

Obsessed

by Stephen Manley

The sermon emphasizes the necessity of a deep relationship with Jesus, who is the bread of life, and encourages believers to be obsessed with fulfilling God's will.

Duration: 46:53

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 6:53-57

Topics: "Jesus Christ"

Description

In this sermon, Jesus is depicted as a caring and devoted companion to a woman. He accompanies her throughout her day, from driving her to school, walking her to classes, eating together, studying together, and spending time talking after school. Jesus then repeats his sermon on being the bread of life, realizing that some of the crowd did not fully understand his message. The chapter ends with many people no longer following Jesus. The sermon emphasizes the importance of truly understanding and accepting Jesus as the source of eternal life.

Transcript

Gospel of John chapter 6. It's an exciting chapter. A lot is taking place in this chapter. You'll want to follow carefully in the scriptures.

We're going to read some special verses. They begin at verse 53 and take us down through verse 57. John chapter 6. You'll note it has 71 verses in it.

Again, a lot of taking place in this chapter. There's the beginning scene, which is the feeding of the 5,000. You'll note in verse 15, there is a place where Jesus walks on the water and calms the sea and rescues the disciples.

Jesus begins to preach a fantastic sermon. It's the sermon called the bread from heaven or I am the bread of life, which begins about verse 26. And then you'll note as he speaks, there is a great murmuring that takes place.

So Jesus turns around and preaches the same sermon the second time. It's the original rerun sermon and he preaches it the second time. We are reading the heart of the rerun sermon.

And then the chapter ends up on a discouraging note because a large part of the crowd has turned and follows him no longer. John chapter 6 verse 53. Let's stand together in honor of the word.

John chapter 6 verse 53, and Jesus said to them, most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day for my flesh is food indeed and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him as the living Father has sent me and I live by my Father.

So he who feeds on me will live by me. The last verse again, as the living Father has sent me and I live by my Father so he who feeds on me will live by me. We want to eat of you in this hour dear Jesus.

We want to devour you, digest you as we take food into our stomach. It's digested and goes to every pore of our being, every cell of our living experience. May you be digested into the heart of our system.

May you flow through every attitude, infiltrate every thought. May you dominate every bit of energy. May you literally come and flow through our total being.

We want to drink of you, eat of you, be our life today. To that end we commit these moments in your name we pray, amen. May be seated.

A miracle had been performed. It was unlike any miracle that had ever been done anyplace anywhere else, I guess. It was unprecedented in the histories.

Nobody had ever dreamed that a miracle quite like this could possibly take place. Now Jesus had done lots of great miracles. No problem there.

In fact at one point he was going to raise the dead. That's a fantastic miracle. Lazarus was going to come forth from the tomb.

They were going to take the grave clothes off of him. He was going to be alive. Fifty renowned Jews stood around and watched that whole scene.

They went back to Jerusalem and told everybody what Jesus had done. What a great miracle it was. But you see that was one man experiencing the power of God in his life.

Well again, 50 renowned Jews stood around and watched the whole thing and thought it was neat. But they didn't get in on the miracle power of God. Most of Jesus miracles were like that.

A few isolated individuals experienced the divine miracle power. But the rest of the people stood around and watched and thought it was really neat. But this miracle, this miracle unprecedented.

You see Jesus stood there. He had fish and bread, five loaves, two fish. He blessed this bread.

He turned to one called Peter who was standing here and he said, Pete I want you to start right over there with that group of 50. There were 50 men sitting over there, 50 men sitting back there, 50 men here, 50 men there. In fact, they numbered into the 5,000 bracket.

Anytime you've got 5,000 men anyplace, you've got 10,000 women and children. Here were literally 15,000 people, no doubt about it, stretched out there. Pete takes this loaf of bread.

He looks at it and says to Jesus, I eat more than this at breakfast time myself. Well, just start right over there Peter. Just by faith go right over there and start feeding a multitude.

Peter takes this one loaf of bread. He goes over there to this first group of 50. The first guy looks like he could devour it with one bite.

Pete must have turned to him and said, scrape off a crumb and pass it on. This first guy takes that loaf of bread and breaks that dude in half and then he passed it. And when he passed it, friend, there's no doubt in my mind, it multiplied.

Could it be that the miracle of multiplication was not in the hands of the Christ? Could it be that the miracle of multiplication was in the hands of 5,000 men who by faith in obedience broke and passed? 5,000 men got in on the dynamic miracle power of God. 5,000 men all at the same time experienced the moving miracle power of the divine God flowing through their hands. These men are sitting out there.

You know how it is on a free meal. You eat so much you can't hardly stand yourself. They're breaking and passing and stuffing away, breaking and passing and stuffing away.

When they had stuffed their faces until they couldn't get another crumb in. I know what I'd have done. I'd have leaned back and taken my afternoon nap.

Not these boys. They had a better idea. They all got up after this free meal.

They began to come after Jesus. They said, Jesus, we're gonna make you our king. Think of it.

Free bread all the time. We'd never even have to pay taxes. Wouldn't that be great? We want you to be our king.

Jesus knew what they were up to. He told the disciples to get into a boat. He got them out into the sea away from the awful temptation.

And he turned to the multitudes and hit them head-on and dismissed them. Went up into the mountainside to pray all night. It was in the wee hours of the morning.

The storm has come to the disciples. They've been out there battling this storm all night long. It's in the wee hours of the morning that Jesus finally comes from his prayer time, walks across these storm waves, skips from one to the other, comes close to the disciples, joins them in their boat, walking on the water, calms the sea, and brings them into shore safety.

What a wonderful miracle it was. The crowds realizing that Jesus was gone, of course, and that they had been dismissed, and they didn't get their purpose accomplished, decide they're gonna go looking for him. So they walk clear around the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee and search Jesus out.

Finally, when they find him, they get around and say, Jesus, why did you leave us? We had great plans for you. We wanted to make you our king. Jesus said, hey, I know why you've come.

I know why you've walked all this distance searching me out. I understand why. It isn't because you want to experience again the mighty moving miracle power of God in your hands.

You don't crave the moving of the Spirit of God within. That's not why you've come. You've come because you want another free meal.

I never turned one down in my life. You want another free meal. That's why you've come.

You live on the level of your stomach. You live on the level of your materialism. You live on the level of your body passions.

You live on the level of what makes you feel good. I know why you've come. Because the level of your stomach says, I'm hungry again.

And you want to cash in on a free meal. He said, I'll tell you what I'd really like for you to do. I'd really like for you by faith to go deep, deep, deep.

Deep down into real belief. Until by faith you could experience in your hands 24 hours a day what you experienced the other day when you got the miracle power of God working through you. You could have that 24 hours a day.

They leaned back and said, hey, wouldn't that be great? Man, we could make our own free bread. They said, Jesus, we do have a problem though. Our problem is we just can't believe.

We have an awful time with this business of belief. We just can't get our act together. But you understand it's not our fault.

It really is my dad's fault. He's the one that trained me this way. In fact, his dad trained him.

In fact, Jesus, it kind of runs in our family. We just got bad blood. The whole outfit of us.

We've never been able to believe. You can read about us in the Old Testament. We've just never been able to believe like we should.

You know what our, you know what God did back in the Old Testament when our forefathers couldn't believe? He gave them a sign. In fact, Jesus, one of the signs he gave was he rained down bread manna from the sky. Hey, Jesus, tell you what you ought to do.

Give us a sign. Feed us one more time. Jesus said, you guys are con artists.

You're trying to weasel another free meal out of me. You're always pulling the string trying to get out of God. You always come begging.

You always come wanting. You always come give me. You're always, you're conning me.

You don't want real faith and intimate relationship. You just want a free meal. You want a sign.

Hey, I don't play that game. Except I might give you this. And he stood tall and straight and leaned back and must have raised his fist in the air and said, I am the bread of life.

And he began to preach this fantastic sermon on I am the bread of life. What a masterpiece it was. It began to unfold and as Jesus began to preach he realized that about half the crowd sitting in the back was missing it.

Because you see half the crowd was murmuring, talking, making folded airplanes, playing tic-tac-toe. They had it quite a time going back there. And Jesus realized that they weren't understanding what he was saying.

They weren't getting in on his sermon. So you know what Jesus did when he got done preaching the sermon? He leaned back and preached the whole thing again. You wonder why we preach extra long? I can tell you we usually preach the same sermon twice in the same setting because you didn't get it the first time.

See if you'd pay attention the first time we could cut this thing in half. So here's this Jesus preached this sermon. They missed it.

He leaned around and preached the whole thing again, and this is the rerun sermon that we've read to you. You'll note in these tremendous verses, this is the climax to the sermon. In verse 53 he begins to build to a point.

He's talked in verse 53 about the flesh of the Son of Man and drinking his blood. Verse 54 he talks about eating his flesh and having eternal life. He then moves to a great climax in verse 57.

Look at it. As the living Father has sent me and I live by the Father. So he that eateth me will also live by me.

What a fantastic verse. One thing I like about this so much is the fact that you don't have to be a theologian to understand it. It just kind of falls apart in your hands.

You see he's talking our language. He says as so. So he's talking our language.

Has a natural breakdown. As so. Your teenager comes up to you and says well, I don't understand how this works.

You say well, do you understand how this works? Well, yes. Then let me explain to you this works on the same basic principle that this works on. So as this is this way, so this is this way.

As so. You see they've come to Jesus. They said Jesus you're talking about eating your flesh and drinking your blood and What are you talking about? We don't get it.

We don't understand what's going on. Jesus turns to them and says have you been watching my life? Well, yeah. Have you seen how the Father and I have been kind of operating on this thing together? Yeah, have you seen how the Father's been flowing his divine power through me? Yeah, have you seen how the Father's been implanting his wisdom into my mind? Yeah, do you see how I've been getting my directions and my instructions from the Father? Yeah Have you been seeing how the Father and I are all wrapped up in this and how we've become one and the flow of the Father's happening through me and my very life is being produced by the Father.

Have you been catching that? Well, yeah. Let me tell you as so You see as the Father's been flowing through me. So now I'm going to flow through You as I've been living by my father.

So you are going to live by me As I've been constantly eating off of and deriving from the Father So you are going to derive from me as the Father's been flowing through me So I'm going to flow through you as I've done what the Father wanted me to do So you're going to do what I want you to do as I've had a relationship with my father So now you are going to have a relationship with me Do you understand that in Christianity the relationship between the Father and Jesus is the pattern for the kind of relationship You and I are to have with Jesus if you could ever find out what kind of intimacy what kind of oneness? What

kind of flow that Jesus had with his father you would know automatically friend What kind of intimacy and flow and life you're going to experience 24 hours a day in Jesus He gives us some keys There's several of them, but we're only going to deal with one look at verse 57 again as the Living Father Sent me Stop right there sent me There was one thing about Jesus Christ. You just could not miss and that it was the fact he had been sent You couldn't rub shoulders with Jesus for five seconds friend until you had this Overwhelming sensation that Jesus knew where he was going why he was going there and how he was going to get there that he had been sent He had this Overwhelming sense about him of Destiny he had this inward compulsion about him. He had this thrust It seemed like everything he did would fit into one direction He had one thing on his mind his heartbeat night and day for one single thing He was all wrapped up in obsessed with he had this moving compassion at the depth of his system for one overwhelming thing What was it? It was the father's will he had been sent to do the father's will night and day It was the father's will his mashed potatoes and gravy was the father's will the strength of his system Was the father's will the whole compulsion of his mind was the father's will he was all wrapped up in the father's will Down to a garden of Gethsemane pain and agony sweating blood It's not my will but thine be done down through a cross It's hanging and bleeding sensation for the father's will this Jesus was all wrapped up in and mastered by he had this Obsession this driving passion.

He was just bugged with the father's will his whole life all his energy Everything he did where he went what he said every attitude all flowed in one direction The father's will he was obsessed With the father's will you know why I like that so much He's talking our language. We know what it is to be obsessed Ever get the car fever We know what it is to be obsessed Ever get something on your mind and you just can't shake it. It just keeps you up at night It just bugs the living daylights out of you.

You just can't stand it When you got the car fever, you just think about it at night you make plans You get so dissatisfied with what you got. You just find your car going out of the way It's just the car you're driving is just making a turn and it's going by the the car lot over there Just it just you just can't you just have to you just you're just bugged. You're just you got the car fever Obsessed Jesus says that's the way I am with the father's will I'm just obsessed.

I got this fever It just drives me night and day. It keeps me up at night. It obsesses me.

I talk about it I eat and I drink it. I sleep it. It's everything I am.

It's the father's will He's talking our language. I Think that's really neat. I Think it would be great if you could If you could meet and talk to some of the great world athletes I'm sure it would be a great experience If you could talk to some of the people who won gold medals in the Olympics Say some of the people who participated in Gymnastics if you could say you could talk to the individual who won the gold medal for gymnastics Say you'd go up to this young lady who once went won a gold medal in gymnastics And if you could carry on a conversation to her you turned her and say well I'm interested in what kind of life you have.

What is your life all about? She'd turn and say all gymnastics You turned her and say well, what's the first thing you do when you get up in the morning? She'd turn and say all gymnastics What's the last thing you do before you go to bed at night? Oh, she'd say gymnastics What is it that you like to do during the day? She'd say all gymnastics Or what is it that you do on the weekend just for fun? Oh gymnastics What kind of magazines do you like to read all? gymnastics What do you eat for breakfast all? Gymnastics, what do you think about dream about in your sleep at night? Oh Gymnastics, how do you think she won a gold

medal folks? They interviewed one of the guys who won a gold medal for swimming on TV and as they interviewed him They said how could you win this gold medal on TV if they ask him that why he said I swim 12 hours a day You'd look like a prune wouldn't you I swim 12 hours a day. I just swim and keep on swimming Why you say man you are obsessed Yeah Obsessed one thing on my mind one driving passion Jesus says that's exactly the way I am. I've got this overwhelming compulsion I've got this 12 hours a day deal going on.

I've got this thrust. I've got this day in and day out I've got eat for breakfast all day long weekends evenings My whole life is all wrapped up in and obsessed with one Overwhelming overwhelming driving compulsion. What is it Jesus? It's the father's will Talking our language I'm sure it's not this way around here But if you'd come down to our place and go down to the high school You would have you would see what we have down our way.

They are called the I call them the leaning wall breed We have hundreds of them all over the high school there the leaning wall breed You can spot them because they always have their elbow crooks like this They have their fists doubled up and they have it right on their chin like this and down at the gymnasium someplace They'll be leaning like this against the wall the leaning wall breed. They do it for hours You wonder why they're leaning there that's no problem you see they have this lovely young thing that's standing right here real close to them In fact, their lips are real close to her head. In fact, they're real close right up to her ear and These leaning wall breeds.

They they whisper stuff in this ear And if you could read lips, it's very soft You couldn't hear it but if you could read lips You'd really be in because then you could begin to understand what they're saying and what they're all about Because if you could get at the right angle and read their lips, you'd hear something like this. You'd see something like this But she for he's saying I love you. I Live for you.

It's the truth folks. It really is the truth. You watch the poor fellow He gets up earlier in the morning than he ever got up in his whole life and he spruces himself all up He goes out and jumps into his car drives down her house runs up the sidewalk bangs on her door Grabs all her hand walks her out to the car opens up the front door She slides in slams the door he gets in drives down to the high school and sits in front of the high school until the bell Rings he jumps out goes around grabs the front door grabs her hand walks her to her first class ways Goodbye beats it to his class almost late class is dismissed He runs back to her class grabs her books grabs her hand walks her to the next class and ways Goodbye beats it back to his class almost late bell rings.

He runs back to her class Oh, he grabs all her hand grabs her books walks her to her next class ways. Goodbye beats it back to his class almost late Dinnertime they sit in the cafeteria eat out of the same plate great deal Hey eat out of the same plate dinner is over. They go to the study hall study with the book upside down Masterful trick it hey the bell rings grabs all her hand walks her to her next class beats it back to his class all Bell rings school is out.

He grabs all her hand walks her to the car opens up the front door She slides in slams the door gets in drives down to her house sits in front of her house and talks Or something for about an hour and a half now after about an hour and a half is over He opens up the front door grabs her hand walks her to her to her front door He gets out or he runs back to his car. He opens up the door. He slides in he drives down to his house He just gets down to his house runs through the front door Picks up the phone and talks to her for another hour and a half now after another hour and a half on the phone He goes in gets all spruced up

and goes back and picks her up for a date You say brother you are obsessed You got one girl on your brain cell.

Don't you know? There's about a million other good-looking women around this place there are You're obsessed She determines your weekends she determines what you do in the evening she determines how you spend your money She determines what kind of grade you get she determines what kind of car you drive your whole life revolves around and is mastered by her Jesus says want to tell you that's the way I am I got this Obsession. I got this Compulsion I got this inward driving Sensation I'm talking about night and day day and night. I'm talking about morning evenings weekends.

I'm talking about evening I'm talking about my whole life is all wrapped around one thing. I have one high priority One driving passion. What is it Jesus? It's the father's will He's talking our language This young couple got married and I had the opportunity of marrying him in one of our pastorates and oh I wanted to get him in church really bad and honeymoon was over and so forth and I went calling on him and Just got in through the front door and and handed him my coat and and he just turned on like a Christmas tree I mean you could just see it happen.

You could have turned out the lights He was just beaming and I knew as he opened up his mouth and began to communicate to me that he beat what he was Going to say was no doubt the number one big deal in his life. He said preacher He said come in here. I want to show you something and he took me into this great Well, it was a it was a den and in this den there with these shells I'm talking about supported shells heavy shells and all they had to be because on these shells were these great big trophies Bowling trophies he leaned back said I want every one of those I said you did he said yeah Sure did he said let me tell you how I won this first one He started in blow by blow account told me how they came right down to the last frame or two and he came through with The strike and pulled that thing off just by a few pins and all the time He was telling all this he had this rubber ball in his hand was squeezing it like this five hours later We were on the sixth trophy as he was explaining how he won these trophies and he was squeezing this ball for these Solid five hours.

I looked at him and said what on earth are you doing with that rubber ball strengthening the muscles of that hand? Grip that bowling ball better. I said, this is fantastic He had this big desk and he had he had all these these Magazines and books laid out and had all these diagrams and techniques for bowling I said, hey brother sure would like to see you on Wednesday night prayer meeting. Oh, he said preacher I couldn't come on Wednesday night.

See I got a bowling league on Wednesday night. In fact, I'm in two Well, I guess it was three leagues the every week this year and it's great and the nights I'm not in the league games Practicing I see. Well, I said hey sure would like to see you on Sunday morning.

Oh, he said breacher I couldn't come on Sunday morning because on the weekends I go to bowling tournaments. I said You're obsessed You got one thing in your life around which your whole life revolves You got one thing that just makes you tick you got one thing that determines all your money You got one thing that just turns you on you got one thing that determines your physical structure It determines what you eat and how much you eat. You got one thing that determines your weekends Your whole life is dictated to and mastered by one Obsession Jesus says that's the way I am folks I want to tell you I'm all wrapped up in and mastered by I've got this driving passion from deep within I've got one thing on my mind.

It drives me night and day. What is it Jesus? It's the father's will Now that's the context Hang on to yourself because Jesus says as So He says as I'm mastered by and all wrapped up in and obsessed with the father and his will guess what you're gonna be all wrapped up in and mastered by Jesus and His will as my whole heart beats for the father So your whole heart is gonna beat for me as I've got one driving passion one determining factor one high Priority in my life Jesus says so you're going to have one driving passion one high priority in your life It's gonna be Jesus and his will Jesus is gonna be your life. He's gonna be your love.

He's gonna be your turn-on He's gonna be your obsession. He's gonna be the talk of your lips. You're gonna think about him 24 hours a day He's gonna be intimately involved in everything you do.

He's going to determine your evenings He's gonna determine when you get up when you go to bed. He's gonna determine where you go. He's gonna determine your attitudes He's gonna be determining your business.

He's gonna be determining business deals He's gonna have you he's gonna determine how you conduct yourself at the school your whole life It's gonna revolve around and be mastered by Jesus You're gonna be obsessed with Christ While you're gonna stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Apostle Paul and say for me to live is Christ Preacher there are some other things beside religion, you know You're right. We preachers get carried away. Don't we really do you're right.

You're right. I'm talking about legitimate things You're right. You're right I mean religion is nice and Christianity is fine and Jesus has his place and certainly we want to keep the church open on Sunday And you're right.

You're right. Don't worry about it. Don't get upset.

You're exactly right I mean religion is really okay And it's fine to pray before your meals and we certainly want to be saved and go to heaven and you're right You're right, but there are other things in religion. You're right. You're right.

You're right. It's okay But I'm sorry friend We can't call you a Christian I'm sorry Can't call you a Christian Because I have discovered ladies and gentlemen that Jesus is Lord of all or he isn't Lord at all I've I've come to believe folks that he's either your high priority or he's not even in the list I've come to find out folks. He'll be your turn on or he won't be I've come to find out folks.

He'll be your obsession or he won't be there. I've come to find out folks He'll be your love and your loyalty. You're number one your beating heart passion or he won't be around I've discovered it's all out for Jesus.

My dad taught me Well, he said it doesn't take much of a man to be a Christian just takes all there is of him You don't have to be too hot to get in on this, but I'll tell you one thing It's going to take all your time and all your energy and all your money and you're gonna have to have your whole life Revolving around and dictated to by you're gonna have to be obsessed and turned on with he will be Lord of all I just don't count on going when he comes Now you see we're not talking about super Christian over against lesser Christian We're not talking about super saint over against lesser saying we're talking about the bare minimum of getting in See, we're not talking about well, I don't want a great big cabin in the sky. Anyhow, just a little cabin by the gate Now if you want a great big mansion next to Jesus You got to put in a lot of money and get all wrapped up in this thing If you want a little cabin by the gate just slip in \$10 every now

and then We're not talking about that, you know it around here. We don't talk about lukewarm Christians kind of Christians.

Maybe Christians hope they're Christians We don't talk about that at all before because folks there isn't such a thing as a lukewarm Christian. They don't exist That's like talking about dry water There's no such thing as half Christian You're either all out for Jesus. Well preacher.

I'm trying to be Do you go up to an elephant whack him on the trunk and say are you an elephant? Well, he says I'm trying to be You don't try to be an elephant you either are or you aren't and there's only one standard for Christianity folks And that is all out for Jesus. You see we've developed a Try level Christianity, there's one standard for preachers one standard for layman and one standard for teens Now we expect preachers to be all out for Jesus. Yes, sir And they're supposed to talk just like I'm talking but layman have other things to do, you know preaches They just sleep in in the morning and do their thing behind the pulpit and teens Oh, they've got all this stuff and one day they'll grow up and have responsibility and try to shape up a little but we understand And they'll get to go anyhow folks.

It's not the truth. It's a lie right out of the pit of hell There's only one standard in Christianity and the standard is all out for Jesus There's only one kind of Christian and it's all out for Jesus kind Well, I'd better never catch my pastor doing that then we'd better never catch you doing that Because I found out folks what God demands out of me is identical to the same thing he demands out of you Well, what does he demand out of you all out for Jesus number one turn on obsession? Passion burning from the heart. Can I ask you friend? When are you going to pull out all the stops and just begin to burn for Jesus? When's he gonna be your love? When is he gonna be your delight? When is he going to be the excitement of your being? When is he just gonna be your living experience? When are you gonna go all out for Christ? We do crazy things back our way.

We have Softball leagues in our church in our churches. I don't know if you do that out here or not We have these softball leagues, you know and all these guys get together and play softball and and all this stuff and it's great They have a great time and we're for it and win a lot of people you can win a lot of people Attract them to the church and hey, we're for that We had this teen rap. We were having it in the summertime every night down at the church and One night when we were to have the teen rap, they had a softball league game So we pushed the teen rap up till later in the evening We all went down to the ballgame had a fantastic time came back had a good crowd had some eats and then had this rap The thing that really turned me on about the whole evening was the ballgame Well, it wasn't exactly the ballgame what excited me during that whole time was I was sitting on the bleachers not playing I was sitting on the bleachers next to this Next to this young mother and she's what turned me on because she was she was so excited about the ballgame that her excitement came To me and I got excited and I don't usually get excited, but she really got me excited See, it was fantastic.

Now the thing about her that was interesting. She she started talking before the ballgame ever started She started talking about the other ballgame that had last week. She was a mile a minute She was just gonna and the next thing I knew this ballgame start and she was all over the place She was a little heavy set which was okay But the only reason I tell you that is because we were sitting on bleachers and she got so excited She started bouncing up and down.

Well, of course, I started bouncing up and down and it was great, you know And she was all over the place telling the Empire run don't run. Oh, it was fantastic She was just I mean she was coming apart at the

same for a solid hour and a half two hours She was just getting with it and it was it was oh, I did a dumb thing But she was on her way down and I was on my way up and I reached over and I tapped her on the shoulder Looked her full in the face and she looked at me with some kind of a scowl as if to say what on earth are You and interrupting this ballgame for I looked her square in the face and said I Can hardly wait to get you in church Dumb real dumb Real dumb Learn my lesson Hey didn't have any problem getting her in church. Didn't he met to invite her? She was automatically there one of the fine church ladies what a What a dead fish What a disappointment? Wow You expect me to act like I'm in a ballgame.

No, this is not a ballgame cheerleaders. Sit down. Don't pass out that popcorn This is not a ballgame, this is worship experience to the divine God We don't expect you to dress like you're at a ballgame.

We don't expect you to act like you're at a ballgame This is not a ballgame But do I have to be embarrassed ladies and gentlemen? to tell you that the kind of the kind of Enthusiasm the kind of Earnestness the kind of energy output the kind of caring the kind of attention the kind of outpour That she experienced at a ballgame Jesus who's Lord deserves that Yes, you're right. I can tell by the expression on your face. I ought to be embarrassed to say that because friend We're talking about eternal issues We're talking about life and death We're talking about eternal death destiny We Are a generation who's been sucked into junk one of the greatest sins of our generation may be people's magazine Just trivia just junk about other people.

We love it We get all wrapped up in trivia and insignificant junk and we feed on it and we talk it But when it comes to the dynamic of eternal values We're a dead fish I want to ask you friend When are you gonna go all out for Jesus? When's he gonna become your love? When's he gonna be your turn on when's he gonna become your delight? When are you gonna pull out all the stops and just let your heart beat for Christ? What's your hearts this has been hard, isn't it if you think this has been hard the next few minutes are gonna be a killer I'm gonna ask you to do something We're not gonna stand We're gonna not gonna pray. I want to make this as hard for you to do as I can possibly make it Bob's gonna come and sing an invitational hymn for us And I'm gonna ask you to slip out of your seat and kneel at an altar of prayer And when you do if you want to pray for someone else sit right right right where you are and just pray away If you want to praise God this morning great Just sit right there and praise him with all your worth But when you get up and you come and kneel at this altar of prayer You're gonna bump the back of the pew because it's crowded. We're all gonna turn around and look at you You're gonna walk down the aisle.

We're all gonna watch you come you're gonna kneel We're all gonna say been on the board for five years, too And it's gonna be totally embarrassing and when you kneel we're all going to know why you've come The issue is not good and bad. Everybody here is good. The issue is He's not been all All Don't think for a moment folks.

This is some kind of a psychological whip-up by an evangelist to make everybody feel guilty Everybody in this place, you know, whether Jesus is your love You know whether he's your turn-on, you know, whether he's your excitement, you know, whether he's your life You know whether he's a hobby that you have you know Whether he's the God you come to on Sunday morning and tip your hat to the God to check in down at the church house You know friend whether he's an overcoat that you put on in the winter and take off in the summer You know whether he's your life And I'm trying to tell you friend. You're damned until he's your life You're not gonna make it There aren't degrees in Christianity. It's either all out for Jesus or it isn't That's why we're a holiness church, you understand And we are in the middle of an overwhelming struggle in this service about your eternal destiny No more games.

No more playing church. No more hiding out. No more Well, I'm not all that bad just plain flat right down to it all out here.

I am I belong It's gonna be hard And I want to tell you don't rush into anything Then get over Because if you kneel at this older friend, it's gonna cost you everything you've got This will take all your money This will ruin your retirement This will mess up your Monday night TV This will absolutely demand all of your energy You'll probably have to get so wrapped up in this thing that you'll probably probably spend your energy 10 years earlier than you would have and die This will take not 10% of your money. It'll take all of it. This won't be Sunday morning attendance This will be every day all your time But it's the least It's where you start There's no Christianity without it you want in Think it over Don't rush into anything.

And if you just this morning have to say, oh Jesus has not been my love. He's not been my life. I've not been all out.

I've been playing games I've had whole areas of my life. I've held out. He's not been my excitement.

I've been a dead fish And I want to do something about it. If you just absolutely feel like you have to do something about it this morning And I suppose you could slip out of your seat and come otherwise it's not worth the effort Bob is gonna sing Our Alders open watch it Think about it. Be careful.

No games here When are you gonna go all out for Jesus? When's he gonna be your life? This is for you I My eyes fixed on Jesus have lost sight What could match up to him Oh Oh insane Spirits vision Oh We're talking about the least friend You know almost every week I Have somebody come up to me and say oh you're always talking about total surrender and you're always talking about Being all out for Jesus and I just don't What do you mean all out for Jesus? How can you totally surrender your life to Christ? Hey, I try not to be rude. I'm a nice guy, you know, and I don't like to put people on the spot, but Folks I've had it with that question We do know how to go all out for Jesus We do know how to give our total lives to Christ. We do know what it's all about We know why Teenager you know how to give your whole life for athletics dad, you know how to give your whole life for a job You know how to get all wrapped up in a boat The question is not how the question is are you going to get all wrapped up in Jesus When's your heart gonna beat for him Now if there should be anybody here that would say oh man, well, you're a little radical I I really don't think God is that tough.

I mean all or nothing and he I don't really think he's that tough You know where I learned this from the scriptures, of course, but secondly, I learned it from my wife I found out friend. All I have to do is go home. Look my wife square in the eye and say honey I love you, but guess what? I found this somebody else.

I love a little bit more and I've got a suitcase in my face She says manly. I'm not gonna put up with that. I Want your total all outness.

I want your total love or just packing in

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