

Those Who Call on the Lord

by Shane Idleman

God's kingdom will be taken away from those who reject his messengers and son, and given to a nation that bears fruit.

Duration: 43:09

Scripture: Isaiah 28:16, Matthew 7:24-27, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:13, Hebrews 11:6

Topics: "Salvation By Faith", "True Repentance"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of calling upon the name of the Lord for salvation. It delves into the rejection of the cornerstone, Jesus Christ, and the consequences of not building one's life on Him. The message highlights the need for genuine transformation, love for God's word, humility, selfless love, and a disconnect from the world as evidence of true faith. It also stresses the graciousness of God in providing opportunities for repentance and restoration.

Transcript

Those who call on the Lord, and many of you know the rest of that verse, right? Those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. There's no, there's no guesswork there. They shall be saved.

And if you have your Bibles, you can turn to Matthew 21 verse 33. If you don't, that's okay, because I'm just gonna read. Matthew 21 verse 33.

And it begins with three words, and believe it or not, I'm gonna stop after the three words for a minute. That's probably, you know, expositional suicide to just stop there and not really keep going, but I'm gonna, I want to talk about this for a minute. Matthew 21 33.

Hear another parable. Hear another parable. And what the setting is, Jesus is actually preaching or talking to the people.

He's saying, hear another parable. The kingdom of God is like, the kingdom of heaven is like, a dragnet, a pearl, all these things. Jesus is giving them opportunity.

Hear another parable. Hear it this way. Hear it that way.

And I was reminded that there is plenty of opportunity when it comes to the gospel. God is not limited. He gives people plenty of opportunity.

Number one, we see his invisible attributes everywhere. Romans 1 talks about his invisible attributes are clearly seen. Tomorrow morning, just walk outside and you'll say, God, the sun, the earth, the rotation, the mountain, every, it just screams, Creator, what I've talked about many times.

So we have that general conviction. We have the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been convicted not to do something and you feel that conviction and, ah, I shouldn't do that.

People say, oh, a little angel here and a little devil here. No, it's a conviction of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is convicting a person to do certain things.

And then God sends messengers like myself or other people to send, to preach and to proclaim the good news. And then he provides us with his word. At West Side Christian Fellowship, we believe that this is the inerrant, inspired word of God.

This is sufficient. We don't say, well, we can probably take this out and it was written by men and we're not sure about this. No, it is absolute truth given by God to guide men.

It's a hill to die on, absolute truth. So he gives us his word. He gives us conviction.

He sends messengers. And then, like Jesus says in this parable, he sends his only son. And Jesus is saying, hear another parable, hear another parable, hear another parable.

And I was just reminded of the graciousness of God, the goodness of God, that nobody will be without excuse. Because God is, it's almost screaming, I am here, creation, look at me, I am your creator, turn to me. But because he's not a puppet master, and we're not puppets, he will not force us to do anything.

That's why I say sometimes, and people don't understand it, but I'm hoping you do, is that it's actually very difficult to get to hell. You have to ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit. You have to ignore God throughout your entire life.

You have to shut your ears on the messengers. You have to keep avoiding the Bible. All that God is sending messages and parables and stories and trying to draw people in closer to him.

So Jesus would go around and say, hear another parable. And he would give different illustrations. The word of God is like a man who planted seed and it fell on good soil, bad soil.

And then he would talk sheep and goat and treasure, and he would show people that there is a way, there is a truth, there is life, and it's through him. And I'm also reminded on this point that Jesus would often say, those who have ears to hear, let them hear. And it's not these ears, it's spiritual ears.

Well, Shane, what's that look like? Well, they're not real, okay? It's those who have ears to hear. Jesus would say, listen, if you have ears to hear, hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying. In other words, open your heart, that's your spiritual ear, to hear what God is saying.

So let's see what he's saying. Matthew 21, verse 33, hear another parable. There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it.

He dug a wine press and built a tower, and he leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country. Now, when vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

And again, he sent another servant, other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. And last of all, he sent his only son to them, saying, they will respect my son. But when the vinedresser saw the son, they said among themselves, this is the heir, come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.

So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now, most of us know what this story is about, right? If you don't know, this is a very, very good illustration about Jesus. The vineyard is God, or God has this vineyard here in the world where we live.

He has his vineyard, he sends messengers, he wants people to tend it and produce fruit, but they rejected his messengers, then he sends his son, and they reject his son. And it said here, he sent his servants to the vinedressers first. God sent his servants to collect, and often, God will send messengers.

You've heard me talk about this before. God sends messengers to his people to warn his people. He's rising them up early and sending them because he has compassion on his people.

That's why God sends messengers. It's the same parallel here. He's sending messengers to these people, but they seize the messengers, and they kill them, and they stone them.

And what happened is they even stoned the prophets that were sent. So if you go back 600, 700 years before Jesus' time, God would send messengers. Isaiah, Jeremiah, the Elishas, the Zacharias, he would send messengers.

And do you think they would welcome the messengers? No, they hated the messengers. They stoned the messengers because they brought the truth of God's word to the people. And I'm reminded of Elisha who confronted wicked King Ahab.

This king would have 450 prophets of Baal, Baal worship, orgies, and all kinds of things, and they would just worship God in this perversion of filth. And Elisha would go, and he would warn the king. And the king hated him so much that he said, oh, you troubler of Israel, meaning he's troubling the people when really he's preaching the truth.

And the king didn't want to hear it. So that's a loving God. He sends messengers.

Why he doesn't just send lightning bolts, I don't know. I mean, that would wake people up, right? Just God or God of just... But he sends messengers to preach those lightning bolts and to preach that thunder. And God sends messengers.

And then we see the next point. They wanted to take the inheritance. Let's seize the inheritance.

So these men, it's interesting because these men were given a job, a good job. They could eat of the fruit, they could eat of the vine, they could do everything, and they could keep some of it and earn wages. But instead, they said, we want the whole inheritance.

Let's kill the son. Well, this shows us the depravity of the human heart. And this is where I differ from some pastors in this nation, well, obviously in this valley too, is we need the correct prognosis for those in the medical field, right? You know what a prognosis is? You go to a doctor, and if something's wrong with your ear, do you want them looking at your foot? If you have strep throat, do you want them giving you something for appendix problem? I mean, the correct prognosis.

And that's what the Bible does. It gives us a correct prognosis. It shows us the depravity of the human heart.

So see, when I talk to people, I want to give them the correct prognosis. If you have never repented of your sin, you don't know God, you are living in what the Bible calls depravity. You're depraved of any spiritual sense.

But there's good news. But the bad news first, Romans 3.23, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. I know some people think they're great people, and I talk to people all the time about Mormonism or Jehovah Witnesses, and show them how they're completely misled, and people say, but Shane, they're good people.

Well, according to whose standard? I mean, because when you put up that standard to Christ, nobody is good. Actually, our goodness is but filthy rags because the majority of the good things we do are done because of ulterior motives. Why don't we keep stepping on toes? A lot of the good things we do are because of ulterior motives, so we'll be seen of men, seen by men.

Also, Romans 3.10, there is none that are righteous, no, not one. There's none who understands. There's none who seeks after God.

We all sin and fall short. No one is innocent. Nobody on this planet is innocent.

We all fall short. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, Shane, you believe that? Absolutely. Absolute truth given by God without a shadow of a doubt, and I can prove scientifically, archeologically, and historically in different things, that's the need for apologetics.

But if we all fall sin and fall short of the glory of God, if a person recognizes their true need, then they see their need for a Savior. That's the difference I mentioned between other pastors is they'll say, they don't want to mention sin. They don't want to mention... God don't mention judgment.

The hell word? No, no, no. We erased hell a long time ago. Well, Francis Chan has a good book out called Erasing Hell that talks about why we need to proclaim all of God's truth.

So they want to avoid all the difficult things and not give people a correct prognosis. Just be good and try harder in self-esteem and love God, whatever that God might be for you. I mean, we're all on these paths.

As long as you're sincere, well, you can be sincerely wrong. So it's important to give the correct information. So that's what I saw here is the depravity of the human heart.

They killed this person's son. And then verse 40, Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to these vinedressers? They said to him, he will destroy those wicked men miserably and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruit in their season. Jesus said to them, have you never read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone? This was the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you. Uh-oh, he's getting personal now. And given to a nation bearing the fruit of it.

So real quick thought here. The Lord is going to take, therefore, the kingdom of God will be taken from you. So you have these religious leaders, you have these high priests, these people dressed in all kinds of

fancy stuff because they're representing God.

And Jesus says, God's going to rip the kingdom from your hands. It was given to you initially as children of Abraham. Abraham, I will call you out of the place of your fathers and I will make you a nation.

And you will be greatly blessed and you will be God's people. But these people actually walked away from God. So that's why he says that here, that God's kingdom is going to be ripped from your hands because you are rejecting the Messiah.

And it'll be given to a nation that bears the fruit. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken, but on whomever it falls, it will grind them to powder. Now, when the chief priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they perceived that he was speaking of them.

Not winning a popularity contest there. But then they sought to lay hands on him, but they feared the multitude because they took Jesus for a prophet. And we talked about this weeks ago, a prophet is not a weird word, right? Prophet just means somebody speaking on God's behalf the truth of God's word.

It's not a bad word. TBN makes it a bad word. Christian television makes it a bad word.

A true prophet of God is not going to put prophet on their business card. They're not going to have prophet on their website. It's just a spokesman for God.

They're proclaiming God's truth. That's why the Bible says no man ever spoke like this man. Why? Because it was prophetic.

It was powerful. It was challenging. It was authoritative.

See, there's a difference between thus saith the Lord. And well, you know, I think, I mean, well, what's your opinion? Well, here's what I think. And let's converse about this for a minute.

And that's a good point. And did you know what Rick said and Bill said and Dr. Phil says and Oprah? And they have good points. And what is that? Is that how you want your preaching? Or do you want it to say this is what God says? That's authoritative.

That's prophetic. That has a prophetic element. And all the prophets were in the Old Testament were spokespersons for God, and they usually ruffle feathers.

Because to catch the running chicken, you're going to ruffle feathers, right? If somebody's not going in a good direction, you wake them up and you say, whoa, hold on, God wants you to come back. I don't like that. I know you don't like it.

That's why they killed the prophets. And that's actually why they killed Jesus. It was part of God's foreordained plan to Christ on the cross.

But they hated Jesus because he spoke the truth and he called out their hypocrisy. So it says, what will he do to those vine dressers? What will he do? He will punish them. So we need to tell people hell is a reality, judgment is certain, and condemnation is knocking at the door.

I have no problem telling people that. Hell is a reality. I'll tell my kids, hell is a reality, judgment is coming, and so is condemnation.

But God, see, we forget about that part. But Jesus Christ, but the cross, but the song we just sang. Do you know the power in that song? Nothing but the blood, nothing but the blood.

That blood cleanses sin. That blood redeems. That shed blood is so powerful that once you come underneath that blood and you acknowledge it and you say, Christ, I need your salvation, you are saved, sealed, and delivered.

So there's no more hell and condemnation and wrath and all these things because you've embraced the provision. That's good news. See, now people understand the good news because they understand the bad news.

So everybody wants to avoid the bad news, but let me just tell you about the good news. I mean, think about this. If we got a letter from the IRS that said, you're losing your house and everything you own, we're coming after everything.

And then you get another letter that says, paid in full. God, you get the letter, thank God. Now, what about if you just, it's a different scenario, you get a letter in the mail that says, your debt's been paid in full.

Oh, that's cool, thank you. Throw it in the trash. Wait, because you don't know what he's talking about.

It's like, no, big deal. You take it for granted, cheap grace, because you don't understand the price it was paid. So that's why you have to tell people the bad news, because really, the bad news is the truth.

Man fell into sin through Adam and Eve, fell into sin, and that sin has been passed on. So your little cute little Johnny and my little cute little three-year-old are sinners under the wrath and condemnation of God without Christ. That's why I want to point them to Christ.

I want to preach Christ. I want to pray and I want to petition that God would take their hearts and save them. That's the good news.

But how do you understand the good news without the bad news? It's impossible. So that's what he's saying here. Jesus is saying, what will he do to those vinedressers? Hello? He will judge them.

And here's what's happening on this topic. Have you been coming a little while and you're saying, boy, Shane's on this hell and condemnation? Well, it just depends where the text is. But we've drifted so far from the fear of God.

We've drifted so far from preaching. I mean, the old preachers, I love reading sermons 100 years ago. I mean, they would preach hell hot and heaven sweet.

That was wonderful. But now, let's not mention anything and just talk about the lovely things and have a conversation. But there's not power there to change people's lives.

And I truly believe the reason why we don't preach this, and I'll include myself in this, is because many times we're cowards. The only way a person can truly preach the full gospel is to be submitted to the Lord and filled with the Spirit, because it's his spiritual truth. It's a Holy Spirit working through a preacher, working through a pastor.

If God removed the Holy Spirit, I would just come up here and be a motivational speaker. I'd just, oh, wow, I don't like this. Actually, I wouldn't even read this parable.

I'll just go right to, God is love. God loves us so much. You little children, I love you.

God's grace and mercy will cover you. You're forgiven. Oh, isn't that wonderful? And that's it.

And it's good, but I've noticed, too, when people understand the reality of hell, judgment, and these difficult things, and when they come to the truth, they're actually more appreciative. They're more appreciative of what God has done. And he said, given to those who will render to him the fruits in their season.

Now, I could preach a whole sermon on this whole little topic right here, but basically, Jesus is saying, the kingdom of heaven is being ripped from your hands, being ripped from you, because you're not bearing fruit. Like the fig tree he cursed and different things, you're not bearing fruit. So you're actually hypocrites, and I'm ripping this kingdom from your hands, and I'm giving it to people who bear fruit.

So it begs the question, what is genuine fruit? Well, first, let me tell you what it's not. Genuine fruit, the fruit of genuine faith is not found in religious involvement alone. In other words, somebody can be involved in religion.

There's many churches I can point out to you that are involved in religion, and they're on the broad road to destruction. If you go to Leona Valley tomorrow, you're going to pass one about a half mile away. Don't go into that church.

And people, you know, even on this point, they say, Shane, why are you being mean? I'm not being mean, I'm being truthful, because I want a Mormon or Jehovah Witness to hear this on YouTube and email us and say, well, what are the differences? Well, let me tell you why. That's just the truth. It's the truth.

When do we ever get in the habit of telling the truth as being mean and arrogant? Well, then I guess parents are mean and arrogant when they tell their kids the truth. Well, no, that's different. No, it's not.

When you want people to know the truth, you'll tell them the truth. And that's what he says here, that genuine fruit is not in religious involvement. A person can be involved in church and not be saved, nor is it found in visible acts of kindness.

Just because a person does a good thing or they're a good person doesn't mean that they're in a right relationship with God. Knowledge of God, a person can know about God and that's not genuine fruit. They can even have a conviction of sin and that's not genuine fruit.

So we see all these things, we get confused sometimes. Well, they go to church and they're a nice person and they know about God. That doesn't necessarily matter.

These people knew about God. These religious leaders knew all about God. They could quote the Torah.

They could quote Genesis and Exodus and Leviticus and Numbers. They could tell you all about Deuteronomy and Joshua and Judges and Ruth and 1 Samuel and 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles and Ezra and Nehemiah and Esther and Job. They could tell you all about the books, who wrote them and when.

They knew everything about God, but they didn't know God. They didn't have a relationship with God. Now you understand that scripture in Matthew 7 when Jesus says, many will come to me in that day and say, Lord, Lord, we did all these things in your name.

And he'll say, depart from me. I don't know you. And I don't think that's an angry God saying, depart from me.

I think it's a loving father, a loving Jesus saying, listen, I don't know you. You practice lawlessness. You had no fruit.

You had no relationship with me. So you have to depart because I don't know you. That's just truth.

If Jesus can say it, why can't we? If Jesus can say these things, why can't we? Well, Shane, I don't think he says it like that. You said it. Well, how do you know? When he went into the city of Jerusalem and wept over the city of Jerusalem, did he just, yeah, shed a few tears? It's healthy to weep.

It's healthy to weep. Jesus actually, later he would go into the city of Jerusalem and the Bible says that he wept bitterly over the city. He said, oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, if I could just gather you as a chick, as a mother hen gathers her little chicks and puts them under her wings.

What a beautiful imagery, is it not? If I could just gather you, oh, Jerusalem, but you were not willing. You were not willing. You rejected your Messiah.

You rejected me. You were not willing and I see your destruction. Oh, Jerusalem, turn to your Messiah.

And Jesus is seeing 40 years into the future. He's right around 30 AD. He's seeing about to 70 AD when a Roman official called Titus comes in and besieges the city of Jerusalem.

So they can't have food and they can't have water. And a secular Jewish historian, Josephus Flavius, records that they ended up eating leather off of their shoes and ended up boiling their children for food. So you don't think he's weeping? He sees that.

Oh, Jerusalem, I see your destruction. I see your destruction. And then the Romans come in, they take out that first wall, and then the inner wall, and then the third wall.

And they go in, they desecrate the temple. They throw bodies. He records also that they threw so many bodies on top of the temple steps that the blood would not stop running down the steps.

And they destroyed the entire temple. Now, you go back to what Jesus said, there will come a time when not one of these stones will be left upon another. I guarantee that was not some passive little tear.

He saw. He saw what would happen to his people because they rejected him. See, that should break your heart.

That should break your heart. When was the last time you wept over your family or over your community? When was the last time you shed tears? Because all that does, it shows a broken heart that's in alignment with God. God, give me eyes to see, give me hands to do what you want me to do.

And I weep for your people because Shane Eidelman won't weep on his own. It's the work of the Holy Spirit coming in and bringing and showing me the condition of many families, and many marriages, and many kids on the broad road to destruction, and you weep over that. There's nothing wrong with that.

Very healthy. Very healthy. There'll be people tomorrow that cry because their favorite team loses.

That sickens me, trying to find a balance between serious and not being serious. But that is true, is it not? People will be more upset at what happens tomorrow than what's happening in our own families. Now, I won't leave a person hanging there because here's a beautiful thing.

What those tears do is it drives me to the cross, to intercede, and to pray, and to fast, and to worship. And I bring down hell. I'll say, enemy, you don't have my children.

You can't have my wife. You can't have my brother. You can't have my sister.

You're not going to rule and reign in this house. Christ is on the throne. Christ is ruling and reigning.

I'm pulling down strongholds through prayer and worship and different things. So see, we don't just weep to weep and go and hide in a corner. We weep so that motivates action, spiritually speaking.

That's the whole point because those who cry well, pray well. I'll tell you that right now. Those who cry well, pray well because they're not in a hurry.

They're crying, they're praying, they're seeking God. So what is genuine fruit? Here's a person who has been truly transformed by God's word. They have a transformed life.

Not a perfect life. Not a perfect life. A transformed life.

Good example, I asked Don later, he knew me 25 years ago when it was steroids, alcohol, party, Las Vegas, everything. And now doing this, it's the last thing he'd probably ever expect me being up here, ever, 25 years, 20 years ago. But that's what the gospel does.

It changes your life. You transformed. I was living this way.

Now I can't live that way anymore. I have to live this way. Not perfectly.

The old life still wants to go back. It still wants to get in trouble, right? Still wants to go. But the sphere is pulling me back.

There's a transformed life. I can't do those same things. I don't have...I have conviction now.

I don't like that. And there's a transforming taking place. It's called conversion.

I was dead in my sin and trespasses. I hated God. God converted me and now I love him.

That's why you look different than the world. And that's another fruit, is a love for God and his word. When a person is genuinely saved, they have a love for God and his word.

They don't despise it. They don't mock it. They don't try to change it.

There's a love for...the Holy Spirit in me and the Holy Spirit who wrote the Bible are in unison. So if anybody is against the word of God, they challenge the inerrancy of God, they challenge the majority of scripture, then something's wrong. I mean, there's people who will show you.

They will support homosexual marriage through the Bible. They will support abortion through the Bible. They will support all kinds of ungodly things because they don't have a high view of God's word.

They're using it to turn it and twist it to whatever fits their opinion. But the truth is, you don't change the Bible to fit your opinion. You better change your opinions to fit the truth.

So somebody who's converted, they're transformed, not perfect. They're going in that direction. They're loving God.

They love his word. There's sincere humility. There's selfless love.

And there's a disconnect from the world. Now, sometimes people want me to clarify this point. It shouldn't be as hard as it is.

We should not look like the world. Well, Shane, does that mean we don't drive cars and live in homes? The world's mindset. In other words, is my Facebook and my lifestyle and my calendar and everything going to look just like the world? Or is there a distinction? Is there a difference there? Come out from the world, come out from among them, be separate.

A follower of Christ is going to look a lot different than the world. Is it not? It should. You know, instead of watching BET all day, we're going to be like, ah, I don't know, 50 Cent.

Those lyrics, you know, it's just... But see, it's not being weird. It's like there's something wrong in me. How many people are going to see some commercials tomorrow by Carl's Jr. and go, Lord, what is wrong with me? And there's a disconnect, there's a difference there.

You don't look like the world. So here's a good test. If your worldly friends love you, well, let's just leave it there because... But now, we should have worldly friends that we look up to and they can call me.

I have plenty that know... But they're not calling me when they're going to schooners. Why? There's a difference. There's a distinction.

They're not... They know because there's a difference there. And this is my huge area, especially with young adults, is they've been raised in a Christian home, they go to a Christian church, but they look just like the world. Their Facebook page has pornography, their sex texting, there's no difference in their life, nothing, and they think they're good with God.

So it's a good wake-up call for them that Christ followers do not look like the world. Actually, Jesus said, the world will hate my disciples. They'll hate you.

And I've told pastors this before. And I said, if the world loves the way you do church, you might want to re-look at the way you do church because the world is not going to like the way we do church. And there's a big debate because you say, well, we need to relate to the culture.

We need to welcome them. We need to have music that's cool. Yeah, there's some gray area there.

We want unchurched people to feel welcome, please. I'm inviting unchurched people all the time to church. But the bottom line is, we don't conform the message to fit their opinions, we just preach the truth.

And we say, here's what God's Word says, we love you, but here's what God's Word says. So we don't allow that to change the church. Because there was a big movement in worship to bring in the smoke and the lights and the mirrors and make it entertainment and take out the songs about the blood.

Don't sing about the blood of Christ. Don't mention judgment or hell. Don't mention anything.

Let's just have this wonderful environment. But Jesus says, the world will hate the true disciples. The reason they hate it is because there's that darkness and it hates the light.

And when we live like Christ, oh, somebody said, don't hide your little, don't hide it under a bushel. Oh no, I'm going to let it shine. Remember that? What are you hiding under a bushel? What are you letting it shine? The others may see the good works in you and glorify God.

That light shines. And people say, I hate that light. Trust me, I've got family members right now that hate me simply because of the lifestyle.

They don't want to be around me. Why? Because it brings conviction. It brings, and I want to love them, I want to go to lunch, I say, don't even worry about it.

Let's just, I love you, but I don't want to be around you. I don't want that light. I don't want that conviction.

I want to sit back and watch the Super Bowl and have two 40s. Some of you know what that means. Some of you won't.

That's okay. 40 ounce or something, right? But they don't want people around. So a genuine fruit, there's genuine fruit.

Now, let me encourage, after I just discouraged. Do I perfectly disconnect from the world? No. Do I have selfish love and a transfer? No.

It's not about perfection. It's on the direction of your heart. Is your heart set towards God and no matter what, come hell or high water, you're following God? Or is it set on following the world? And I'll grab God when I feel like it.

It's the direction of the heart. Where's the heart at? And then Jesus said, the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is amazing.

Back then especially, the integrity of the entire building depended on the cornerstone. So the cornerstone was the foundation. It was everything.

If you got the cornerstone wrong, you would have a mess. It'd almost be like us today having plumbers, concrete guy, roofer, and say, okay, go build a house over there in the dirt. Where's the plans at? Oh, we don't have plans.

Just do whatever you want. You want to live in that house? Why? Because there's no foundation. So that's what the cornerstone was.

It was the first brick laid and it lined up, whether it's north and south or east and west, whether you're building a building, the cornerstone lined up perfectly so everything else would come together. And Jesus says, I am the perfect cornerstone. I am the way, the truth, the life.

Nobody comes through the Father but through me. But you're rejecting the cornerstone. You're rejecting the foundation of salvation.

Now you know what Acts 4.12 was talking about when Paul said salvation is found, maybe not Paul. I'm sorry. Paul was not yet converted.

Acts 4.12, salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given by men which must be saved. See Jesus Christ, there is no other name under heaven where you can be saved but through Jesus Christ. And that's why this is very encouraging because I have people say, but Shane, you don't know me.

I've been molested. My life at home is a miserable life. But I want to say, look to the rock, look to the foundation, look to the anchor, look to the cornerstone.

That's a foundation on which everything must rest. Nothing will fall when it's built on that foundation. Yes, life will be crumbling around you, but you're still linked to the foundation.

That's a cornerstone. And I think about these religious leaders and I don't know where to laugh or cry. I mean they had the word of God.

They had the prophets who testified the word of God. They would read Psalm where it would say not one bone of his body would be broken, he would be beaten beyond recognition, that he would be pierced, that he would be numbered among the transgressors. They see all that.

Now it's happening. And they think they're on the right road with God and they're not. I mean can you imagine that of all the tragedies, this might take the cake, to think that you are God's man or God's woman and then when it comes time you find out you're not even on the wedding list or the invitation.

Of all the tragedies, because you see the atheists will realize that they were wrong. The agnostic will realize that there is only one way. The doubter and the scoffer will all be silenced and those who continue in their sin will know why they didn't enter.

But this person will be shocked. They'll say, but I went to church. I even prayed after every meal.

I was on the worship team. I was on the deacon board. I was an elder.

I was a pastor. I'm American. Does that qualify? My lineage can be traced to the Mayflower that sailed into Cape Cod Bay in 1620.

Does that make me a Christian? I mean, they brought over the Mayflower compact. They were Christian. No, it doesn't make you a Christian and they'll be shocked.

That's why Jesus was saying, you don't know me. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, and he'll say, depart from me. I don't know you.

Well, how do I know, Shane? Well, then luckily Jesus says, therefore, those who hear my sayings and do them, I will liken him to a man who built his house on the rock, on the cornerstone, on the foundation. So when the rains came and the floods came and the wind beat and blew against that house, it did not fall because it was founded on the rock, on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. I think that's somewhere in the old hymns, right? On this life, on Jesus Christ.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but holy trust in Jesus' name. That's the sure foundation.

And he says, but those who hear my sayings, like many, and do not do them, I will liken him to a man who built his house on the sand. And when the rain came, the flood descended, the wind blew against that house, it fell. And Jesus says, and great was its fall.

See, at some point we need a sobering reality check. Why did all this happen? Why did Titus judge Jerusalem? Why is judgment coming? Because they rejected the cornerstone. They rejected their Messiah.

As a result, the stone fell on them and grounded them to powder. And that's why, because it's not, Jesus isn't saying, depart from me, I don't know you, and he's laughing about it. There's a sense of, I don't know you, you practice lawlessness.

That means you're fruit, there's no fruit. There's no fruit. But what does he often say? He just says, come home.

Come home. So the prodigal son, the wayward daughter, the people not sure, Jesus just says, come home. You don't have to go through judgment, you don't have to face the wrath of God.

Come home, I provided the provision, I am your cornerstone. Stop playing church. If I could go on American television tomorrow and speak to the large majority of Christian audience, that's what I would say.

Stop playing church. God is not a butler, he's not a genie in a bottle, and he's not a cosmic ball of light. It's a Lord Jesus Christ on which this stone will fall and ground anyone to powder who rejects him.

Why? Because he's high and exalted and lifted up. There's no other name that'll ever be exalted. His name is above all other names.

Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. End of story, not debatable, not interested. And that's what people need to know.

They need to know the truth. Why? Because this should motivate us to call on the name of the Lord. Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Not might be saved, not God will consider it, not he'll put you in the lottery. He will be saved. That's a promise you can take to the bank.

I don't care if you're in Africa or the UK or Brazil or America. Those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. It's that simple.

It's that easy. Maybe it's a sinner coming saying, I need the cornerstone. I need the foundation.

There's no other name I trust. God save me. And he answers that prayer.

Like I said, it could be at two in the morning. You can have suicidal thoughts going through the cut and to take a gun to your head. But if you call upon that name, he will save, he will deliver, he will set free.

Yeah, you might want to get a little passionate about that. I don't know. Maybe it's just me, but that's amazing.

That's amazing. People get more excited tomorrow morning than I just did. Why? Because we love the things of the world more than the things of God.

Watch the game. I don't care. I'm not saying, you know I'm not saying that, right? But because always, are you telling me I can't watch the game and be a Christian? If anybody takes anything away from this, you know that's not true.

But I'm saying, where's your priorities? Where's your focus? Where's our heart? Do we love the things of the world or do we love the things of God? You know, what's interesting too is throughout the Bible, the devil is known as the great destroyer. And that's why we warn people. The great destroyer, revelation, thief, cometh to steal, kill and destroy.

The great destroyer. But God is a great builder. See, there's always the opposite side.

You get, oh, shame, hell, condemnation, wrath. But God, joy, peace, gentleness, filled with spirit, eternity with God, on fire for God. There's always the other side of that.

The devil's destroying you, but God is rebuilding. So I don't know where you're at in an audience like this. I don't know if you've never repented of your sin.

There's not a better opportunity than now. Say, Lord, this is what I finally need. I don't know why it's taking me this long, but I repent of my sin.

I'm not playing church anymore. I'm not claiming to be a Christian because I don't know if I am. But I want you to save me.

I'm calling on your name. Or the other person who's drifted so far, they don't even know how to come back. They had God once.

They had that passion. They had that zeal. But God says, just call upon me and I will return to you.

Seek me again with all of your heart and you will be found by me. These are scriptural truths you can take to the bank. We put more trust in a 401k.

The other day I was driving down the street. I'm going 60, right, and somebody else going 60. I'm like, we put more trust in 10 feet between 3,000-pound vehicles going 60 miles an hour than we do in the living God.

I'm praying that that person doesn't go, a text message, bam. I mean, think about where's our trust really at? We got to get back as believers as trusting in God because he loves that. Without faith, it's impossible to please God.

When you go and you say, God, I don't care what I'm going through, I'm not going to leave you. I'm not going to stray away. I'm going to focus on you.

My life is falling apart. But God, I love you. He says, oh, that's my sign.

I've got your back. I will watch over here because you called upon my name. Those who call upon the name of the Lord will not only be saved, they'll be delivered.

They'll be set free. They'll be encouraged. They'll be built up.

They'll be renewed. They'll be restored. You know what's interesting? All those things, renew, restore, the RE in front means to bring back to what it initially was.

So God can restore your life. He can renew these things. He can rebuild what was once built.

The enemy is taken away. That's why I love God. The enemy can come in.

He'll just take everything. He'll smash you through divorce. He'll smash you through finances.

He'll take your health. God says, okay, I can redo that. I can rebuild it.

If we, there you go. If you call upon the name of the Lord, He will hear.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/32/SID32114.mp3>

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/ZIJWoXF6FA.mp4>

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