

# From Desolation to Restoration

by Shane Idleman

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**Scripture:** Isaiah 45:22, Matthew 11:28, Matthew 28:19, Romans 8:38, Acts 1:8, Mark 16:16, Psalm 51:17

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## Description

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## Transcript

As I was reading this week, I realized that we're getting a lot more closer to how Rome was when Jesus lived. And when Paul wrote his Pauline epistles and in jail, what I mean by that is it was either Caesar is Lord or Jesus was Lord. But America, of course, became a melting pot and I'm all for melting pots.

People, you know, we welcome all kinds of people, of course. But we're getting to that point now where that line is being drawn in the sand a little more clearer than it used to be. God's Word, which is true, or what man says, which is false.

And now the things that were true and good, now they're actually calling them evil. And the things we know to be evil, they're actually calling good. And so there's never been a time, I believe, that it's been so important to go from devastation to restoration.

Now, this might not happen in our nation, but it can happen in your personal life. It can happen in your family life. What I love about God is He is not dictated by our politics or our economy or the world system.

Thank God He doesn't sit underneath the World Economic Forum. He sits above all governing authorities. Actually, Jesus, they said, the government will rest upon His shoulders.

That means all authority, everything has been given to the Son. And it gets difficult because we want always the good guy to win. We want the what's going on, Lord, and how's evil prevailing? But be encouraged, the prophets used to ask that as well.

Habakkuk and Hezekiah, or no, he wasn't a prophet, but he's one of the kings, and Jeremiah, and they would ask, why are the wicked prospering? Lord, do something. And so that's why we have to trust in His sovereignty. And so I did want to encourage you this morning, a lot of new faces, that we are getting to a point where you've got to make a decision.

That on the fence, or what Elijah would say, how long will you waver between two opinions, is kind of coming to an end pretty quickly. And so there comes a point where all of us have to make that decision. And I want to just pick up from where I left off Friday night.

It's a good reminder that from the sixth hour until the ninth hour, when Jesus was on the cross, there was darkness over all of the land. Think about that. Jesus is dying on the cross.

We talked about that on Friday. And about the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, and He gave up, the Bible says He gave up His ghost, depending on the translation, or He gave up His spirit. Basically, He yielded.

He said, it is finished. And a brief lesson in one minute is because all of us, all of humanity have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We do have the condemnation of God upon our lives as unbelievers.

And so what Jesus did, He rectified that. He fixed that. He died on the cross, became that substitutionary atonement, bore our sin, bore our penalty on the cross.

That's why He said, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? At that point in history, many agree that there was a separation, and He absorbed that, and that's what the cross is all about. That's why it is so important, the power of the cross. And then once that happened, when Jesus died on the cross, everything in human history is looking to this point because either He rose from the dead or He didn't.

If He didn't, we probably shouldn't be here. It's a big waste of time. We've been following a lie.

And if any of you have questions, we'd love to talk to you at some point because there is so much historical proof. And again, I had to just get right to the point. There's so much I want to share with you.

But if you are skeptical, think about that. This, even secular historians say that Jesus was an historical figure. He lived.

He's not a fairy tale. He lived. So if He lived, why did so many people die for this belief system? If they hid the body.

If He really didn't rise from the dead. These guys were tortured. Deny Him, deny Him.

Okay, okay, He's behind the shed. And how do you steal a body from a legion of Roman soldiers trained to kill who are probably right around the tomb? You can't roll a tomb away, or a stone while they're sleeping. And you just look at this accuracy of the text and you realize, yeah, like C.S. Lewis said, He's either a liar, He's a lunatic, or He's the Lord Jesus Christ.

I kind of cringe when people say, well, He was a good teacher. He was a good teacher. We should do what He says.

Well, actually, if He didn't rise from the dead, don't do what He says. Because He said a lot of things that were way out there if He is not the Son of God. He would not be just a good teacher.

He said, I will rise again. I am the Father, are one. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scriptures say, out of His belly is going to flow rivers of living water.

And He had the audacity to say this if He's only a good teacher. I am, I'm going to put the word only in there for you. I am the only way.

I am the only truth. That's pretty arrogant for a teacher. I am the only way, the only truth, the only life.

Nobody, nobody, nobody comes to the Father except through Me. How is that a good teacher? You have to remove that option. A complete lunatic, which was absolutely false because his words were so full of wisdom that he would, have you ever seen anybody really good with their words? Well, you haven't seen them this good.

They would say, nobody ever spoke like this man. So much boldness, so much truth. And so lunatic is out the door.

Liar, not even a hint of a lie because everything came to pass. So you have to deal with that when you hear messages like this. Is He truly the Lord Jesus Christ? Do some investigation.

Look into it. And that's a big misconception with Christianity. It's why I'm so glad there's a lot of theologians out there, but we don't just check our brains at the door.

Golly gee whiz, let me just believe whatever. Pixie dust and unicorns fly. Let's throw Jesus in there as well.

No, no, no, faith has a concrete foundation. But when He died, this is so incredible. When He died on the cross, it says the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to the bottom.

Now most people I've talked to, you know, that really don't know the Bible, don't understand a lot of Christianity, don't realize the relevance. But it's in the Bible for a reason. It's so important.

And just picture four inch thick curtain. And it's about the height of our ceiling. And what it did, it actually, that you have the inner court, the outer court out there where people were at, the sacrifice, the sacrificial system, they would bring the blood in.

But here's the veil that was always up from Moses back in the desert. You could not go into that area because that was the Holy of Holies reserved just for the priest who would intercede once a year and he better do it right or he wasn't coming out. And so he would bring that blood.

I think he would shake a little bit. He would go in that veil and he would sacrifice for the sins of the people and then come out. Basically, what God is saying is crystal clear, that veil is now ripped from the top to the bottom, four inch thick and it's saying now you have full access to the Father.

Come boldly to the throne of grace. That price has been paid. You don't need intercession anymore.

You don't need the blood of the bulls and the goats that were temporary. You go directly to God. And I don't wanna bash religions this morning, but you just have to talk about things when they come up in the text.

This is why we do not go to a man to go to God. You don't have to go sit in a booth and confess. That's unbiblical.

It's borderline heretical. Because he is our intercession. He is our interceder.

He intercedes for us. We have a high priest who has went before us, who has been tempted in all points, yet was without sin. He intercedes on behalf of, he is the only one we look to.

We don't look to man. We don't look to a religious system. We don't look to rules, but we look to that relationship and that alone.

It is so important. And so this temple, the veil is ripped. The earth shook.

There's darkness over the land. And later, after Jesus' resurrection, they record that even the dead got up out of the grave and walked into the holy city. Shane, do you believe that? Absolutely.

Because he's the first fruit of the resurrection. God who hung Saturn and Neptune, He might be able to have the body resurrect. I don't know.

I don't know. I know it's a hard thing to imagine. But that is what there is, a resurrection of life.

Did you know you actually die twice if you don't know God? The first is physical death. The next is spiritual death. It is appointed once to man to die, and then after that, the judgment.

This Scripture is crystal clear and is not written by man's perspective with flaws and errors. That's why we look to and call it the inerrancy of Scripture. The inerrancy of Scripture.

And how many of you are confused about what's going on in the church of America today? They call it woke. Have you heard that term? Politically correct. Do you ever see some churches and pastors and they, like, why don't they speak the truth? Why don't they talk about these issues? Why don't they? I don't understand.

Have you been there or is it just me? I mean, it's like unbelievable. Well, here, if you get to the main core of what's going on, this is probably 99% of it. And I'm not gonna get into details or different things.

I think we're gonna set up later. But I had a debate with a Christian, which we saw differently on some big things, from the UK, and we did a podcast. He didn't show up, so we did something else.

We'll release it this month. But he's saying things I totally disagree with. Like, how does he come up with that conclusion? Lord, what Bible are we reading? So my first question is going to be, do you believe in the inerrancy and absolute authority of God's Word? I can guarantee the answer will be, well, it depends how you define that.

There's good things, there's good truths. Paul was writing to his generation, and now though, in our generation, we've learned a lot, we've grown, we've evolved. And so now we can better understand.

Paul was writing to that culture, but now we have a better understanding. And see how they try to twist it? So everything hinges on the validity. Now, of course, there's gonna be different views on the non-essentials that for some reason we love to argue about, right? Myself included, I don't know.

It's called pride, by the way, in case you didn't know. But this is why there's so much division. If God's Word is true, the inerrancy of Scripture, then certain behaviors and lifestyles are wrong.

White House, we look to God's house, not the White House, for direction. And so that's why. How can they quote Scripture? Did you know our governor put on a billboard supporting abortion, Jesus' words? What in God's name? I mean, I can get real fired up right now, but I'm not going to, I promise myself.

But how is that even possible? Because it's not the inerrant, inspired, thus saith the Lord. It's conjecture, it's theory, it's good practices. Do unto others as you like to have them.

And so they can take it and now twist it to what they want to believe. Judge not, all you judges out there. It says judge not.

No, actually, it does say to judge. Keep reading. It says judge with the right heart.

So this is so important. I know many of you understand that, but many of you don't. You're seeing a big divide in the church and the nation.

Who do I believe? What do I believe? Look to God's Word, the final authority. Well, it's been the test of time for 2,000 years. Actually, it's been the test of time since humanity.

When God first began the written Word, and even in the Old Testament, the principles of morality have not changed. The principles of morality have not changed. When God said this is wrong, in regard to relationships, sexual relationships, all these other things, morality has not changed.

Dietary laws, ceremonial laws, things like that have. But the morality of God's Word has not changed. And so after all these things happened, the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus on the cross, when they saw all these things, they feared greatly and they said, truly, this was the Son of God.

Truly, this was the Son of God. Now it's interesting, they saw these things, right? The earth shook, it was dark. They could see, I'm sure they heard Pontius Pilate when he was talking to Jesus.

Do you not answer them? What are they accusing you of? And Pontius Pilate even appears defended Jesus. What evil has he done? This is a just man. I'm washing my hands of this man.

He's guiltless. And so they heard all of these things, the Roman soldiers. But finally, they came to that point.

Truly, this was the Son of God. They saw. But I wanna show, I think we have it, John 20, 29.

I want you to look at this. Jesus said to him, and this is to Thomas. We're fast-forwarding a little bit.

I don't know if we have the next slide, Sarah, on John 20, 29. If not, you can listen. Thomas is the doubter, right? We know Thomas is the doubter.

So Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed, but blessed are those who have not seen, and yet they believe. I love that verse, why? Because you think, oh, they saw Jesus. That

would have been cool.

It really would have. But blessed are those who actually do not see, and they believe in this message of hope. Why are they more blessed? Because folks, that is the definition of faith.

If I could get to the root of faith, faith is the evidence of things not seen. It's the substance of things hoped for. And so I hear the Gospel call.

I hear the conviction of the Spirit. I need a Savior. I believe in Christ, and faith rises.

And Jesus says, blessed are you, because I did not have to come down and show you my hands and show you the sight. I did not have to shake you and say, look, look, feel, taste and see that God is good. And it's exhibiting faith and faith alone.

So yes, you have to step out in faith. Absolutely. Not blind faith.

Why do I not use the word blind faith? Because it's not blind. It's faith, stepping out and believing God. I mean, let's be honest, clearly there's a God.

And so now we get to why we're here, Matthew 28, 14. Now after the Sabbath, after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary of Magdalene and the other Mary came to see Jesus at the tomb. Now this is important because questions do come in.

I know that people are curious about this topic. After the Sabbath, on the first day of the week, so it appears, obviously, right? That's why we celebrate Sunday as Resurrection Day, Resurrection Sunday. And there's a big misconception out there.

There's even a billboard on the 395 that tries to get you to download a book because the Mark of the Beast is worshipping God on Sunday. Oh, it was started by the Roman Catholic Church in the third century. No, it was started by the early church.

Early church to recognize this is the day that Jesus rose from the dead. Friends of Israel said this, the ancient Jewish leaders, okay, this is for all of you who like to keep the Sabbath, okay? I'm gonna get into that in a minute because I think we should keep, as far as a principle, a day off, a day of rest, unplug, seek God. But persecuted Christians in China do it Friday morning.

Those in the Middle East might have to do it Monday, early at 4 a.m. So see, we can't put a day on it. You can only worship God on a certain day. We should be worshipping God every single day of the week.

So what they did in Jesus' time, they added 39 extra categories of work along with all of their additional Sabbath laws and traditions. They didn't get much rest. Instead, you'll be weighed down with a legalistic burden that exhausts people with minutiae and the fear of God's wrath that Jesus condemned, laying such burdens on people's shoulders.

So here's the thing with the Sabbath. Yes, we recognize it's a very important principle. We should rest, we should take that day off.

But we also have to look at Scripture. Jesus is the very source of our rest now. Matthew 11, in Him I rest from my labors.

He is my Sabbath rest. We were, the Sabbath was weighed for man so that they would take that day off and they would rest. And it's a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ, Colossians 2. And I know we can get really dogmatic about this topic, but just think about it.

If you're turning on your car, if you're doing a little yard work, that's work. You couldn't kindle a fire. That's what an engine does unless you have a Tesla.

But where do you draw that line? Where do you, you can see how legalistic and rigid rules make you become? And so it does beg the question, are you resting in Him? Are you resting in Him? Because I do think we need a Sabbath. I think we need a day off to unwind and to unplug into just a day. That's what it's for.

It's actually a day of rest. Anybody need a rest from Twitter and Facebook and Instagram and texting and all these different things? It's very good, very important. I know it's very difficult though.

But think about this question then. Are you resting in Him? Are you resting in Him? Many who have to follow rules or go through the motions and keep certain days don't have that genuine relationship with God. If a Christian has to kind of go through the motions, I have to obey these things, I have to do these things, I have to follow these rules, you're not resting in Him.

He's not your Sabbath rest in this deep relationship. Now because I have that relationship, I'm gonna live a little differently, amen? I'm not gonna look like the world, but it's not because I'm following rules, it's because of my relationship with Him. And you can tell, a lot of the rules, I can tell a rule follower from a genuine Spirit-filled believer who's resting in Jesus.

Huge, huge mark, a huge characteristic that marks them. You guys ready for this? It's a good takeaway. You sure? Get your pen out, get your phone out.

One has joy, the other's very critical. Angry, critical, look like they drank prune juice or a lemon and they're gonna force those rules on you. Isn't that true? Anger, rigid, critical, but they're good rule followers.

Man, they're good little boys and girls on the chore chart, right? But there's no joy of the Lord. There's no joy and grace and forgiveness. They're walking around writing it down.

They didn't do this, they didn't do this, they didn't do this, they're mean-spirited, they're angry, they're arrogant, they're critical. Same rules. Why don't I go to the movies and watch those things? Well, neither do I, but I do it because I want to draw me away from my relation with the Lord.

I love joy, Jesus, and there's joy. You see the difference? And so we get the best of both worlds in the church. We get the joy-filled and then the legalistic Pharisees.

And you know, because they're just pointing their finger at you. And they're trying to discourage you. I mean, just think about it.

Think about the religious leaders. What do you think of when you think of them? Watch Passion of the Christ and you'll get a pretty good view of what they look like. And there was no joy in their hearts.

It was just following the rules. That's why Jesus said, you strain at a gnat, you'll block your mouth and don't let this little... You ever get those little bugs? You strain at a gnat, and when they did, they had to get it out. But you swallow a camel.

It's hypocrisy. That's why He called them out. You whitewashed tombs.

You look so great on the outside, but you're dead inside. Right? You vipers. We forget that Jesus got a little bold.

If you call the religious leaders of His day vipers, you better run for the hills because you're getting stoned. Vipers. Call them out boldly.

He threw over the money changers' table. Amen? I shared with you guys Friday, but I had to explain to my daughter a little bit of that when I went to Planet Fitness and had a talk with the manager about allowing men to go into the women's bathrooms. And it's okay to say this or it's too late now, I guess.

You know, she's a little shell-shocked and rightly so, and I don't blame her, but you've got to explain. It's not just all love. Because true love defends.

Actually, let me tell you the truth. It's actually easier to be a coward. Is it not? I mean, I'm sitting at home for a week.

My wife already went in there a week ago. I'm like, just cancel online. I don't want to deal with this stuff.

Easy. I'm not going to upset anybody. Just love them.

Go team. But love also defends. Love also speaks the truth.

Think about it. Jesus. Jesus Christ.

I'm not telling you to do this, but He took the money changer tables. It was okay for the money changers to actually be in the temple. They had to convert the denary with a different currency.

But what they're doing is ripping the people off. Would you have loved to see this? Mild, meek, little Jesus, the pictures carrying a little lamb. He doesn't tell them to clean up their table either.

He just throws it up, and then He starts to make a whip. Why is that not enough? Probably because they're trying to get stuff. He says, I'm getting you out of here.

My Father's house shall be called a house of prayer, not a den of thieves. Zeal for His house has consumed me. Zeal for His house has consumed me.

And that's why when you know it's righteous indignation, you say zeal for the truth and purity and holiness has consumed me. How dare you, will you, you perverted monsters begin to push this agenda? That is true love because I care for the little ones more than this woke culture. I'm just tired of cowards telling us how we should live.

It's actually the cowards that brought Hitler to fame. Matthew 28 continues, and behold, there was that great earthquake. Again, another earthquake.

For the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and he came and rolled back the stone from the door. Now this is interesting. He didn't do that to let Jesus out.

He's gone. He's out. Now I know a lot of you are thinking, where did he go? Where did Jesus go? Well, this would take a whole other sermon.

And there was a lot of confusion because the Bible in Ephesians, I think it's Ephesians four. I didn't write down any of this. And it talks about how Jesus led captivity.

There's different views. Jesus went to hell. No, there's a place called, it's a holding place of the body.

Sheol, Gehenna is a different term. And you have these terms in the Old Testament and the New Testament. And you see in the New Testament, there was a gulf, Abraham, Bosom, and Lazarus was on this side, and this evil man was on this side.

Bottom line, he went, they believe, to this place, the holding place, waiting for that resurrection. And so it's an important time for him to wait for this final moment. And so the stone was rolled back.

And the angel, I love this part, he sat on it. I mean, how, it's probably, I don't know, a couple, I mean, you have to get the sticks and you've got big, and you probably roll it like this and the guys get behind you and they start, you know, as you roll it, you put a little rock underneath it. Guys, you know what I'm talking about? And you begin to roll the stone away.

How are the soldiers sleeping? Right here. Did you know that's still what they say in Jerusalem today? They stole his body while they slept. That's impossible because also those guards would lose their life.

They would be killed. And so he's pushing this stone away and he just sat on it. And he looked like lightning.

His face was like lightning representing power. And his clothing was white as snow representing purity. And the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Here's what really happened to the soldiers. Here's what really happened to the soldiers. They feared God.

And I thought of this all week. Do you fear God? Do you fear God? Oh, here are those, and I've had people ask me, are you one of those hell, fire, and brimstone, the fear of God guys? Like, well, what does the Bible say? God is love. Yes, let's preach God's love.

But it also says, Jesus told me to fear him. Psalms, Proverbs, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. You want to know, you want to get direction for our nation, even economically, or for your families, or you want wisdom? Have the fear of God.

Because then it changes how you live. That's why what I mentioned earlier, that they came out on Friday, and the White House said, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, I do hereby proclaim this day as Transgender Day of Visibility. That's blasphemy.

That is wrong. But why? Because they don't fear God. Or, I should say, they don't fear the right God.

Because a lot of them will say, oh, I believe in God. I like Jesus' teaching. But to them, I can picture it now.

God is this, you'll hear me say it sometimes, this cosmic ball of love. Man, he's just everywhere. He loves me.

And there's people passing out pamphlets. Have you seen them at the gas stations? That God was a she. Mother God, on their pamphlet.

Do you fear God? No, he's Spirit. Those who worship him must worship him in Spirit and truth. But Jesus, a physical God, chose to come in the form of a male body.

All these blasphemous things. They do not fear God. And you'll see, that's why we have decayed so much is we used to fear God at least.

At least they fear God. That's a reverence and a respect. Many of you fear you're more afraid of an airplane than God.

But the angel answered and said to the women, do not be afraid. You need to hear that this morning. Many of you came here because you are concerned, you are afraid.

And he said, do not be afraid. For I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here.

He is risen. Now this underlying part gets me excited sometimes. So I'm gonna try to contain it though.

As he said, if you can just get your heart back to having faith on what God said, there's no need for fear, there's no need for worry, there's no need for confusion if we focus on God said it. God said it. And if he says something, what can change that? What can stop that? Again, some of the promises are conditional, right? If you do this, I will do this.

But Jesus, and you just reflect on these things, whoever hears these sayings of mine, Jesus said this, whoever hears these sayings of mine, what we're preaching today, and he does them, he actually applies them, I will liken him to a man who built his house on the rock. And when the winds came and the floods came, it did not fall. Whoever, come to me all who are weak and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

What I said earlier, I am the way, the truth, the life, nobody can come to the Father except through me. I am the light of the world. He who believes in me will be set free.

Come to me all who are weak and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Those are promises you can take to the bank. I live off those, that is my oxygen, that is my spiritual breath, that is the depth of my relationship.

If we have not the promises of God and we follow some type of God like Elijah mocked and he said, where's your God, is he on vacation, is he using the restroom? But let the God who answers by fire, let him be God and that God showed himself to be true. And come and see, come and see the place where the Lord laid, I love that about God. Come and see, that's why we invite people to church, that's why we love to open the word of God and say, look, come and see, taste and see that God is good.

Seek him and you will find him. Listen, he who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit of God is saying. There's a call to come in and taste and see that God is good.

And isn't it challenging because it's that constant call, come and see, come and see, come and see. And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead. And then Matthew 28, eight goes on to say, so they went out quickly, I bet they did, from the tomb, with fear and great joy.

Oh, what a wonderful combination, isn't it? The fear of God and the joy of God. Boy, you wanna live a powerful life, you wanna deal with all these issues going on, have the fear of God and the joy of God, they go together. In the book of Acts, I think it is, it says the church began to do many miracles and power was upon the church, and it said they walked in the fear of the Lord with great joy and great boldness.

There is, guys, there's no other way to experience true joy and peace than to have that relationship. Do you know I'm not saying anything that they didn't say 2,000 years ago? They might have scrolls maybe to open Paul's letters, but they would say the same exact things. So our excitement should accompany faith, shouldn't it? Now, we don't always stay there, amen? Difficult days, feel great today, but come tomorrow, ask me again.

But there should be an excitement, I have a right relationship with the God of the universe, I can pray whenever I want, I can go in and shut myself in my prayer closet, and God will answer, God will listen, God will direct me, God will fill me. You might get a little excited. There might be some excitement behind genuine faith.

So it does beg the question if somebody doesn't have excitement, do they truly have that relationship? Because what we're excited about reveals a great deal about our hearts, doesn't it? What we're excited about. All these people getting excited about all these different things, because what you're excited about is ultimately what you worship. Now, of course, we're gonna have different, if the Dodgers win, I'm excited, of course, there's different, there's excitement levels.

This year, if you get a tax return, excited, you watch those gas prices come down, it's okay to get, because those fall underneath general excitement, but there should be an excitement about, and that's what we love about what we try to do here at this church. People come with the spirit of expectation. I don't know how many songs, I don't know how long I'm gonna preach, I don't know what's gonna happen in the prayer room, but we've been having salvations, baptism all the time.

People have been set free, and we come excited, I'm excited to worship God, I'm excited to get here. Now, with that excitement, though, will come seasons of difficulty, where you get up and you don't feel like coming. You don't feel like reading the Bible.

Anybody relate, or is this a spiritual group at 8.30? Okay. So it's not always there. Thank God we don't live off excitement.

It's a good reminder, what I say often, your feelings are not the engine of your train, they're the caboose. So your feelings don't drive you around, they follow right decisions. Or they follow wrong decisions.

The feeling of depression, or anger, or fear. And so, we see this point now, they're going out quickly, and they went to tell the disciples. And as they're going to tell the disciples, Jesus met them, and He stopped them.

He said, rejoice! Rejoice! He meant them, has Jesus truly meant you? And again, back to this word, I don't want to keep laboring the point, but do you have the joy of salvation? The joy of salvation. Again, I'm not saying life's not challenging. I'm not saying you don't get depressed sometimes.

Some of the best preachers you've ever heard, especially even hundreds of years ago, struggle with depression, struggle with anxiety, struggle. What we struggle with is not who we are. But also, with that relationship, with having that right relationship, the byproduct is joy.

There is joy. Do you have that joy of salvation? And so, they came and they held Him. Can you picture this? I don't know if He's just like, surprised.

Because they're running on the road. Can you believe? And then here He is. Here He is.

And they fell down, I bet they did, and they worshiped Him. And that's why sometimes you'll see people at the altar, and sometimes they're broken, and they're worshipping God, because they see if God had not brought me out of that, that addiction would've took me out. If God had not brought me out of that bad relationship, I'd be married and in misery.

And if God has not brought me out of that anger and that abusive relationship, and if God has not taken that away, oh, I've got to worship Him. I've got to fall down at His feet. I've got to cry out to Him.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I was lost, but now I'm found. I'm blind, and now I see.

How dare you chastise those who worship God in spirit and truth because they're excited. There's an excitement there. And that's why I often say the dead church, the cemetery church, you might want to wake up.

We should not be dead to the things of God. And then Jesus said, do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren, go to Galilee, and there I will see them.

It's interesting, if you look up the word Galilee, in short, you look up the root word and then you kind of put it all together, it can mean a circle. It can mean a circle, and I don't know why I added this, but I think many people, especially on Easter, Resurrection Sunday, after a long series of events, the same situation that you started with still exists. Some of you need to come full circle this morning.

Break this circle of defeat and failure and addiction. Break this circle of playing games with God. You're gonna keep going around and around and around doing the same thing, expecting a different result.

Anybody know what the definition of insanity is? I'm telling you the truth. That's the definition of insanity. Oh, that's insane.

Such and such is insane. What it means is you have no sanity because you can't see that you're doing the same thing and getting the same result. Same thing, getting the same result.

Same thing, getting the same result. At what point do you say, you know what, this is insane. There is no hope outside of Jesus Christ.

There is no hope. That's why we go through different seasons. Any women go on shopping sprees all the time? Or men, I kind of went through that season two where there's what they call mid-life crisis.

And you go through this and you try this and let me try this and let me try this and you realize it's not getting me anywhere. We need to come full circle back to this relationship with Jesus. Maybe some of you have lost it.

Maybe you've walked away. Maybe you've drifted. It's time to come full circle and come back.

And I even talk about full circle with unbelievers, even though they didn't have a genuine relationship with God at the beginning, they can come full circle back to how God originally created us. Did you know God originally created us with Adam and Eve? To have that relationship with Him, to already not need Jesus necessarily because we already had that right relationship. We didn't need the cross because sin had not entered our life yet.

And so that's why they called it the Adamic nature, the nature of Adam. Because of His fall, we've all fallen. And after He fell, Eve fell.

Then we needed that sacrifice. So maybe coming full circle back and having that relationship. Don't you think the most important thing on planet Earth right now is to restore that relationship? To restore that broken relationship? Well, that's your opinion.

There's other religions out there. How do we know this is true? Ask God. Ask God.

And if you're sincere, He will show you. Lord, I want to believe. I hear it, but I'm having a hard time.

I don't know if it's me. I don't know what's going on. But the enemy will plant seeds as well.

There's a literal devil. There's a literal demonic realm. I'm not getting weird because I'm just quoting Jesus.

He seemed to believe it was pretty important. And then Paul goes on to say, your battle actually is not with flesh and blood. Your battle is in the spiritual realm.

Fighting good and evil. This is how I fight my battles, right? With worship and the Word and obedience to God's Word. And then we come to this point where the soldiers are bribed.

Now, while they were going, behold, some of the guard, some of the guard, I just caught this this morning. Not all of the soldiers it appears. I can guarantee I know where the other ones went.

They probably headed to Egypt. Or they got out of there. Only some of, because if you see that, this angel looking like, you know, the brightness of light, and he just rolled back the stone, sitting on it, and Jesus is gone.

Yeah, it's a game changer. You're gonna start to really evaluate. And so some of them happened to come back.

And they knew they would actually get killed because the body was gone. And they told the chief priests all that happened. This still amazes me.

These Pharisees that wanted to kill him, they hated him because it was actually his popularity and his notoriety. He was taking believers and telling them the truth and calling them vipers. And so they told the chief priest, can you imagine these, and I don't think they're casual, hey, you know, by the way, let me tell you what happened last night.

They're probably sweating, running. You're not gonna, oh my gosh, wait, wait, wait, what happened? What happened? This, you're not gonna believe me. And they're all like, and just this confusion.

And they said, okay, okay, okay, okay. Just say that they stole the body. Wouldn't you think they'd say, what? Are you kidding me? He said he would rise again, and you saw this? Let's go see the tomb.

But let me tell you, that is the damning and dangerous part. I'm not cussing, I'm saying the word damning is like hell. Gotta clarify, because a lot of people out there, they're already gonna get me for saying Easter, and not Resurrection Sunday.

Do you know why? Goddess of Esther ate Easter eggs, Easter bunny, sexual fertility, okay, got that out of the way. So we don't worship Esther, we worship God and Christ alone, and that's why we celebrate. We

redeem the theme of Easter.

So anyway, they're gonna say that the body was taken, even though they knew it was not. Tell them, the disciples came at night, and they took him away while you slept, which again, is absolutely impossible. This saying is commonly reported among the Jews even today.

What they did really is they rejected the supernatural. Didn't they? They rejected the supernatural, and we see that a lot today. Now, what I'm about to tell you is coming from a person who I consider, I think I'm kind of pretty conservative.

You know, I'm like, mm, anybody not too gullible, don't wanna believe everything, mm, you know, we gotta, like, I like what Ronald Reagan said, trust but verify. And you know, not, but there is a supernatural. God is not bound by our laws of gravity.

God is not bound by different things. That's what supernatural is. Something happens beyond the scope of being able to explain it with science.

And if you're not open to that, again, cautious, right? We don't just be led away by every wind of doctrine, and oh, I watched, did you hear this video? Did you hear this video? And that's actually a very dangerous thing in the church, in the churches in Africa that we know. Some are solid, but a lot of them are following this false prosperity gospel, and Jesus wants you wealthy and healthy, and you can get really off on that. But on the other side, if you don't believe in the supernatural, then you have a God who just stays in the box that you can define.

Nope, He doesn't do that. That's too supernatural. I want to be able to explain exactly what I see.

And I'm just telling you, pastoring, speaking in different places, it's not hard, it's impossible to explain everything I see. You can't explain how God works. So I would encourage you to be open, of course, but cautious.

Well, how is that possible? What am I supposed to do? Does it line up with the Word? Does it line up with the Word? Can you go and pray for someone? They might get healed. Can God supernaturally work behind the scenes? Absolutely. And so that is the saying, that they slept, and Jesus was taken by His disciples.

You don't have to put your hand up, but how many of you still think that happened? Just think about it in your mind. You need to read a book called Fox's Book of Martyrs. Order it today, or read online Fox's Book of Martyrs.

Because these disciples that supposedly stole His body, right, if you're gonna do that, then it's a hoax. Right, you're gonna, you know, you're kind of, well, we have this hoax, we have this big, you know, the conspiracy, let's go hide His body. Okay, well, they were tortured.

They were hung upside down and crucified. They were beheaded. They were thrown to wild beasts because they did not deny the faith.

If they were in some of this elaborate hoax, as soon as they caught them, they say, okay, okay, you got me. We put them, you know, in such and such place. Nobody's gonna die for something they know is a blatant lie.

What happened is they saw the risen Savior. Then they waited in an upper room, which is so important. They waited in this upper room for days, seeking God, praying.

Jesus actually said, don't go do anything. Just wait. Wait, Jesus said, wait.

Don't answer, those who know. But think about this. What were they waiting for? What were they waiting for? We're actually gonna celebrate it, I believe, May 19th.

They were waiting for the promise. Wait a minute, they're saved, they're believers? Yeah. They're waiting and praying and fasting, waiting.

Jesus said, the promise is coming. The promise. This will be the difference maker.

This is night and day. This is spiritual power and weakness. This is boldness and being a coward.

Wait, wait, wait for that promise. And they don't know really what to expect, but as they're praying and as they're waiting, it was incredible because it actually says, and this huge wind came through. The house literally shook in a place called the upper room.

And what happened? The promise of the Father came, and they were now filled mightily with the Holy Spirit. Oh no, there's a weird term again. Shane, you're getting out there.

Jesus said it. Jesus said it, not me. He said, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses to all the ends of the earth.

Without the Spirit's power, you can do nothing. You think I'd walk in a planet of fitness on my own? Heck no, no way. Boldness, boldness to speak the truth.

Boldness to witness. I don't care what you call me. I don't care what you say.

Christ has changed my life, and this boldness rises up in me, and I've got to speak the truth because his word is in my heart like a burning fire. That's the boldness of the Spirit. So it's available as believers to everyone.

That was a waiting period. You don't have to wait anymore. It comes with salvation.

The gift of God, the gift of, I mean, this is mind-blowing. I don't know why this has all come up on Easter, but here we go. But it's, it's mind, resurrection Sunday, okay.

Golly, I get chewed out again. I'm joking with you guys, right? It really, it doesn't bother me. Because, so now the Holy Spirit of God, God is triune, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit now comes inside a believer. What? By the way, no other religion does that, says that, teaches that. So now, as a believer, so as a believer, you have all of the Holy Spirit, but does he have all of you? That's the difference.

That's the difference. In my 20s, I was a believer, but I had about this much of the Holy Spirit. You wanna know why? Because I had this much of Shane Idleman.

Cocky, self-sufficient, self-made. Look what I've accomplished. God, yeah, I'll pray when I need it.

And that's why the Bible says you're quenching and grieving the Spirit. Was I standing up for God? No way. No way.

I was a coward for the things of God. Why? Because it hurt my image. I had friends, remember I had friends? We're hitting the bar, we're doing stuff.

I've got this image I've got to uphold. But in my closet, I was a Christian. Just don't tell people.

And so here is this miraculous, incredible power of God being quenched and grieved. Think about those two terms. Quenched, I put out the fire.

Grieved, I've broken the heart of God. And when you repent of both of those things, the fire comes back. The fire, I didn't even, I didn't know what in the world was happening.

I had no clue. In Cortez, California, I still remember the house, I still remember the couch, I still remember my tears on the table. What is this? I got to find a Bible.

I just, I got to get, I got to, I got to get the Bible. Mickey's big mouth, I'm taking you to the trash. Some of you don't know what that means? There's someone.

Right, and this, what's this change? Now I want to, I love people. I want to, I want to speak boldly for God. What, what is happening to me? The promise of the Father.

When full repentance, and that's the problem in the majority of the church, is they've not fully surrendered. That's just the truth. And let me just, quick exhortation to those who do love the Bible.

You're a student of the Bible. You love to study the Greek and the Hebrew. Do you know you can still be quenching and grieving the Spirit of God because of pride? Pride, pride, pride.

Unteachable, eager to dispute. You think you know it all. You're putting people down.

You have a critical heart. You know nothing about the power of God. And everything I just said, I struggle with.

Uh-oh. Cat's out of the bag. But I say, Lord, that's not right.

I don't want it to affect my sermon. Please, God. I don't want it to affect the church.

And you repent and refilled. It's all, the more you think about it, that's what it is. Get in the Word, refilled.

And I think somebody by the name of Paul said that. Be not drunk with wine, which is debauchery, basically, but be filled with the Holy Spirit. Look up that word if you want for fun.

It's the Greek, it's a verb that actually says, be, be being filled. It's like you're constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit. It's not, hey, I did that two years ago.

Well, good for you. Well, you better get underneath the fountain of living water again because you're a leaky vessel. Deal moody, I can't take credit.

And so I have no clue, but we're gonna get back on track here what that was for. But that is so important. Because that's the key.

That's the key. Guys, that's the key. It's too late to switch topics, but that's the key.

So many of you are looking, looking. All you need to do is stop looking and fully repent. Oh, I want that boldness.

I want the word of God to come alive. I want to worship. Then repent of pride, repent of arrogance, repent of compromise, repent of lukewarm living, repent of rejecting God or putting him on the back burner and say, God, I come, hands open wide, take this humble vessel, create in me a clean heart, renew a right spirit in me, God, break me from the depths of my soul.

I wanna come out of the prayer closet on fire for you because I will tell you this, the only way to be prepared for where our nation is going is to be filled with the spirit. You're gonna get through this on your own finances and your own wit, your humor, you're a good negotiator. What happens when they convert all of our income to cryptocurrency? And then the grid goes out.

Power grid, no access. Anybody live by the grid that went out yesterday? Holy smokes. You don't realize how I couldn't take a shower.

The refrigerators weren't working like most of the day. Phones aren't charging. That's for six or seven hours.

And we're throwing a fit. Folks, how are you gonna be prepared? Fill with the spirit of God. Doesn't make it easy, but it makes it manageable.

Excuses prevent God from working. Excuses prevent God from working. Listen, some of you maybe need to lay down your excuses this morning.

Excuses always prevent God from working in your heart. And I put everything from evolution to how could a loving God cast a person to hell? How could a loving God allow all this evil? What they're really doing is giving you an excuse so they don't have to embrace God. Excuses prevent us from that.

You don't wanna go to hell over a mystery. I'm gonna sit and I'm gonna explain the complexities of God because all those things have answers. You just don't wanna hear the answer.

God does not send anyone to hell. What? Oh, I don't know about this church. Other than obviously the devil and his minions.

But the Bible's clear. Accept, believe in Jesus, choose life that you may live. Reject my offer and plan of salvation.

And I cannot dwell with sinful man. You have to go to outer darkness. You choose because of pride.

What about, how could God allow this suffering? Well, look at the sin. That's what happened. It started back with Adam and Eve.

Sin entered in and we got all kinds of, you don't need an education on this. Just watch a four-year-old. Mine.

Mine, bam, bam, bam. Don't hit your brother. What, see, it comes out of us.

So that God, how could God allow? He gave us choice. And these choices affect how we live. Don't let excuses prevent you from knowing God.

And then finally, he closes, Jesus closes with the Great Commission and it is not the Great Suggestion. So then the, here's the thing, let me tell you. We always preach, you know, Great Commission, go out and make disciples.

You know why it's so hard and exhausting? Because we don't have what I just talked about, the fullness of the Spirit. When somebody is full of God's Spirit, you don't have to, come on, let's go witness. Come on, guys, oh, goodness gracious.

Oh boy, here we go again. Another message on, it just comes out, doesn't it? Like, I've got to talk to that person. I've got to pray with that person.

I've got to share with them. It's a byproduct of that relationship. And so the 11 disciples, they went away into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him. They worshiped Him. But thank God for that last part there, for some of you, and me for a while.

But some doubted. Some doubted. Listen, there is nothing wrong.

We can use Scripture on this. There's nothing wrong when a person doubts or questions. It's what they do with that doubt that tilts the scale.

Hey, I'm doubting. Lord, would You help me figure this out? God, I'm having a real struggle here and I need Your help. Because why? You're admitting our own human frailty.

And our human nature, we doubt, we fear. That's why it says you don't even have a spirit of fear. But we do fear.

Wait a minute, I don't have a spirit of fear. Why do I fear? Because the Adamic nature, that old nature that wants to pull us back. So doubt comes in.

I deal with doubt sometimes. Don't you? If you're not walking with the Lord and the hard seasons are coming, you're like, God, Lord, what's... Did you doubt? I don't think I've ever doubted the Word, doubted salvation, those big things. My doubt often comes in like, did God really tell me to do that? Right? Is that God or me? Anybody have that problem? And so we just get back to Lord, I trust You.

And there are many people still caught between belief and doubt. And that's why I said at the beginning of the message, you have to make that decision. You have to say, okay, Lord, I believe.

I believe, help my unbelief. Right, I feel unbelief sneaking in, but I believe, help my unbelief. And then Jesus said, all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

John Piper said, the sentence of condemnation hanging over their heads was stripped from Satan's hand by the shedding of Jesus' blood. And this will be another 20 minutes, so I'm not gonna go into it. But when He said, all authority has been given to me, we realize that obviously all authority is God's, but something happened on Calvary.

Something happened at the cross. If you've ever paid attention to Scripture, you see that the devil was having a field day before the cross. People demon possessed, nothing you could do about it.

The darkness, the Prince of Air, this is His season, but Jesus conquers hell, death, sin, and the grave. And that's why He says, all authority has been given to me. So a massive spiritual shift took place.

A massive spiritual shift took place. And that's where the title comes from. From devastation to restoration.

I'm gonna close with this verse. Isaiah 45, 22. Here's the key.

Look unto Me and be saved. All the ends of the earth. Isaiah 45, look unto Me and be saved.

And that is a message that we need to get out there. Have you ever heard the name Charles Spurgeon? That's the verse. That's the verse.

This old deacon looked at him. There's like 12 people in the church. It's a snowy day.

And he said, young man, look and be saved. Look and be saved. And we sing the songs, behold the Lamb.

Behold the Lamb of God. You look with your eyes gazed up in a spirit of humility, and you look up, not down upon God. Look and be saved.

Look and be safe. Look and be secure. Look and be satisfied.

Jesus fulfills all of those needs. It's not just salvation. It's safety and security and satisfying.

And I should answer this because it does come in. People say, well, Shane, how can you say safe? Safe, look at what's happened to the people in the Middle East. Look what happened to some of the Christians in Afghanistan when we pulled out of Afghanistan.

How can you say we'll be safe? Oh, you're talking about this. I'm talking about eternity. Jesus said, do not fear Him who can kill your body, but fear Him who can cast both body and soul in hell.

Safe doesn't mean living in my bubble without problems. It means I'm holding onto the hem of His garment no matter what I go through. And security, I don't believe, Jesus says, whoever the Father gives me, I will no way lose them.

What can separate me from God? Paul would cry out, what can separate me from God? Nothing, nothing can separate me from God. Height and depth and principalities and powers and creative beings and all these things, nothing can separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. I'm secure in that as a result, thank God for satisfaction.

Thank God this isn't a relationship where like, oh, woe is me, this sucks. I can't wait till I'm out of here. I am going to bliss out.

What is going on? I hate this world and sometimes I feel like that, don't get me wrong, but there's gotta be a, there's a satisfaction, okay, I am satisfied. Every king will bow their knee to Jesus Christ. Every wrong will be done right.

And guys, don't give up, we can contend, we can contend. We look and we're like, look at California, look at the United States. You know what God looks at? He sees that, but He also says, there's my remnant church in California and San Diego and over in Texas and Tennessee and Florida and up in here.

Look at these believers crying out and calling out. Look at these people not giving up. I will fight their battles.

I will stand strong on behalf of them. Do not give up and do not give in. Oh, I'm just glad I don't have to preach the next service.

I might actually take a nap today, first time in a year. Well, first time on Sunday, yeah. So Pastor Abram is speaking at the next service.

If you want to stay and be encouraged, I would encourage you to do so. But you have to deal with that verse. Come to me all who are weak and heavy laden.

I will give you rest. And then Jesus said this, not me. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.

And what are we supposed to do? Baptize them. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. What is this? This is saying, you know what, I believe in Jesus.

This represents my past, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I'm gonna show the world, I don't care anymore what people think. I'm no longer ashamed of the gospel because it is the power unto salvation for everyone who believes.

So what we're going to do, well, you know what, I won't even change. I'll just wear this. Those who need to get baptized, let's do it this morning.

Again, half-hearted, we can't be half-hearted. We gotta, you know what, I'm all in. With God, there's no partial in.

You can do that with banks, partial payment, partial this. It's full, all or nothing. He who dies to self picks up his cross and follows me.

So let us know if you want to get baptized. Maybe you're baptized as an infant like I was into the Roman Catholic Church. That means nothing, nothing.

Maybe you're baptized at 12 like I was because I wanted to jump in the swimming pool. My brother and sister, right? But I finally did that at age 30 in Lancaster. And that's when everything shifted because I was being disobedient for a while, for about a year.

I remember, Lord, I'm good, I'm good. I'm 30, this is gonna be embarrassing. People think I'm a Christian, they're gonna confuse.

They're gonna think I'm an unbeliever and now, no. And I struggled like a year, but you know God doesn't let you go, does he? Holy smokes. Every time I read baptism, I'm like, close the Bible.

It's not for me, that's not for me. Here's why it's so important. It's a step of obedience saying I'm no longer ashamed of Jesus, let the world know.

Let the world know. And although we don't believe it saves you, I believe it can lead into that abundant life of being filled with the Spirit. Because you can't be filled with the Spirit if you're being disobedient on a key area of spiritual health.

So we're gonna be next door, myself, Pastor Abraham, the prayer team. Let us know, hey, I need to get baptized again. It didn't mean anything.

I wanna get baptized for the first time, like the Bible says, confess Christ as Lord and Savior and believe that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved. It's a confession. It's not a perfect prayer.

When I came back to the Lord, I didn't pray anything perfect out of the Bible. I said, oh God, help me. Help me, I'm lost.

I've destroyed my whole life. I'm done, oh God, help me. And he said, that's a cry I recognize.

Because what it is, it's a contrite and broken heart. That's all he looks for, a contrite and broken heart.

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