

# What His Presence Is Not: The Church Today - Part 2

by Ray Andrews

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the growth of new believers while celebrating their unique identities in Christ.*

**Duration:** 48:55

**Scripture:** Luke 21:9

**Topics:** "God's Presence"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the current state of society, highlighting the lack of truth and justice. He emphasizes the need for overwhelming evidence or a national outcry to bring about change. The preacher urges listeners to stay on course, be courageous, have faith, and keep their hearts light. He also warns against following false prophets and seducers in the end times. The sermon concludes with the belief that the church, born in power and glory, will exit the world in the same manner. The preacher references Luke 21, emphasizing the importance of staying focused on Jesus amidst the rapid acceleration of events.

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## Transcript

Sometimes we have the question about setting it right for young converts. When are they going to pray? How should they pray? How do we regulate prayer time for them? How do we get them into the word? If we start saying to them that we don't need to do this, then we're going to have a problem because they won't get into the word. I have three of my own children.

We had two fosters, but they were lighter. So our own children. There's one thing that all of us men know.

Mothers somehow have got a greater ability than this. But the little babies, beautiful and wonderful, somehow spontaneously, every four hours, ah, quick love, quick love, go, go quick. You get the breast, not me.

You go feed the baby. The hunger in the baby automatically cries out for food. We've been born again, not with human sperm, but divine sperm, Peter says.

When I came to Christ, I had an insatiable appetite for the word. I just wanted to get into the word. I just wanted to be in the word.

I have a personal problem of, of people who say, I don't understand it. I can't see it. I don't get anything out of it.

It's dead. And then we try to regulate them and say, if you pray and if you read the scriptures, then you will grow. You've got to read the scriptures.

What we finish up doing with them, we actually kill them. We suffocate them. Because one of the tragedies that I see is the Bible says that the Holy Spirit has come.

And when he comes, he will. The big problem is we do it. But the Bible says when he comes, he will.

He'll convict us. Sin, righteousness, and judgment. That's what he'll do.

And he'll do a whole lot of other things, but those are the first initial things that he does. And one of the things that I find so amusing when, when, and boy, we, we don't practice this because I don't think anybody wants to practice this in their church. Because I watched this happen.

We want to see people come to Christ. We have witnessed to them. We have brought Christ to them.

We have shared with them and they've finally made a decision for Christ. And then we bring them to the church. And when we bring them to the church, there's about half a dozen really well-meaning Christians just latch right onto them.

And everybody's got their own list. This is what you have to do. This is what you've got to do.

Now, smokes out of your pot. No more smoking. Now finish.

No more smoking, Jack. Finish with smoking. And anyhow, I want you to grow your hair because you're too short.

Now, and they start on this person. And you know what they do? They do a number on them that the Holy Ghost is never doing. And it's as though the Holy, we let the Holy Spirit bring somebody, mind you, out of sin, degradation, filth, and an unsighted sight.

I mean, the Holy Ghost can do all that. He just has a problem helping them to grow. And they all come to the door.

Okay, Holy Spirit, go find some more. We'll walk them over. We'll get them right.

We'll tell them the right sort of language. We'll give them the cliches to say. We'll stop their smoking.

We'll fix them up. Don't you worry about worrying about prayer times. We'll allocate their prayer times.

And don't worry about when they're going to read. We'll fix their worry. We'll fix the timer up for them to pray.

We'll make sure they're out of bed at 6 30. You go find some more Holy Spirit. Let us walk them on them.

Do you ever see something like that happen? I said, I said, there are people, if I see you latching on, I'll tell you what, I'll choke you. He that's begun a good work in me will perform it till the day of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will work in my life.

And if it doesn't make any difference, if anybody's ever going to be with me, that which is born of God is born of the Spirit of Spirit. The Holy Spirit has begun the good work in me. It's going to continue in me if the Holy Ghost does it.

When I have somebody that we've got to coax, and talk to, and conjure, and pat them on the back, and say, oh that Christian brother, he didn't mean, oh she didn't mean what she said. It's all right. And so we pampered them, and we pat them, and we peck them in cotton wool, and we try and look after them.

And the only thing about pecking somebody in cotton wool, and putting them in a glass case, is that as soon as you open the door, the first whiff of wind, and they got the flu, and they catch pneumonia and die. That's true. If the Holy Spirit can bring a man out of the world, and change his life dramatically, and bring him to church, do you think he can keep him? I cannot create anything spiritual in anybody.

And it's exactly the same as truth. I can share truth with you, and I intend to do that in the next few nights. But I can't reveal truth.

I can share truth, but I can't reveal truth. Every time I go to minister the word, I am conscious that what I'm going to say is what I believe to be truth. But I know what I'm saying, but I don't know what you're hearing.

Only the Holy Spirit can take what I'm saying, and transfer it to your lifestyle, to your thought pattern, to your conviction, to what is meaningful for your life. Can't reach across an audience of people, and believe that I'm going to be that important, that I can reach everybody's need, and touch everybody's life. I'm only a vessel.

And I'll share it, but he must reveal it. When the Holy Spirit comes, he will. He will.

It's the he will of the Holy Spirit. It's not the he will of what I want to do, or the kind of input I want to make into somebody's life. And I'll tell you this, when somebody is genuinely born of the Spirit of God, new life has begun.

And he that is born of God will always resemble his father. He'll always resemble his father. We don't have to make it work.

We don't have to try to make it happen. We don't have to do anything. There was a family of boys.

He had three brothers, and his father and mother. And the older brothers started to tease the younger brother. And as he was growing up, they kept dropping messages to him.

You're not really part of our family. You actually were adopted. And they kept working on him.

So you know what he started to do? He'd watch his brothers, and he tried to act like them. And then he tried to make his hairstyle as him as his father. And if they dress a particular way, he dressed a particular way.

And he grew up for years, and didn't have any common sense to go try to find out from his parents. He just listened to the, he just listened to this constant dropping in at the right time, this message, just this message all the time, dropping in this message. And as he heard the message, he kept trying to copy the way they were doing things.

He tried to take off some of their characteristics and some of their traits. And then one day, as a teenager, he went up to the county court, and he asked for his birth certificate. And he pulled his birth certificate out, and he read it.

And he was a legitimate son, a brother indeed. How many Christians don't try to do that? Here's the standard of our church. Here's my standard.

Here's the way I am. When he came home, when they tried to do it to him, he said, it's over. It's finished.

You can't do it anymore. I've looked at my birth certificate. I am a legitimate son, and I'm free to be me.

Listen, I'm free to be me. I'm free to be me and God. I don't want to be a stamp of you.

God doesn't make cookies the same. We're not clones. Everyone, that's what's so rich about it all.

That's why I love it when I'm traveling and meeting people. Everybody's so neat and so different and so unique, and I learn so much from everybody. I travel, I travel to teach wherever I go, and do you know that I learn more from everybody else than I do from me? I go home with a wealth of understanding and the uniqueness of people, and neat people.

I meet friendships, and I get with people, and people invite me to their place, and I invite them over somewhere else, and then I invite them to where we're at, and we start building a whole new network. And I tell you, the people in the body of Christ to me are neat people, and we can be me. I can be relaxed, and I can be me, and I don't have to try to be somebody else.

And how much we try to do that in the church. When I have some people coming, and it's an interesting thing, when I have some people coming for counseling, I get a couple, because we have professional counseling officers, and so we're doing that all the time, that's outside of the church altogether. It's a separate thing, and so we have a staff, and we do counseling all the time.

And I sit a couple down and say, well, you know, what do you want? Well, I want them to change. I want her to change. Now, what does that mean? What does it mean? You want her to change.

What does it mean? What are we changing her to? Let's, let's go to the cupboard and I'll see what I've got. How am I going to do that? Tell me, please tell me. How am I going to change her? I don't know.

I just want her to change. You know what I say? I say, I know what you want her to change. You want her to be more like you.

When we want somebody to change, we usually want them to be more like us, because we've got it together. We're pretty well off. We're pretty good.

We've got it right with God. We're here. We're alive.

We're spiritual people. They've got to change and be like me. Do you know that whenever I say that somebody's got to change, and the inference is almost always they should be more like me, because here we're comparing it to how they're going to change.

Do you know what that is? It's nothing more than raw egotism. Who do I think I am? When I want somebody else to change, it's nothing more than raw egotism. I want you to be you, and I want the Holy

Spirit's agenda.

I want the Holy Spirit's agenda for your life, and he doesn't have the same agenda for any of our lives. We can have a standard and put some rule up and say, this is the way that we have to be. This is what a Christian is.

I was just talking with Bill and them, and I was saying that one of the things that I go around, I've talked to some people, and they say, oh brother, we're mature. We're mature Christians, mature. Do you know what I find with most mature Christians? A better word for it is they're stuck in the mud, because you know that revelation is continually progressive.

I don't have to be. You see, when I'm born of God, I will automatically take on characteristics and traits of my father. I know kids that, in fact, I've got one in our church now, and he's moving forward in God, but boy, he went through some times.

He hates his father, his family, he did do. He changed his name, he changed everything that he could to do everything that he could to stop him being like his family. He took up boxing and became a really fit, strong guy, wanted to beat everybody in sight.

The amazing thing about it, I don't know where the story came from, but somebody told him that I had beaten up seven guys at one time on my own, and I just felt it was better never to say no, and I didn't do it. So he never tried me. I just let him stay with the illusion.

I thought, if I tell him, maybe he wants to have a go at me too. But you know, young Brett, you look at him, and he's a spitting image of his father. He's done everything he can to change, he just looks like he's done, he acts like he's done, he moves like he's done.

I don't care what the devil's trying to do. I don't care what the church or the Christian tries to do. I don't care if you're born of God, you're going to look like him.

And they can make you do anything and try anything and cover up anything and go through all the styles and fashions and create whatever the church doctrine might be, but you're still going to be like your father. And I don't look like you, and you don't look like me, and you're glad about that. But I'll tell you this, you're uniquely you, and you can be free to be you.

Do you know that it's wonderful to have the Holy Spirit's agenda in your life? He has got an agenda for every one of us. We are, we live in a world of millions, and we're uniquely us, special to God. His child, when he looks at me, he sees his likeness in me.

For when we see him, we shall be like him. For we shall know him as he is. I'm not ugly, I'm beautiful.

And two people tell me that. That's all I need, two. God and my wife.

Everybody else tells me that I get too big a nose and I get too much of this and too much of that and too much. Well, glory to God. It only matters what God says and what my wife says.

Isn't that true? Well, that keeps me going, that's for sure. I'm special. I'm really special.

I'm chosen by God and I'm special. One last thought, and we're out of here. Go back to what I was saying about talking to God, where I don't pray much.

I carried on for years a monologue with God. I flew into his presence, took my shopping list, asked him for everything that I wanted, and flew out feeling justified that I'd been in the presence of God. Isn't it wonderful if you have kids, you know, and when your kids are little, what do you hear from them? Give me, give me.

Always wanting something. We have a little grandson and he is just beautiful. I taught him a little song.

Ever since he was a tiny little baby, he was born premature, I was able to put my hand out like that there, and he sat in the center of my hand, that extended, and that's how small he was. He is so beautiful. And I taught him a little song ever since he was little, I want to be poppy's boy.

Brian watched him. He's gone two years of age and we were around at our daughter's place the night before we left and we were having tea and everything there, and they put the tape recorder on and he was just singing different things. And then he sang the whole song, I want to be poppy's boy, the whole song.

Well, look, I carry that thing around. I mean, I'm a little bit eccentric. I carry this thing around.

I just plug it in and my heart just fills up, you know, with joy. The kids sing, I want to be poppy's boy, and I send them cards and so on since I've been here, buy them little things to take back, and he's a great little kid. But I tell you, he never stops eating.

He's got something in his mouth nearly all the time. Can I have a lolly? Can I have a biscuit? Can I have something else? Always asking. Isn't it great? I was traveling one time when my son was only very small, and he was much the same as Tommy.

He was about the same age as Tommy. Now he'd be a little younger than Tommy. And I came back and parked outside the house, and Mark came out, and he raced to the road, and I got out of the truck, and he raced to the road, and he put his arms around my legs, and he just hung on to me, and he says, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy.

I tell you, if he'd have given me a million bucks, I wouldn't have felt better. My heart was just pumping out. It was the best sign I'd ever had.

I didn't know he would want and miss me that much, and he's so glad to see me back. He's hanging on to me. You know, it felt so good that I, gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme.

Our Father who art in heaven, oh Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, hallowed be your name. Just hold on to him. Just hug him.

I'm sure that God's much more delighted with me just getting in there. Do you know that I have taken the Lord's Prayer into the presence of God, and I spent hours just praying the Lord's Prayer. Nothing else.

I've got on to the first part of it, Our Father, and I've just delighted in the presence of my Father. Be your name, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy. I'm so glad, and now, instead of having my shopping list, instead of it just being a monologue, I want a dialogue.

I want God to speak to me. I've talked to him for so long, I want to hear what he has to say to me, and when I walk in the presence of God, and that's why I was so trying to tie some ends together with this tonight. Your prayer life and your word life must never be only a segment of a day.

It's got to be a lifestyle. It's something we live with. It's something I do now.

It's something I enjoy now, and then when I go out and walk in the presence of God, I just walk. Sometimes I just say some things to God that comes in my mind, and then I just walk, and then I say some things to God, and then I just walk, and I worship the Lord, and I listen for his voice. If we have problem hearing the voice of God, and we think that God doesn't speak, sometimes it's because we talk too much.

I love my children. Please be quiet. Give it a break.

Do you always have to be asking for something? Yes, they do, but as the children of God, maybe we can give it a break, and say, Lord, just speak to me. How does he speak to me? Maybe we look at that as we go along this week, but certainly we're not doing it tonight. I don't want you to be bogged down.

I want you to go home, and on your way home, just say, oh Papa, Daddy, I just love you. I'm just so glad to be your child, and no matter what's going on, I am becoming like you. I am taking on your characteristics.

I have traits of my Heavenly Father. He that's born of God will resemble his Father. I'm being like you.

Hallelujah. Your life in me. Isn't that wonderful? It's his life in me.

It's nothing to do with me, and as I said earlier on tonight, I'm out, and he's in, and what a glorious blessing that is, and I don't want to be a big boy, and I don't want to be a big name. I just want to be a child of God, a vessel through which God can work, and that what we have got to talk about, and share about, and live is exportable in the world in which we live. Father, I just thank you that we have been able to spend time together in the presence of God.

I just thank you, Father God, that you didn't come to us theologically. You didn't come with a committee. You didn't come with a set of rules.

You came personally to us. You came to us relationally, and Father, I just pray in Jesus' name that as we leave this place tonight, our hearts shall be warm. Our confidence shall be in you, and I pray, O God, in Jesus' name that we shall walk out knowing that you are working in our lives, and that we are special, unique people, and that we can be free to be us, free to be me, free to walk with you, and have your agenda working out in our lives.

I thank you for this group of people. I thank you for the privilege of sharing your word. I thank you for their attention, and for their heart for you.

I bless you for this time in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

Time when my son was only very small, and he was much the same as Tommy. He was about the same age as Tommy. Now he'd be a little younger than Tommy, and I came back and parked outside the house, and Mark came out, and he raced to the road, and I got out of the truck, and he raced to the road, and he put his arms around my legs, and he just hung on to me, and he says, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy! I tell you, if you'd have given me a million bucks, I wouldn't have felt better.

My heart was just pumping out. It was the best sound I'd ever heard. I didn't know he would want and miss me.

Can we handle the new wife? Can we handle the gifting? Now, that is an example of someone that I know through my friend, who knew him very well, and I've been in his meetings, and I've read a lot about Stephen Jeffreys as well. It's an example, is that when the power of God has come, when the move of God has come, people have taken it to themselves, they have taken the glory to themselves, and because they've taken the glory to themselves, God will not give his glory to another, and so it's come apart. It's just come apart.

In Stephen Jeffreys last days, they used to wheel him into some meetings, and they'd bring him up to the front of the service, and they'd bring people with rheumatoid arthritis to him, and they'd get hold of his hand, and they'd get his hand, and they'd bring it over and place it on the person with rheumatoid arthritis, and the person in the wheelchair would walk away. The gifts and columns of God are without repentance, but what do we do with the new wine? I don't want to be a big boy, but I've got a big God, and what I'm seeing is that church history has taught us a lot of lessons that we haven't been able. God's poured the wine out, and there's been a flow, and then we see an ebb, but I tell you, it's about time to move that there's going to be another flow, but what's been going on in this winter, in this winter experience? God's working with the wine skins.

Did you experience any of that at all? Has that been going on with you at all? No. If it hasn't, I hope I'm not on my own going through all this stuff, because I'll tell you, it's been working in me, and I praise God now as I look and see, and I haven't arrived. I haven't come here and say I've arrived, and I'm coming to tell you that you've got to get like me.

I'm not there. I haven't arrived, but I'll tell you something. I've left.

I'm on my way. I'm going somewhere. I'm a man in the process.

He's working with me, and the move of God that's going to come is going to come because Jesus has promised something very significant, and I'm just going to draw this to a close, and then we'll have a stand up and see where we go from there. Okay, you okay for a moment? Okay, let's try it. Let's try just looking at this.

I know you're sorting all this out in your own hearts. It's fine. I said to Chris today, I said it's hard to believe for him to look at in his generation and suddenly see the cold war's over, the Berlin Wall's down.

Things are happening with rapid acceleration. Who would have believed that such a thing could take place? Who would have known that we would see somebody standing chipping the Berlin Wall with little hooks and singing, this is the day that the Lord has made? We wouldn't have believed that. We are accelerating fast toward this end dispensation, and what we're doing is we're coming to a time of fullness.

Now, everything in fullness must grow together. You can't have a climate for harvest and not have everything come to fullness. Oh well, let's get rid of this, and let's get rid of that, let's pull these, you know the story, pull the tares out.

You know they came along and said, should we pull the tares out? Leave them alone. You know, we're interested in getting into every kind of organization and pulling all the tares out and getting everything right, and we want to stop everything, and we want to do everything, and if we could get rid of, you know, if we could, if only we could get rid of Clinton, that would fix everything. We pull him up, we'd fix it.

But you don't know what the next devil is that's going to come along. We vote for the next guy, and we don't even know whether he's going to be any better, whether he's going to be worse. If it's Hillary you're after, I don't know, she seems to run this country.

But whatever's going, whatever's going on, is that our focus? Is that going to change the world? Is that going to do? No. I tell you, one of the things that I find that's absolutely incredible, that it would only been a number of years ago when someone like Clinton couldn't even have run for presidency, never mind be president. So something bigger is going on.

Something far bigger is going on. And Clinton doesn't know it. He thinks he's running the country, and he's only a pawn in the game.

Isn't that wonderful? Don't send the tape to him, please. I think he's got enough problems with that Rick, what's his name, that guy that's on the radio, Rick somebody, Rick. I don't think he would be his friend.

We are coming, we are coming to a climate of fullness. And if I want to look at the evil side, evil and wickedness and degradation, it's coming and growing fast, isn't it? We want to legislate it, and we want to do something about it. But I'll tell you what's happening.

It's growing fast. Evil's everywhere. It's not just in the U.S., it's all over the world.

There's evil everywhere. And we have got family, and we've got children, and we've got grandchildren, and we don't think we want to bring grandchildren into the world because of the evil, and all the stuff's going on. And it really is evil.

If I look at that side, I mean, take that verse of scripture in Isaiah, I think it's Isaiah 40, 14, somewhere there. It says, truth has fallen down the streets, and there is no justice in the courts. Boy, is that prophecy coming true? Do you know that they were trying to jail somebody because they didn't have a bell on their bicycle or something? And yet, in Northern Ireland, I was over on a trip, and yet there was a policeman who got into a passionate affair with another policewoman, and he had a beautiful wife, and they were friends of the family.

And when the girl who he was in the affair with wanted him to leave his wife and get married, he said, no way, I just want my wife. I'm only in this for what I can get out of it, as long as it lasts. And they were friends of the family, so the girl that was having the affair goes to the policeman's wife and takes her out for a walk, and chats to her, and is friendly with her.

And they just go down through the park, and while they're walking through the park, she pulls out a butcher's knife and just spits her from ear to ear. And she goes to court, and the magistrate says, because the magistrate's in Britain like the judges here, the magistrates are high, and the magistrate looked at her, and he said to her, he said, life has been tough on you. You haven't had a really good break.

I hope when you get out that things will go much better for you. Three years, 18 months, none for all. Truth has fallen down in the streets, and there is no justice in the courts.

Isn't that true? There was such a outcry nationally over that, that they finished up jailing her for eight years in another court. And you normally can't appeal to the magistrate there. You have to wait and go through a particular thing.

There has to be some overwhelming evidence or an outcry that's just nationally going to bring them down. And that's what happened. Now, I could go on repeating that over and over.

You could do the same thing. Innocent people that have been thrown in jail, and they're rotted there, when somebody else has gone, and some terrible crimes. Okay, that's what we're seeing.

We're seeing that going on. The prophecies of Isaiah are coming to pass. The words of Jesus are coming to pass.

And now, in the same thing, the wineskins are being prepared for something dynamic, something fantastic, something wonderful, something great. This is not a fantasy, this is not a dream, because you can't come to harvest unless everything comes to fullness. And we are now living in a climate that's producing fullness.

We don't need to ask too many questions about the fullness of evil. I don't need to detail that anymore for you. So what are we going to do? What's happening on the other side? Ezekiel's prophecy is coming to pass.

The valley of the dry bones is coming together. And there's a stirring, and there's a noise, and the wind of the Holy Spirit is beginning to blow. You can't have evil without good.

They both grow in the same climate. It's a climate of fullness. And we're coming to the harvest.

Glory to God. Glory to God. We are coming to harvest time.

And when I think about coming to harvest time, the church of Jesus Christ is going to emerge, and it's going to be displayed to principalities, and powers, and demons, and devils, and everybody, Ephesians 3.10 says that. And you and I, who are parts and members of the body of Jesus Christ, are going to rise up, and we're going to be displaying the power of God to our generation. I can pray for a year, but God can do it in a moment.

The Spirit of God can come. And if anything's been happening, with all what looks like we've just been an anemic, wheezing, sneezing, asthmatic lot, God is breathing new life into the body. He's been changing me.

He's been working me over. And you testify that that's been going on with you. We're not going to sit down in meetings for the next 10 years and say, oh, why am I going, why I live like, why am I, oh, I, oh, God, oh, God.

The bones are now getting flesh on them. Life is coming in the church of Jesus like we haven't seen. I'll tell you, when the church of Jesus Christ rises in this end time, it won't be the big man.

It'll be the one man show. But we will all be together. And God will be using the body.

It will be the body of Christ. God has used one man. God has used a singular person.

God has come on a man and given him revelation. People have moved in that truth. Well, we're all in this move together now.

Well, who am I? How could God, who am I? Well, do you remember old Moses saying that? Old Moses comes and God calls him and Moses says, but who am I? Can't do it. Can't do it. Who am I? Can't talk properly.

That's me. And God says to him, he says, nevermind who you are, it's who I am that matters. You tell him it's the I am that I am that sent you.

And if he's got any argument with that, I'll give him a demonstration. And he did. I want to lift up our heads.

I want us to see that we're looking beyond something and it's greater than what we see happening. Changing our president will not change a thing. Changing our society will not change a thing.

Demonstrating outside an abortion clinic will do nothing. We never had any of that stuff going on. It's not going to do nothing.

It's not going to change anything. And however commendable it might be, it's a diversion from the message of the gospel that Jesus preached. Jesus came and dwelt on this earth and walked amongst men when they were under Roman occupation.

And the disciples, but more so the Jews, oh good, good. We'll get him to set it up, his kingdom down here with us. We'll get him to set up his kingdom.

They weren't so keen, they weren't so interested that Jesus would rule, they just wanted the Romans out. They probably would be after an assassination themselves, because they finally did it, didn't they? You know, when Jesus walked on this earth, he walked in a country that was occupied by Romans. Jesus did not tell us anywhere that we were to change society.

What Jesus did do, he called us and gave us a message on how to live in the society. This world is not our home. We're just traveling through.

We don't change this place. That's not what it is. And we can so easily spend hours complaining about our president, about the Congress, about members of parliament, and the devil will use it to change our focus.

Clinton's not the big man. I know the big man. I know the big man.

In the 21st chapter of Luke, the Bible gives us a horrific passage of scripture, a horrific insight into the climate that's going to prevail before Jesus comes. You know Luke 21, don't you? Matthew 24, Luke 21, same sort of passage. We don't want to read it because we don't have time.

In Luke 21, the disciples are out for a stroll with Jesus one day, and when they're walking out for a stroll with Jesus one day, they're looking, and of course the Romans are everywhere, and the disciples point to the temple, and they said, what a magnificent sight. Boy, isn't the temple look beautiful? It's adorned with ornaments and adorned with everything. What a beautiful sight the temple was.

Do you know the temple was 500 yards long, three yards wide, and it was covered in gold? And when the sun came on it in the afternoon, it glistened over the whole city. And the temple for the Jews was a sign of security and stability in an unstable society. And the Romans would not dare go into the temple.

The Romans would not dare walk in the temple. That was the holy place. And so the disciple says, look, have a look at the temple.

And Jesus turned around and he said to them, he said, listen, he said, there shall not be one stone left upon all of the lost commandeering. That's an inspiring message. If you're placing your security, if you're placing your permanence in that temple, you've got it misplaced.

But he said, I'll tell you something, heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words will never pass away. If you want to be secure, if you want to be permanent, put your life in my words. Don't put them in that building.

Some of us can be so denominationally minded that our security is in our building. Jesus said, don't put your security in the building. Put your security in me.

Put it in me. And he tells us four things in Luke 21. You may find some others, but there's four things in Luke 21, which is a horrific passage of scripture about the climate, the backdrop.

It's a backdrop for the end time. And in verse eight he says, many shall come in my name and say, this is me, come after me. And we're going to see all sorts of seducers and false prophets and all sorts of people coming in the end time.

All this stuff's going to come. And Jesus says, don't go after them. Don't follow them.

And so number one, he says, stay on course. Keep your eyes fixed on me. There's a heap of things going on now, but I tell you the exhortation of this word is keep your eyes fixed on me.

Stay on course. The next verse says, there's going to be wars and trouble and disasters, but do not be terrified. Number two, we're not sniveling, weaseling people.

He's saying be courageous, be courageous in a world that's falling apart. This is a world that's falling apart. Do you know who's going to be the stability in the end move of God? It's you and I. Fix on Jesus.

I'm courageous. And then he goes down, I think it's to verse 13 and 14. He goes down to verse 13 and 14 and he says, they're even going to take some of you up before the councils and they're going to persecute you and some of them you'll even kill and so on.

And he says, but listen, he says, don't think about what you're going to say. Because you get the words right there. The Holy Spirit will inspire you.

So now he says, stay faith-filled, vitally connected to God. Stay faith-filled, vitally connected to God. And then we go right down to verse 34 and he says, and don't let there be any of you who will get caught up in surfeiting, drunkenness, immorality, and the cares of this life who don't worry, be happy.

Jesus said it long before that guy, didn't he? You might as well get drunk and worry. That's what he's saying. What's the difference? Some people can sit and look down their self-righteous nose and blame somebody else for getting drunk while they're sitting in the house.

Oh, what am I going to do? Oh God, what am I going to do? Oh, this is terrible. I'm having my kids, oh my family, oh my money, oh my stuff, oh God. And they're sitting there and maybe a little bit of drink would help them.

Jesus said, don't allow yourself to go astray. He's saying, keep in tune. He says, don't be weighed down with surfeiting.

Keep your heart light. Keep your heart light. Keep your heart light.

Number one, stay on course. Number two, be courageous. Number three, be faith-filled, vitally connected to God.

And number four, keep your heart light. Stay in tune. A rebellious, lash-headed life, the payoffs are too high.

The payoffs are too high. Don't do it. Some of us know that.

They're too high. Finally, always watch it when a preacher says finally. Finally, the church of Jesus Christ that was born in Pentecost, at Pentecost, that church was born in power and fire and glory.

And the church that was born in fire and power and glory will exit this world in power and fire and glory. Hallelujah. Donoghue said one day in one of his shows that the church has lost its influence.

Well, I tell you, he's getting a shot coming. He's getting a shot coming. And I'm just delighted to be in this church.

And I'm delighted that you're my brothers and sisters. And we're in it together. And there's no more big boys.

We've all lost our identity. And Jack and me's in the same place. Just the same place.

He has raised us up together. And he's caused us all to sit together in heavenly places. And somebody says to me, oh, but brother, what a terrible, terrible day.

Look up, look up, look up. No, I'm not looking up. I'm looking down.

I'm seated in heavenly places. We have all got the same place in the same position, and there's no big boys anymore. And the church, the body of Christ, regardless of denomination, is going to be the greatest force on the face of the earth.

And the world has yet to see what the church is going to do through the whole body. Father, I just thank you, Lord, that we're excited because we're in this church. We live in a world that's falling apart.

We see that we are in a climate of the end time. We see evil abounding in every hand. And Father, it's so easy because the devil wants to try and get us to focus on the evil.

But I thank you, Lord, that everything comes to fullness in the time of harvest. And what's going on in this church of which you are the head is exciting, liberating, puts a spring in our step and a smile on our face and joy in our heart. Because you have not left us, you have not discarded us, but you have brought us in.

And we're all in this thing together. And Father, I just pray that this will encourage our hearts tonight in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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