

A Wake Up Call to Men in the Church

by Shane Idleman

The sermon emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's word, the dangers of rebellion, and the need for humility and spiritual leadership in men.

Duration: 38:01

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:23, Psalm 51:17, Proverbs 27:8, Isaiah 1:19, Ephesians 5:25, 1 Timothy 3:5, James 1:22, James 4:6, 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Male Leadership", "Spiritual Obedience"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the theme of being prone to wander from God's path, drawing parallels to a bird leaving its nest. It delves into the consequences of wandering, especially for men as leaders in their families, highlighting the impact on marriages and children. The message calls for honest self-examination, repentance, and a return to God's ways, stressing the importance of obedience over rebellion. It challenges men to lead, love, and prioritize their families above all else, addressing issues like divorce, absent fathers, and the need for genuine, humble leadership.

Transcript

The message tonight is prone to wander. We just sang it, didn't we? Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above. And it's interesting, with this sermon this week, I actually didn't finish this until last night.

I tried to work on it all week and it was just getting irritating. Nothing was coming together. And my wife just took the kids last night for about three hours, and I just sat and said, Lord, okay, this is not working.

What's going on here? And I believe He just wanted to take me in a whole different direction than where we were going. And that's usually why I get frustrated and nothing's coming together is it's just not flowing. It's not fitting.

And the Scripture really seemed to just leap out all week. And I couldn't really put my hands around it. Some of you are familiar with it.

In Proverbs 27, it's a very interesting verse. Like a bird that wanders from its nest, so is a man who wanders from his place. Think about that.

Like a bird that wanders from its nest, so is a man who wanders from his place. Prone to wander. And we know what that word means, right? Wander, to depart, to stray, to retreat.

In other words, we're set in a certain course and then now I'm prone to wander. There's something in me that's prone to wander. It reminds me of that story I heard some time ago.

I don't know if it's true, but a man who raised his young son in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And he just did all he could do. But in his 21 birthday, when he turned 21, all hell broke loose.

And he just went and partied and got in trouble and eventually ended himself up in a jail on the Nevada border. And his dad walked in into the jail cell and he said, son, you don't belong here. And that's what happened, that wandering.

Son, you don't belong here. And especially in men, as a Father's Day message, we're called to lead our families. But there's something inside of us that is prone to wander and wander and wander.

We've gotta pull that back in. So I wanna talk about that subject tonight, of wandering and how do we pull that back in. When the Bible talks about the bird that wanders from its nest, so is a man that wanders from his place, right? We know what that place is, to stay within God's framework of safety and protection.

And it's kinda like a bird. You trap a bird. Do you trap it in its nest or on the ground? On the ground.

Look at bird trapping. They'll trap that bird when it gets down, when it gets, there's safety in that nest, there's safety in that protection. And the enemy wants to draw us away from that place of protection.

The reason is, then we get a certificate of non-operation. You know what that is, right? I know friends with nice cars in the driveway, but guess what? They're not going anywhere because there's something wrong with it. There's a certificate of non-operation.

This vehicle is not going anywhere. And what happens when the enemy draws us out of that place, here's what happens. We become ineffective, unproductive, negative, angry, lukewarm, depressed, disgruntled, discouraged, critical, powerless, and lifeless.

Does that ever sound familiar? You say, Shane, how did that happen? Well, we wandered from that place. We wandered from that. The enemy pulled us somehow from the place that God wants us.

God says, listen, don't wander. Don't wander. You're prone like a bird that wanders from its nest.

God says, stay in this place. Do you know what that place is? God says, stay in that place. Stay in that environment.

Stay in the safety of protection. Well, how do we do that? Well, I'm glad you asked, and we're gonna talk about that tonight. The wanderer within you must be restrained.

I can list everybody in this room and say there's a wanderer within. We're prone to wander, like the song says, prone to wander. Lord, I feel it.

Do you ever feel that, prone to wander? Say, I don't like it. I don't like that, well, I just wanna sleep in. I don't wanna get to the Bible.

I don't wanna get into church. I don't wanna do these things. I'm prone to wander.

So we say, Lord, how can we restrain this wander? And a lot of it, you know, the hard part for me is just to be honest with you is everything I share from this pulpit is how we can avoid this wandering. And how can you bring up new truths every single week? And you can't, because if it's new, it's not true, right? If it's true, it's not gonna be new. And that's one of the difficulties with pastoring is sometimes you have to repeat it and repeat it and repeat it to, oh, now it sinks six months later.

Oh, I said that a year, oh, now it sinks in. And God, that's the beautiful thing about God's work. It comes back and it keeps repeating and repeating itself.

But I don't wanna do that tonight. I've talked about prayer and fasting, worship, all those things, go back and listen to the last three years worth of sermons, really. But I just wanna talk to you as a man.

I'm a broken man from a broken childhood that resulted in a broken marriage that resulted in a broken life. But God, you'd be surprised what God can do through brokenness and humility. It's my firm belief that God wants to do a lot more in a lot of people's lives, but without that brokenness and humility, He can't move.

He can't chain as an, well, God can do whatever, right guys? They're a boulder too big that God can't move and we start thinking all these things. Well, we know God can't lie. And God will work through a broken, humble vessel, a person that submits and surrenders their life to Him.

And that's what I wanna talk to just the guys, you can listen in, women, of course, and this will be a blessing to you as well. But I wanna talk about honest self-examination tonight. Honest.

That's a key word there, right? Because you can say, oh yeah, okay. Honest self-examination where you sit like I did this weekend, you just sit in a chair and you examine your heart, you examine your motives. And what I wanna draw from as well is 1 Samuel 15.

Many of you are familiar with this story. God told Saul to do something. I believe it was Saul, I didn't read the context there.

But God told Saul to do something and he did not do it. And Samuel comes and he says these famous words, for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. You've heard me quote that before, right? Another translation says, for rebellion is like the sin of divination and arrogance like the evil of idolatry because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you.

And I just, last night actually, I just, Lord, what, and just reading over this and trying to grasp why is this on my heart? And here's what I kind of came up with. God is not saying that He will reject a Christian when they rebel or we'd all be in trouble. He is saying that disobedience is the same as magic and divination and soothsaying.

At the heart of magic is rebellion. At the heart of false worship is self-exaltation. See, he's showing, he's saying, see, Israel would put a high cost on magic and divination.

Really what this is is you're conjuring up, you know, Ouija boards, you fill in the blank, black magic of calling the satanic influence into their life. God, that had a high price in the nation of Israel. They would kill those people.

Salem witch trials in America, remember that? Funny they won't tell you about the three Christian men who brought those to an end. They'll just point out all the bad things in this. But rebellion is as a sin of

witchcraft.

And what happened is the children of Israel saw witchcraft as the huge sin that it is. Nothing worries me more than talking about those things. When people dabble, they say dabble into the occult.

You're not dabbling into the occult. You're playing into Satan's hands. Well, let me just go out, we're gonna spend a weekend, we're gonna have some wine, do the Ouija board.

You're not just gonna have a joy. You're gonna invite the spiritual enemy into your camp. And Israel knew this.

I mean, you don't see too many people, Samuel, Saul, David, those days playing with witchcraft. So God would say, listen, in the same way you view that, rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. So when there's people in rebellion against God's clear directives, it's as the sin of witchcraft.

It's rebellion and arrogance is just as a stench in the nostrils of a righteous, holy, pure God as that is. Think about how powerful that is. Sometimes, oh yeah, that's a good saying and a good scripture.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. But when you really sit and ponder it, wow, that carries a heavy, heavy thing. And then I kind of glean this from it as well.

There is a deeper anointing. There is a more powerful place of worship. There is a more prominent place of service that flows from obedience.

See, later on, he goes to say, because of that, God's gonna rip this kingdom from your hand. You're no longer gonna be king. There is a deeper anointing.

Hear this, there's a deeper anointing. There's a more powerful place of worship. There's a more prominent place of service that flows from obedience.

And it's funny, sometimes when I talk on this, even other pastors will say, I get labeled as a moralist. Moralist, well, a moralist is somebody who says, oh, do all these things and then now you'll be in favor with God. You know, I'm so spiritual because I do all these things.

And yeah, that can, you know, I gotta do this and do this. You can run the risk of being a Pharisee. But God's word is crystal clear that obedience, disobedience is as the sin of witchcraft.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Don't do this, flee from this, abstain from this, do not be conformed to this, and so on. And I think many people are just scared of that word obedience.

That's a very healthy word. Actually, it's a very protective word because it's like you're being up in the nest like the bird. As a bird that wanders from its nest, obedience is that safety net.

When I can obey the word of God, there comes anointing, there comes power from that obedience and what happens with disobedience? There goes the anointing of God, there goes the blessing of God. And a man wanders from his place. So it's very significant.

When we reject the word of the Lord through disobedience, there is a cost, there is a price. Sometimes we forget that, I think, because well, I'm forgiven, I'm saved, I can do whatever. Anytime we, and I'm talking about, let me also encourage people right now.

None of us walks perfectly in the will of God on this side of eternity. We're stumbling, we're fumbling, but where's the heart at? Is your heart set on pleasing Him and getting in right relationship with Him and getting everything reestablished again and renewing in fellowship and repentance? Or is it not set on that? Like, well, I know God forgives and I'm just going to continue in this. I mean, I could name a half dozen people right now.

Actually, they're all men, come to think of it, where I've talked to them. I said, listen, Scripture says this, but you're doing this. And they always say, well, yeah, I know, Scripture says, but God, no, no, no.

No, when you go against, when you disobey the clear-cut commands of Scripture, there is a price to pay, there is a cost. Somewhere down the road, what a man sows, that is what he will reap. That's why sometimes we need to hear difficult messages like this, is to wake us from that spiritual sleep and say, listen, wake up.

So I believe if we can glean this from this text, for rebellion is as a sin of witchcraft, God is not saying that He will reject a Christian when they rebel, but He will call them back. He is saying that disobedience is the same as witchcraft. And at the heart of witchcraft is rebellion and pride at the heart of false worship is self-exaltation.

There is a deeper anointing. Do you guys want the anointing of God in your life? Do you want to feel the power of God in your life? Do you want to have experiential, powerful worship? Do you want to have a prominent place of service in God's kingdom? It all flows from obedience. You will not see somebody stuck in disobedience, stuck in rebellion, who is on fire for God.

That's an oxymoron. Because when I'm stuck in this funk, is what I call it, I'm not on fire for God. Let's revisit the list.

Ineffective, unproductive, negative, angry, lukewarm, depressed, disgruntled, discouraged, critical, powerless, and lifeless. Lord, Shane, my life is like it's falling apart. God seems distant.

What's going on? Well, sometimes we need to check the condition of the heart. Not all the time, because there are valleys and mountains, and I understand we go through challenges, and I can't say, I'm not one of those guys that says everything's linked to disobedience, everything. Because then we all be in trouble.

Right? But sometimes, God will convict us and say, I know he's convicting me to do that. I just don't wanna do it. And I'm not gonna do it, because God's a butler in heaven, he's no big deal, but then you better read the scripture.

I mean, to me, when I read that, doesn't that give you a little shivers up your spine? Your rebellion and disobeying me is as the sin of witchcraft and divination. I mean, there's no middle ground there. That's crystal clear.

Now, here's the key. Pride blinds us to the things of God. How many times have we talked about pride in this church? Dozens and dozens and dozens of times.

When I see a bunch of humble, broken men, I'll stop. Deal? Deal? When I see guys at this altar, weeping, guys turn around in their chairs, praying and worshiping God, I'll stop. When I see wives saying, my husband loves me so much, I have no complaints, I'll stop.

And you know why I didn't like this sermon? Because it's speaking right to me, too. How many times have I said, I'm a prideful man, working on humility? See, it's very healthy to say, I'm a prideful man. I need help.

Lord, would you help me? Would you break this pride? But pride, here's what happens. I've noticed the most arrogant Christians are the most self-deceived Christians I've ever met. They think they're God's gift to God, and he just loves them so much, and they're so prideful, though.

They can't see through that veneer. It's the only disease that we have that we're not aware of. I remember I heard a story, actually, at the prayer breakfast, I've heard it a few times, but it definitely fits with this, is when Muhammad Ali was on an airplane, and they were getting ready to take off, and they said, would you please put on your seatbelt? And he said, nope, not putting on my seatbelt.

The stewardess said, Mr. Ali, would you please put on your seatbelt? He said, Superman don't need no seatbelt. She looked at him and said, Superman don't need no airplane. Oh, you see how that works? Pride just comes in and spiritually blinds everything.

Superman doesn't need no seatbelt. You can't even fly. What are you talking about? That's what prideful people do.

I don't need that. That's for those guys. I don't need to repent.

I don't need to break. I don't need to work on my marriage. I don't need to seek forgiveness.

I don't need to, because I'm good with God. You see how pride works? A seatbelt is on an airplane. It's amazing what pride does.

And pride will make us say some of the stupidest things we've ever heard or ever said, rather. I've seen, I've said it. Oh, I don't need that.

Why did he do that? Why did he? And just pride, that's what it does to men. It blinds us spiritually. And I don't think you realize that, but when we're walking in pride and disobedience, we think we're making decisions blessed of God and ordained by God, and often they're not.

Because they're decisions of the flesh, decisions of pride. So we have to be very careful that everything we do lines up with Scripture. And I don't know how some people do it without Christ at the center of their life.

I just don't know how they do it. And here's the part of the sermon that changed. I'm just gonna read a lot of the article of what I put in your paper.

I felt God is, or in the bulletin, what God is wanting to speak to us. We are in desperate need of genuine leadership broken, humble men who are not afraid to admit that they need God. Men who are more worried about prayer than about status and recognition.

Men who petition God rather than position themselves. Men have largely forsaken their God-given role of spiritual leaders in their homes. Nobody can deny that.

Let's look at a few examples. Bible reading and prayer are called fanatical, while working 12 hours a day is called success. We build our career, but neglect our marriage.

Can I throw something in there that happens in the ministry? I see it all the time. We build our ministry, but neglect our marriage. As if that's more important.

God says, listen, you can't even qualify to lead a church unless your house is in order, 1 Timothy 3. Don't even talk to me about building a ministry unless you're building your marriage. God is the foundation. And then family and ministry are support mechanisms within that.

Now, of course, sometimes we need to put more energy towards the ministry and then more energy towards the marriage and you're going back and forth. It's never a perfect balance. But if your marriage is falling apart, your ministry is supposedly growing, something's wrong.

We have to look at these areas. Corporate executives are praised, but family men are frowned upon. Pride is considered an asset and humility is a liability.

We know more about our favorite athletes than our wives and our children. We'd rather be seen leaving a bar than leaving a church. We praise our favorite team, yet fall asleep in church.

Men, you're not called to be passive, weak, indecisive partners. You're called to protect, lead, and guard your family. You are to initiate prayer.

You are to defend your wife. You are to shepherd your children. You are to make your home a holy sanctuary.

You are called to fight the enemy, not flee from him. I'm tired of weak, passive men who never contend, stand, or fight for anything worth dying for. Our nation is looking for character, our wives are looking for leaders, and our kids are looking for fathers.

Men, stop the silly video games. Get off Facebook. Kill your porn habit.

Tell your ungodly friends to hit the road. You're called to lead, love, and die if necessary for your families. We are the reason that the nation is deteriorating.

We are the reason, not the government. Stop blaming God and the government. Look in the mirror.

Now you know why this was hard to put together, don't you? But we need to hear it. This is exactly what we need to hear. We need to stop blaming God and the government.

We are the problem. Dad, wake up. Life is a battleground, not a playground.

And I can hear it now. Shane, you're being too hard on the guys. Too hard, really? Really? Really? I think the opposite is true.

Because often, if the father wanders, so will the children. Did you catch that? That scares me to death. Three little girls and a little boy.

If the father wanders, so goes the children, in many cases. Today, virtually, this is Kenny Luck. He just wrote a good article on the Christian Post.

I think they posted it today. Today, virtually, every social problem, social injustice and behavioral abnormality can be traced back to absent, delinquent, misbehaving, or drunk or sexual immoral dads who didn't respect or understand their enormous calling. And he goes on to say 90% of all women want to

change at least one aspect of their appearance.

And only 2% of women think they are beautiful because their dad's never told them. 81% of 10-year-olds are afraid of being fat. A girl is being bullied every seven minutes.

Where's the fathers? Where are they? They're missing in action. Every 15 seconds, a woman is battered from a man. 50% of music videos portray women as sex objects, victims, or in a condescending way.

One out of four college women has an eating disorder. One out of three girls between the ages 16 and 18 say that sex is expected for them at their age when they are in a relationship. Girls often find themselves mistreated, miscast, misused, and undervalued.

What they need is guidance, esteem, honor, and worth that only a father can give. Did you catch that? I mean, moms are wonderful. I mean, I put them right up there below God.

But man, there's a different role. There's a distinction. You show the girls the value.

You hold them so another man doesn't. You love them so another man doesn't. You tell them they're beautiful because another man's gonna be looking at them as a sex object.

And the direction of pornography, when you look at statistics and the sex trafficking and now that child porn is an epidemic and raising in our country, it makes me sick. And somebody better start calling it out because it's perverting the culture and it's perverting the church. Unless we take a radical stance, it's not gonna get any prettier.

The wonder within will destroy you, man, unless you wake up and do something about it. And this one I had to write down. It's called an OMG moment, right? Oh my God.

I heard this and I pulled over and I got home and I had to research. I said, is this true what I just heard? I'll focus on the family. That America's divorce rate is now the highest in the world.

What? America's divorce rate is the highest in the civilized world. It's a triple of that to Great Britain and France. What happened? One nation above God is what's happening.

We're no longer one nation under God. It's one nation above God. And I hate to be the bearer of bad news, man, but the divorce rate is not really 50-50 there.

You are the leader. You're the initiator. You're the coach.

When a coach, when a team fails, do they go after the water boy? When the team fails, do they fire the offensive lineman? Who do they go after? The coach. I don't know of too many marriages that I've seen destroyed recently if the man said, listen, I've been wrong. I haven't been leading.

I haven't loved you like I should love you. I've mistreated the kids. I wanna change that.

Will you help me? Will you pray for me? That's gonna end up in divorce court? Really? All I see is prideful, angry man wanting to excuse everything and argue everything. Say, yeah, but, but. No, but it's time you get a swift kick in the butt and start picking up where people are lacking off.

This is a wake-up call. Man, where are these statistics coming from? The church. The church.

It's just as high in the church as the culture. So what do we do? We just come in and give God lip service? Do we even believe the songs we're singing? Do we even believe the word we're hearing? What's happening? Children of divorce are three times as likely as those from intact homes to be expelled from school or have a baby out of wedlock as teenagers. Six times as apt to live in poverty and are far more likely to be incarcerated.

Please understand my heart. It's not to beat up on divorced people because I know marriage is tough. Life is tough.

But from my experience, men could have stopped 90% of the divorces that I'm aware of in the Christian community by the words I just spoke. By the words I just spoke could have stopped divorce court. But what gets in the way? I'm not putting on no seatbelt.

How ridiculous did that sound? How about what Michael Reagan wrote when his dad Ronald Reagan and Jane Wineman decided divorce? Hope I can get through this part. It's a hard part. Because from a pastoral perspective, I see the kids.

Divorce is where two adults take everything that matters to a child, the child's family, the child's home, the child's security, a sense of being loved and protected, and they smash it to pieces, leave it in ruins on the floor, then walk out and leave the child to clean up the mess. All the divorces I've been involved in and seen in the church and even in culture, the kids are hurt. Oh, they're resilient.

They'll just get over it. Not that easy. I say, Shane, this hurts.

This just hurts. Good. Good, I hope it does.

I hope it hurts so much that change takes place because I'm tired of preaching to men who do not want to change. Again, not necessarily in this church. These messages reach a broad audience.

We're at 30, 40,000 people a week with radio and internet. We're hitting a lot of people. But I'm tired of just click, great sermon, thank you, great sermon, click, thank you, and then you just talk to the wives.

Do you want just a sample of the emails from wives? I'm at a loss. My Christian husband is verbally and physically abusive. This came in from out of state.

Ironically, he thinks that I'm the problem. He sees no need to change. He'll quote Scriptures about submission while yelling and cursing.

His anger is also destroying our children, and our home, once filled with laughter and joy, is now filled with fear and depression. Man, we walk on eggshells and cherish the times when he is gone. He loves his porn more than his family.

I can no longer bear it. I've never thought of divorce, but now it's a daily struggle. What do you do, just email her back, Philippians? Count it all joy, Romans.

All things work together. Is that what you tell her? I usually just hand them over to Morgan, let her talk with them because it's the children. We're so selfish.

We're so selfish and self-absorbed that we don't see what it does to the kids. I didn't know it was gonna be this hard. Talked to a girl a few months ago.

She's probably 20, 22 now. She's a little girl still hurt by her daddy's choices. Christian man, I told him, you need to go apologize to your girls.

I don't think it's been done yet. Are we that prideful and that arrogant? Are we? I don't need no seatbelt. I know this hurts.

It's supposed to hurt. Nathan went to Daniel. Samuel went to Saul and I'm going to you.

Listen, this is how people change. It's good to cry and weep. It's good for men to feel.

It's good for men to feel the damage that they caused. They need to go home and they need to cry and they need to weep. They need to mourn.

They need to repent. They need to return to God. And normal Father's Day messages aren't gonna cut it.

Millions of men are gonna enter churches tomorrow and they will hit or abuse their spouse or children before that day is over. You don't think that happens? This should cause every man to go home and repair what he can. Ah, but Shane, they've moved on.

It doesn't matter. I'm not talking about repairing a marriage that's done, but you can restore that relationship. You can restore.

You can renew. You can repent. You can reestablish.

But Shane, I've done too much damage. Remember what I said earlier, but God. You'd be amazed at what God can do with humility.

You'd be amazed at what God can do with a humble, broken heart. Because he said, oh, now I can shape it. Now I can return the years that the locust has consumed.

Now I can do in one year what you destroyed in a lifetime. You'd be amazed at what a broken, humble heart could do. God moves in that, the anointing, the power.

I can say this because I was a man who destroyed my marriage in the 90s. Obliterated it. I mean, thinking I'm not wearing a seatbelt or anything.

Pride and arrogance, thank God no kids were involved. Thank God. You'll see the article, Men, Our Families Would Rather See a Sermon Than Hear One.

You know, I think that would be a good position for the men in this church. Get some duct tape and put it over our mouth. People would rather see a sermon than hear one any day.

When I go home, you think I'm gonna preach this stuff to my family? Here, it's the hardest thing you'll ever do. Is have a father, children, and be a husband to a wife, and be consistent. Because the wanderer in wants to get upset.

The wanderer in wants, and in fighting, it's consistent. It's consistent. It's hard.

It's battle. This is battle. This is warfare.

But I like what Vince Lombardi said, the Green Bay Packers coach, many years ago he said, in any man's finest hour, his greatest sense of fulfillment is when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle, victorious. If in football, how much more in our families? See, I wanna look back and look at my son, and the reason I never cheated on your mom is because as the husband goes, so goes the son. I did it for my spirituality and yours.

I wanna look, if you look into the eyes of your children, maybe it's me, maybe I'm just sensitive, but I see the kids, and divorce never helps the kids. Now, I know many of us are in different situations now where there's fractured families, there's 50% of it in our nation, but our hearts can change. Situation might not, but our hearts can change.

You think the condition the family pleases God, how he ordained it? You think he's just happy the homosexual agenda coming in, trying to change everything, two dads have raised a kid, and two moms can raise a kid, and fighting for all these rights that are just gonna be detrimental to the family. I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.

The eyes of better pupil and more willing than the ear find counsel is confusing, but examples always clear. And the best of all preachers are the men who live their creeds, for to see good put in action is what everybody needs. I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done.

I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run. And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true, but I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do. For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give, but there's no misunderstanding, dad, how you act and how you live.

It's very healthy. Sometimes I'd go home and say, Morgan, do I practice what I preach? Shoot me straight. A lot of times it's encouraging.

Sometimes it's not. Honest self-examination. And you might say, somebody I'm sure are saying or watching this later on the radio are saying I've wandered.

Shayna, I've wandered. Guess what? That's a good thing. That's the first step to coming home.

It's the people who don't think they're wandering that concern me. Their wife's about ready to walk out. The kids don't even know him anymore.

He's going to church. Oh, that doesn't apply to me. They need to hear this.

My Uncle Bill in South Dakota need to hear that message. No, you needed to hear it. That's why we bring these difficult messages.

So if you've wandered, that's the first step. Self-examination. It's time to come home.

I'm wandering no more. I'm coming home. The prodigal son wandered.

And then what? Came to himself. But then also we know, if you're unsaved, you're not prone to wander. You're already wandering.

You're already distant from God. You're done. You're away from Him.

And if you've been playing church, if you've been kind of not quite there and I don't know where my relationship with God, if you've never repented of your sin, you will not be the father that God's called you to be. It's hard enough as a Christian man. It's hard enough as a Christian man, let alone not knowing God.

So you are wandering. Call on the name of Christ and let Him save you tonight. God won't make us or force us, but He will draw us.

See, God's not going to make any man in this room conform to what I've just talked about. Guess who's got to do it? We do. But He will draw us.

That's the point of this message, folks, is to draw us, to convict that heart. I mean, I was restless all week. I was like, I have no idea what I'm going to speak about until last night.

I do not like that. But He redirected. I had this whole nice little, you know, seven points and here's this and this.

And you know, it's like, nope. It's time to wake up the men. It's time to wake me up.

This woke me up. I mean, it's like the highest divorce rate in the civilized world. What happened to one nation under God in 1776, declaring independence and raising, you know, what happened to all that? Lip service.

Lip service. Jesus said, you draw nigh unto me with your lips. Everybody talks a great game.

I'm so sick of talk, but your hearts are far from me. It's always an issue with the heart. We'll close with what's in the top of your notes there.

I want the presence of God himself, or I don't want anything at all to do with religion. A.W. Tozer said, I want the presence of God himself, or I don't want anything at all to do with religion.

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