-being. That is not what the Holy Spirit is addressing now. But what we see in society today, which only reflects the dregs of sin within the flesh, is not simply a good, natural concern for our physical well-being.

But we see, as we read last week in Romans 1, we see the worship of the creature rather than the Creator. And one of the things that God touched in Job's life was his physical well-being. And we know the challenge was in Job where Satan said, Oh, does Job serve you for nothing? If you touch him, he'll curse you.

And so the Lord allowed it to happen. And so expect the Lord in His own way, in His own timing through His Word, expect the Lord to deal with you about your heart condition concerning your physical existence. The Bible says in Philippians 3, really what the Lord wants to do is He wants us to think.

Listen, He wants us to think, but not just mental, positive confession. He wants us to think about these things the way He does. That's what He wants.

He wants us to have a proper, healthy attitude toward these areas of our life that is in accord with how He speaks and addresses them. And that's the problem today in the church. We don't have the outlook about the things in the Bible.

Philippians 3. Beginning in verse 18. For many walk of whom I have told you often and now tell you even weeping. They are enemies of the cross of Christ whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly.

Now, when the Scripture, listen, when the Scripture uses the word belly in this context, He's not simply talking about the stomach. The word belly there represents the physical passions. Listen, the appetites.

The appetites. Whose God is their physical appetites. If that doesn't address what's going on in the world today, bullseye.

Whose God is their physical appetites. That's why as Christians we must be very careful about this whole issue. Because what is motivating the world and generating the concern of the world regarding this issue, it's not a wholesome sense of doing it because it's the right thing, but it's because it's the God.

It's the God they serve. And Jesus will walk in the midst of His church in this lay hour and He will put His hand on this area of our life and the end result will be we will be delivered from undue concern and undue devotion to the natural, to that which corresponds to our natural life. Appetite.

Appetite. Everything you see on TV appeals to what? Appetite. Everything you look at in magazines appeals to what? Appetite.

Human appetite. Human passion. Human desire.

And most of it's the corrupt part. You don't see many commercials simply advertising water when you're thirsty. Nothing evil about that, is there? Thank God for water when we're thirsty.

You don't see that, though. You see advertisement and it's controlled by the God of this world and don't ever believe it's not. What a strategy.

Oh, sometime we'll have to deal with this. What a strategy the enemy has done, knowing the corruptness of the human heart. He's created an entire world system that is so skilled at being able to pull out of the heart of man his sinful desires and fan them into flame so that they're serving their own appetites and their own passions.

And the warning that God is giving the church is this spirit has come into the church, but Christianity is not addressing it. In many places they're opening their hand to it and welcoming it. There was a time when to be a Christian meant I break my affection with the world.

There was a time when Christianity meant to be a friend of the world was to be an enemy of God. There was a time when Christianity meant if I am a Christian, I absolutely beg God to break my will and break my heart and break my love for myself because to be a Christian means I follow Christ. To be a Christian means I beg God to make me a lover of His word.

I beg God to make me obey His word. To be a Christian meant that I can't I can not walk in pride and if I do I have to repent. To be a Christian meant that if there's any covetousness in me, any greed in me, and God reveals it to me, I've got to deal with it.

See? But now, oh, chill out. Chill out. God loves you.

Be easy on yourself. Okay. Secondly, before we do that, let's finish Philippians 3. Whose God is their appetites, who glory in their shame, who mind earthly things.

Now you know the word earthly there? You know what it simply means? That which pertains to earth. Who mind. That is, their minds are constantly on that which pertains to earth.

For our conversation is in heaven. From where we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our glorious bodies. Is that what it says? How about this? Our hot bodies.

How many people want a hot body? Is that the word? Young people? He's hot. Or she's hot. What does God's word say? Vile.

Lonely. Weak. Corruptible.

You know, it's very good to tell yourself and to tell your children regularly, beloved, your body is corruptible. Don't get too attached to it. Don't get too attached to it.

It's corruptible. And the beauty that God is concerned about is not the beauty that is seen with these eyes. 1 Peter 3. We know the beauty that Peter commands women to adorn themselves with.

The beauty of the inner life clothed with the meekness and gentleness and quietness of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Which, by the way, ladies, any man who's got the Holy Ghost in him is attracted to that beauty. Guys, you want to win the heart of a woman? Let her see that your life is so devoted to Jesus Christ.

Let her see that you care more about Jesus than anything or anyone in this world. And if she's got the Holy Ghost, she'll say, that's the guy I want to hook up with. I tell my daughters all the time, don't look for this.

Don't look for this. Don't look for it. I'm telling you, you might get it and regret it.

Look for a man who knows how to weep before God. Look for a man who loves this book. Look for a man, say, God, bring a man into my life that loves me.

That loves you more than me. Look for a man who can say, sweetheart, I love you and I'll be devoted to you all the days of my life. But if Jesus tells me, I've got to obey Him first.

Look for a Jim Elliott who loved Elizabeth Elliott, but loved the call of God more. Girls, find a guy who loves you, but loves Jesus more. That's the one that you want.

Does that have a ring of truth in your heart this morning? Oh my God, it makes me want to start jumping. Lord Jesus, that's what we want. Please, Lord, we want that.

Make your word real. We just think of all the young people here this morning, Lord. Moms and dads join together with my heart.

Grandma, Grandpa, you've got grandkids. Lord, please, we beg you, help our young people to capture the vision of loving you, finding contentment in you. Lord, help them not to be driven by their appetites and be unduly concerned about their looks and their appearances, oh God.

No, Lord, we're not preaching a legalistic gospel here. No, Lord, it has nothing to do with laws. It has to do with life in Jesus.

Lord, I pray every young heart that's able to hear this word, Lord, that you will transform them, that you will give them contentment, contentment in you. We pray in Jesus' name, Lord. Hallelujah to God.

How freeing God's word is. How freeing the truth is. How freeing it is.

Secondly, wealth. Wealth has to do with our careers. It has to do with our possessions.

It has to do with our positions. It has to do with the things that we own. And walking with Jesus, not necessarily being a Christian, but walking with Jesus will require us, sooner or later, to experience His mighty hand upon all the areas of our life that pertain to the wealth and the career and the possessions.

And He will take a searchlight, and He will search. And He will uncover the things that are in darkness. And He will require that we lay everything down at His feet and be dispossessed from the things that possess us.

He will require that every area that this area of life has to do with us, He will require that we lay it at His feet and be free. Why? So that we can love the Lord our God with all of our heart, and all of our devotions, and all of our affections, and all of our mind. You can't love God with all your mind when your mind is

addicted to this.

What does God's Word say? And see, everything God's Word says represents the reality that is in Christ. And that reality is what God wants to see in His church. What does God's Word say about this stuff? Well, let's go to Acts real quick.

We've got a few more minutes. Let's go to Acts. Thank God for His blessings.

Thank God for money. I don't know if I even do that, but I'll say it. Thank God for all the blessings and everything that He's given us.

Car, and home, and bank accounts, and oh yes, thank God. But oh, guess what happens to all that stuff when you see Heaven, beloved? Guess what happens to all that stuff when you see the glory of God and the incorruptible nature of Christ and the true nature of what wealth and treasures are? Guess what happens to all that stuff? It becomes nothing more than filthy lucre. Did you know that? Nothing more than filthy lucre.

Guess what? If anything in that middle category, wealth, whatever it is, and we'll go through a list in a few minutes that sort of covers that whole area. But if it means anything more to us than that, we are in need of the purging of God's Spirit. Remember last week, young people, what Brother Phil did? I took some money out of my wallet.

This is all I got this week. I threw it on the ground. Remember that? Don't forget.

Don't forget. Don't ever hold tightly to this stuff. He that holds tightly to money will lose his soul.

Don't hold tight to it. It will not buy you true happiness. It will not buy you true satisfaction.

It will not give you true joy. It won't. Acts 4. Verse 32.

Listen carefully. This is what God wants to do. This is what He wants to do in us by the power of His Holy Spirit.

And the multitude of them that believe were of one heart and of one soul. Oh, isn't that beautiful? One soul. One heart.

You know what that tells me? That tells me that through the power of the Holy Spirit, these early believers walked through this whole message of Job. Didn't they? And what was the end product? They had one heart and one soul. That is, they were all joined together after one thing.

Him. I love it. Listen.

Listen. Neither said any of them that all of the things which He possessed was His own. Oh my.

Oh my. Oh my. Hello.

What does the Scripture say? None of them said that anything they owned was their own. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, with all thy heart, with all thy mind. You cannot love God with all your heart and mind and soul if you claim ownership of this area of your life.

Now, you know what the beautiful thing is about what we're doing here this morning? It's this. I'm not telling you that you can't claim ownership for what you own because it's mine. Some preachers will do that.

They'll tell you, take your hands off your money and put it in the offering basket. But you know what? I'm not doing that. Thank God.

I'm telling you what God's Word says. It's not yours. And God has to work a deliverance in our life so that our souls can be detached and freed from everything and so that it doesn't matter.

This is what it means to follow Jesus. Nothing matters. So let's let him search our heart.

Lastly, we come to family. I want to invite you if you would please to turn to Luke chapter 8 verse 19. Listen carefully.

Jesus Himself is the perfect commentary to this whole issue of family and all of the affections and all of the attachments and all of the bonds that are good in family. But here's the final word. Luke chapter 8 verse 19 Then came to Him His mother and His brethren.

Now who's His mother and His brethren? His family. Okay? And could not come at Him for the press. See, the news media was just as bad back then as it is now.

That's not what that means. It's the crowd. And it was told Him by certain which said, listen, Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without desiring to see Thee.

And what were Jesus' words? And He answered and said unto them, My mother and My brethren are these. Now in another gospel it says, And Jesus pointed to His disciples and those that were hearing His word. That's a little filling here.

Are these which hear the word of God and what? Do it. Luke chapter 12 verse 49 I am come to send fire on the earth and what will I if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how am I straitened till it be accomplished? Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on the earth? I tell you no, but rather division. Now listen carefully.

From henceforth there shall be five in one house divided. Three against two and two against three. Three.

The father shall be divided against the son, the son against the father, the mother against the daughter, the daughter against the mother, the mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. What in the world is Jesus talking about here? How can that be? What is Jesus saying here, beloved? When it comes to the area of family, the searchlight of God will shine, and the Lord will require that our first and foremost devotion must be hearing His Word and obeying it, which means we cannot put even our devotion to one another above that if, listen, if that devotion to one another means I have to disobey God's Word. How much, how much of God's Word is not being obeyed in our life because of family? How much is not being obeyed because of wealth? How much is not being obeyed because of our preoccupation with earthly appetites? This is a question that you have to ask God.

You have to go to His Word and let Him speak to you. Now, next time we get together, we're going to try and bring this to an end, and it is a glorious end because we're going to go back to Job chapter 42 and we're going to discover what happens in Job's life when these areas of purgings have been wrought in his

life. It is a glorious end.

This is where we're heading as a company of people, as the church. we're going to close with that thought this morning. Let's bow our hearts for a few moments and look to the Lord.

Father, thank You for the Holy Spirit, and thank You for Your Word, Lord, and thank You for drawing us to Yourself today. And Lord, we simply lay before You and ask that You would give us hearts that are pliable so that when Your hand begins to touch these areas of our life, Lord family, wealth, and health, and the physical, that You would find in us a response of submission to You, and that You would look in us, Lord, the qualities that are in Your Son so that we can be free in our heart to love You with all of our being. And so we praise You, Lord, for Your work, and rejoice.

Be our all and all today, we pray, Lord. Thank You, Lord. You know, I'm thinking of the song I'd Rather Have Jesus and you fill in the blank.

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold. The praise of man, whatever it is, I'd rather have Jesus.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/30/SID30509.mp3>

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