

# Showing Jesus by Our Life

by Zac Poonen

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*The purpose of the church is to be a witness to the true God by living a life that reflects God's nature and making disciples who will follow Jesus all their lives.*

**Duration:** 57:58

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:16-20, John 20:21-22, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 5:1-2, Philippians 2:5, 1 Peter 1:15-16

**Topics:** "Christian Witness", "Holy Spirit"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of being a witness for God, reflecting His nature of love, purity, and servanthood in our lives. It calls for manifesting Jesus in our homes, workplaces, and communities, seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit to represent Christ effectively and live a life that glorifies God.

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## Transcript

Saare jahan se accha hai CFC humara. The best place in the world is our church. I want to read a verse first of all in Acts of the Apostles chapter 14.

There's a little expression here that has rung in my mind for many, many, many years. I've often thought about it. Here it's referring to something else, but I want to apply it to our testimony as a church.

It's in John, sorry, Acts of the Apostles chapter 14 and verse 16 and 17. In the generations gone by, God permitted all the nations to go their own ways. Yet, he did not leave himself without a witness.

In that, he did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness. The expression I want you to notice is in verse 17. God did not leave himself without a witness.

From the time of Adam, God's desire was that man should be a witness for him on this earth. Adam failed. God picked up Abraham and started a nation through him.

And his purpose again was there should be a witness on the earth concerning the true God who created the universe and created human beings. Israel also failed, but this is the beginning of the New Testament age in Acts 14. And the Apostle Paul tells this crowd of people in Lystra saying, but there was still a witness that God had on this earth in the fact that he gave you rain and fruitful seasons and allowed all of you, whether you're atheists or idol worshippers, to have food and health and many, many physical blessings, which a lot of people take for granted, but which are all indications of God's goodness.

And here it says that was one way God was wanting to have a witness on the earth. Now, I want to apply that to the church. When Jesus went up to heaven, he said the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you shall be my witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

The whole purpose of the Holy Spirit coming upon us and filling us is to make us witnesses, not that we will bear witness with our lips, which is what most Christians have misunderstood that verse to mean. Acts 1.8 says the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you shall be my witnesses. Now, there's a lot of difference between being a witness and bearing witness.

Bearing witness is words. You get up in a court and you bear witness to what you saw or what you heard. And unfortunately, most of Christendom has been taken up with bearing witness.

The emphasis has been on evangelism. Give out the word, spread the Bible, give out the written word. But like that little statement I heard once where somebody says, your life speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you're saying.

You understand what that means? That means your life is so much in contradiction to what you're speaking that I can't hear what you're speaking because your life is shouting something else. The way you're living is giving another message from what you are speaking. And this has been the tragedy of Christendom throughout these 20 centuries.

Jesus taught us to pray. First of all, our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. There must be a witness to the name of God.

The name refers to his nature on earth. And there we have to say most of Christendom has failed throughout the years. But God has not left himself without a witness.

Remember that expression, God did not leave himself without a witness. In every generation, right from that first day of Pentecost, God has always had in the world somewhere or the other, not necessarily in every place, I mean, God would love to have it in every place, but he's never left himself, never left the world without there being some pocket of believers here and there who were a witness to the true God, who manifested by their life and their words what God was like. Because the commission that Jesus gave to his disciples on the day of his resurrection, when he came into their midst, we read in John chapter 20, John chapter 20, he said these words, it says here in John 20 verse 19, this is the first day of the week, Jesus had just risen from the dead, the doors were shut and Jesus came and stood in the midst.

Now, this is a beautiful picture of the church. There were maybe 10 of the disciples, Thomas was not there and of course, Judas Iscariot had fallen away, the other 10 I presume were there. And here were 10 believers, disciples of Jesus and Jesus in the midst, it says.

We had two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst, that's the definition of the church. The mark of a true church of God, of the new covenant church is that Jesus is in the midst. Just like in the Old Testament tabernacle, the most important thing in that tabernacle, which nobody could imitate was the fire.

All the other things of the tabernacle, anybody could copy, even the Philistines could make a tabernacle exactly like that. And people have sometimes tried to look at a good church and imitate the pattern. That's like the Philistines making a tabernacle, it looks exactly the same.

But the one with discernment, and you don't need much discernment in those days anyway, will say, hey, there's no fire there. Everything else is right, I mean, the color of the curtains and the size of the tent, everything is perfect. The measurement is perfect, but the fire is missing.

And if the fire is missing, then God doesn't have a witness on the earth. And through the years, when we look at many movements that God has raised up, God would raise up a man and start a movement to restore New Testament Christianity, to bring people back to the scriptures. And by the time that man has died, another generation comes up, and it's no longer the same.

It's been true of Christendom throughout the ages. Now, I wondered why. See, we must learn from the mistakes of others.

Otherwise, we will make the same mistake ourselves. A wise man learns from the mistakes of others. An ordinary man learns from his own mistakes.

And a foolish man does not even learn from his own mistakes. There are three types of people. So, if you're a wise man, you will not have to make a mistake in order to learn.

You will observe other people and say, why did that happen to that person? Or why did that happen to that church? And let me not make that same mistake. But there are very few wise people. Most people seem to make the same mistake and then learn or sometimes not even learn.

For example, if you look at a good family, you must ask yourself, why did that family turn out well? And then you look at a bad family where the children are wayward. And you ask yourself, why? I've done that for years. I've looked at families.

I'm not here to judge them, because God is the only judge. So, I'm not here to pass judgment or give marks to any families. But I wanted to learn for myself.

Whenever I've heard of a servant of God who has fallen, I've tried to find out, not to judge him, but to find out where can I learn a lesson, protect myself. And I've looked at a family, good and bad, what can I learn from it? Or a church, good and bad, what can I learn from it? Or when I hear of, when I see a movement or a church drifting away, why is it? God does not want to leave himself without a witness. So, throughout the generations, God has wanted to have a witness.

And here it says in John chapter 20, Jesus came and stood in the midst. That's the church. We read in 1 Corinthians 14 about people sharing the word in a church.

And verse 24 onwards, people standing, sitting together, sharing a word in a church. And a complete, a person who's got nothing to do with the church walks in, a stranger. And he comes and sits there.

And as he hears the word of God, the Bible says there, that the hidden things in his heart get exposed. That means he discovers corruption in his heart, which he didn't even know was there. He discovers sins that he did not even think was sin.

He gets convicted by the Holy Spirit of ungodly behavior in his life. If it's a Christian who walks in, he discovers unchristlikeness in certain areas of his life, as he hears the preaching of the word, which he didn't even know was unchristlikeness. And it says in that verse that he falls down and says, God is here.

What is his testimony? The Lord is here. That's the mark of a New Testament church. And that's the thing that we have longed to have right from the beginning, to have Jesus in our midst.

We have not wanted people to come to our church to listen to the music. We want to have good music, but not, I tell you, you cannot compete with the worldly people in music. They practice for years.

We don't have time to practice. We have more time to read the Bible and pray. Where's the time to practice music? I mean, just a little bit, we do it.

So we're not in competition with anybody to show that our music is better than anybody else's. No, we're not here to show that our building is better than anybody else's. We're not here to show that the people in our church are cleverer or richer or poorer and whatever people glory in.

We're not here to show any of those things. The purpose of the church is for one thing. We're not here like a social service institution to feed the poor and clothe the naked, and that's all good.

I'm not against that. But I say that's not what Jesus told his disciples to go into all the nations and do. He never said go into all the nations and clothe all the naked people and feed all the hungry people and heal all the sick people.

I mean, if he had said that, we would do it. He said that in Matthew chapter 10, when he sent his disciples out to Israel, he said, heal the sick and raise the dead. But when he sent his disciples out to the world at the end of his time on earth, he said, go and make disciples.

That's what he said. Go to every nation and make people those who are willing to learn from me and follow me all their life. And I want to say that every servant of God who has gone anywhere and not made disciples has failed the Lord in that commission that he gave.

Those are his last words in Matthew 28 verse 19. And the next verse he said, once you have made them disciples, teach them to do every single thing I have commanded. And a servant of God or a preacher of God's word, or anyone who's seeking to build a church who does not teach people to do every single thing that Jesus commanded in the New Testament, he has failed.

And every church that is not teaching people to do every single thing that Jesus commanded has failed to fulfill the commission given in Matthew 28 verse 20. That is a witness. Jesus was a witness on the earth by doing everything the father told him to do.

Why was that important? Because right from the beginning of time, right from the garden of Eden, the devil has always told man, God's commands are a burden. They are impossible to fulfill. You cannot be a believer who obeys all of God's commandments.

No, no, no, no, no. You have to sin. As long as you live in the world, you will sin.

It is only normal. It is natural. And I'm sorry to say most Christians are a witness to that lie of the devil that we have to sin.

It is natural to sin. It is natural for husbands and wives to fight with each other. It is natural for them to quarrel it is natural for some of them to divorce.

That's the lie of the devil and multitudes of Christians are a witness to the lie of the devil. In the midst of that, God does not leave himself without a witness. He has a few people.

I don't expect that number to be many because at the end of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7 verse 13 and 14, he said, the way is very narrow and few there be that find it. So I don't expect the whole world to get converted or any country to get converted. I don't expect millions and billions to find the way when Jesus said few there be that find it.

Many will understand it, but few will find it. You know, you can sit here and listen to a message and if you've got a good brain, you can say, yeah, I understood that. But in the time of temptation tomorrow, you may not find the way of the cross.

Did you understand it? Yes. Did you find it? No. Jesus did not say few will understand it.

No. Read what he said in Matthew 7 13. Turn for a moment there.

Matthew chapter 7 and verse 13. He said, enter through the narrow gate. Verse 14, the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life and there are few who find it.

Therefore, I have not looked for multitudes personally. I've never prayed, Lord, bring the whole of India to Christ. I mean, there are some people who think they are very spiritual to pray such prayers, bring the whole world to Christ and all that.

God loves the whole world. There's no doubt about that. He loved the world more than you and I did.

And he didn't just pray. He sent his son to die for the world. So let's not think that we love the world more than God does.

God wants all men to repent, it says in 2 Peter 3. God wants all men to be saved. 1 Timothy 2 verse 4. But he also wants them in the same verse to come to the knowledge of the truth. It says that sets them free from sin.

You shall know the truth. Truth shall set you free. And there's no lack of love on God's part.

But one wonderful thing about God is that he doesn't force anybody. And that's a principle that we have followed in this church right from day one. We have never compelled anyone to come to the meetings.

We've never compelled anyone to give money. We've never even asked for it. We have never forced people to be holy or forced people to love others because anything forced is of the devil.

God gives freedom. He shows us the way, sets us before us the way of life and the way of death and says choose. Because nobody can be holy without choice.

God could have made Adam holy but he couldn't have done it if he didn't give him the power of choice. He couldn't make him holy without choice. You know, he had to have the power of choice.

Obedience is not holiness. Remember this. The planets have obeyed for thousands of years.

They're not holy. They're not sinners. Planets cannot be sinners, cannot be holy because they don't have free will.

And if God took away our freedom of choice, we could never be holy. We'd be like the planets, even if we look like human beings. I mean, God could make me look just like this and program me inside in my brain like a planet that I would obey every single commandment in the Bible perfectly.

But I would not be holy. Do you know that you can obey every single commandment in the Bible perfectly and not be holy if God has programmed you to do it? The most important thing is choice. And one more thing.

A dog has got free will, but it still can't be holy. And it can't be a sinner because free will alone is not enough. You need one more thing.

You need a conscience. A dog doesn't have a conscience. You can train a dog to obey you.

And there are people who train dogs and horses to obey them implicitly. I mean, so many animals in the zoo and different places, they train them in the circuses to obey immediately. But that obedience is not holiness.

If God made us like animals without a conscience, trained, trained, trained to obey, that's not holiness. We have to train our children so that they don't become wayward. But don't fool yourself that just because you've trained your children through punishment and reward that they become holy.

No. For holiness, two requirements are freedom of choice and a conscience. God has only given that to man.

And man can be holy or a sinner. The angels could be holy or sinful because they had freedom of will and the power of choice. And because of this, very few find it.

Very few people find the way. And then in the next verse, Jesus said in Matthew 7, 15, but beware of the false prophets. And whenever you read a verse, read it in its context.

The meaning is there will be false prophets who will come and say the way is not narrow. Don't believe these fanatical prophets who say the way is narrow. It's pretty broad.

You're permitted as a Christian to do this and to do that and to do the other thing. And who said you can't do this and can't do the other thing? And they have made the way broad through these 20 centuries. And many have come in.

You have these mega churches and great numbers and everybody's very excited. But I don't believe they have found the way. They're just got a religion.

And maybe it's a little better religion than another religion. If you compare all the religions of the world, some are better than the others. That doesn't prove they have found the way that Jesus showed.

It doesn't mean they have become disciples. Because a disciple is one who is a witness by his life. And that's what we have stressed here from the beginning in all these 35 years.

And if you have not understood that, my brother and sister, you have not understood why God raised up this church. And why he's kept it going for 35 years. Why the devil has tried to attack it in so many, many ways.

Only those who are in the leadership understand that. But he's never succeeded even once. No.

He's never succeeded even once. Let me turn back to John chapter 20. When Jesus came in the midst, it says here that they rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

John 20, verse 20. And he said, peace be with you. Twice he said that.

In verse 19 and in verse 21. Peace be with you. I believe one of the primary marks of a New Testament church where Jesus is in the midst must always be peace.

A church where there is strife, the Lord is not there. A home where there is strife, the Lord is not there. Why have you heard me speak for 35 years against husbands and wives yelling and screaming at each other? Why? I'll tell you why.

Because I don't want you to drive the Lord out of your house. I want the Lord to be in your house. That's why I say stop fighting with each other.

Stop yelling and screaming at each other. Peace. Jesus once told his disciples in Luke chapter 10.

When you go to a house and you speak peace, and if you don't find that there's a man of peace there or a house of peace, don't stay there. Go and find another house. See that in Luke chapter 10.

Luke's gospel chapter 10. He said, when you come to a house, when you go to a new city, he was sending his people to different parts. And he said, whatever house you enter, Luke 10, verse 5, first say peace be to this house.

It's exactly what he used to say when he came into the midst of people. And if, there's a big if there, if there's a man of peace there, your peace will rest on him. But if not, it will return to you.

And if you find a house with peace like that, stay in that house. Otherwise, don't stay there. The Lord will not stay.

Whether you believe it or not, the Lord will not stay in your beautiful mansion. If you and your wife or you and your husband are quarreling with each other. He's not interested in all the beautiful tiles and bathroom fittings and everything else.

No, he's not looking for that. He's looking for peace. And that depends on the man who is the head of the house.

It depends on the man. And if you're not a man who can bring peace in your house, I want to tell you, Jesus is not there. You can put up any number of verses on your walls.

You can say Christ is the head of this house and all that. He is not there. Because he does not live where there is no peace.

And that is why the Bible says, the literal translation is run after peace. Hunt after peace. Run after it.

The picture I get in my mind is the last bus is leaving and it's already left the bus stand and is moving. You better run, brother, if you want to catch it. Do you run after peace like that in your home? I have done that.

I'm not speaking what I have not pursued after. When I got married, I was just like any other born again Christian, defeated by sin, defeated by anger. But I realized after God filled me with the Holy Spirit that that was not the way.

I had to make my home a home of peace if the Lord was to be there. Otherwise, I'd just be a Christian with verses hanging around singing songs and the Lord is not there to be like the tabernacle is there, the fire is missing. I believe that most Christian homes are like that.

There's not much difference between their home and the homes of the others. Jesus says, peace be unto you. Very few find it.

There are very few Christian homes in the world like this. And I don't blame the people. I blame the leaders and teachers who have not taught them the importance of this.

What's the use going out giving tracts if you don't have a home of peace? Your home must be like an island of peace in the midst of a world full of turmoil. The world is like the wicked are like the troubled sea, it says. And the world is full of wicked people with the troubled sea in the midst of it here and there.

God wants islands of peace, a home, a home here, a home there, a church here that has peace. And we can testify to that. I don't have to hide anything.

You can come and ask the people who have lived here, been here all these years and find out if the elders have fought with each other about anything. Now let me say this. It doesn't mean we don't disagree.

Your wife and you, my wife and I may disagree, but that doesn't mean there's no peace. Because until we become perfect like Christ, our mind will not agree 100% with somebody. It doesn't matter.

I asked the Lord once about this. I said, Lord, why haven't you made it such that you explain everything much more clearly so that there is no argument about certain scriptural doctrines? So many Christians are divided on some little doctrine. They interpret this way, the other way.

And I said, Lord, if you would only just make it a little clearer, add about 20, 30 more verses, a lot of controversy would have gone away in Christendom. And I got an answer from the Lord. And the answer was this.

It is easy to love somebody when you see eye to eye with them. That is a human love. But I want my children to have a divine love, which can love people when you don't see eye to eye with them.

That means you don't agree with them and you still love them. You don't agree with them and you still you can live in peace with them. That's amazing.

That's divine. And that's what we have experienced in the church among the eldership. And I would not say in all of our homes, but certainly in some of our homes.

And I hope the number of those homes are increasing. Where our homes, instead of becoming places of turmoil like the rest of the world, are becoming islands of peace. Jesus came into the midst and he said, peace.

And that is what we have stressed from the beginning. Peace with God, that means not a single sin is unconfessed. That's how we have peace with God.

We have kept on stressing that for 35 years, that you must confess your sin immediately. If you fall, you must get up as soon as you fall. We have not taught that a Christian will never fall.

When John 2 says, my little children, I write these things unto you that you may not sin, that is God's will. But if any man sin, we have an advocate. That means there is the possibility of falling.

But if you fall, you shouldn't be lying down there even for one second. You must get up, stand up immediately, just like you would do if you physically fall. Confess your sin, get back in peace with God immediately, and turn from that sin and learn a lesson from that failure so that you don't make that fall again.

I mean, think if you were, you suddenly in your business lost 10,000 rupees or 50,000 rupees. Wouldn't you sit down and say, how in the world did I lose that? I want to be careful next time. I think we'd be very careful about if we lost such money in our home, maybe by carelessness or leaving it lying around.

You wouldn't do that a second time because we are so careful with money. We should be more careful with our life that we are always at peace with God and always at peace with one another. That's another thing we have stressed all these 35 years, that we must never, never, never have anything in our heart against anybody, because then God will not hear you.

Not only he will not hear you, if you die in that state, you'll go to hell without any doubt in my mind. Because Jesus said, Matthew 6, 15, if you do not forgive others their sins, your heavenly father will not forgive your sins. There are very few churches that preach that today, but we have preached it.

There are souls that have been saved before they died, because they set that matter right before they died. I remember one man telling me on his deathbed, that brother Zach, the Lord brought me to your church two years ago just to hear one message. There were so many people I had not forgiven, Christians who had told lies about me and harmed me, but I never, no church I went to, did I hear that if you don't forgive others, you'll go to hell.

When I came to your church, I heard that straight. If you don't forgive others, you go to hell. And you showed me from scripture, Matthew 6, 15, that if you don't forgive others, your father will not forgive your sins.

And if your father does not forgive your sins, in that moment you die, can you go to heaven without your sins forgiven? Is there anybody here, any Christian in the world who can dare to tell me that even people whose sins are not forgiven will go to heaven? Show me a verse in the Bible which says those whose sins are not forgiven will also go to heaven. But it says here, your father will not forgive you if you don't forgive others. And I tell you, I've hardly heard any church priest that God has not left himself without a witness concerning this truth.

That's one reason he's kept us going for 35 years, and I pray that till Jesus comes, we will proclaim it and save many deceived Christians from going to hell. I once told a brother in this church, I said, brother, I don't care whether you think I'm hard. In the day of judgment, you'll turn around and thank me for what I taught you.

That's enough for me. I'm not looking for your praise right now. Because you don't understand.

It's just the way I brought up my children. I mean, I was very strict with my children about many, many things. And sometimes they thought daddy was a bit hard, strict.

But today, every one of them thanked me. They don't understand it when they're small. Why are we so strict about certain things? I don't expect little children to understand when they're small about what is good for them.

That's why God puts fathers and mothers over them. That's why I encourage you. Don't let your children decide which way they should go.

Be the man of the house. And if your wife is weak, put your foot down and be the head of the house. You know that our sisters veil our head here to show submission to the man.

But if you're submitted to your wife, brother, you should cover your head and come to this church and veil your head and say, I'm in submission to my wife at home. Don't tell a lie by coming here without veiling your head. If you don't veil your head, then that means you are the head of your home and I hope you are.

Then make sure that you instruct your children in the right way and bring up your home in a way that can be a witness. God wants a witness in every generation. And so that's another thing that we have stressed.

Peace with God and peace with one another. If we don't forgive others, we will not get into God's kingdom. And peace inwardly.

That's another thing we have taught. Peace with God, peace with one another, and peace inwardly. That means there's no unrest in our heart.

We have taught that repeatedly. There is a rest for the people of God. The Old Testament Sabbath was to describe this inner rest where this heart, which is like a turmoil, the wicked are like the troubled sea.

When it cannot rest, it says in Isaiah, and my heart is like that, and God makes it like a sea of glass. It says in Revelation 15 and verse 1 about the saints who stand on a sea of glass. Absolute calm.

That's how our heart must be all the time. Things may happen around us, but we come to rest in God by bringing that matter up to God and saying, Lord, this sudden thing has happened in my life. I didn't anticipate that.

But you knew about it, Father, long before I was born. You knew that on such and such a day, this particular unexpected calamity is going to hit this child of mine. When did he know it? He knew it before you were born.

Do you make provision for your children's needs before that need comes? How many of you have stood in a queue to get an application form to get admission for your children in the kindergarten or in a school or in a college? The child is not interested. You go and do that anticipating your child's need. Do you think your heavenly Father does not anticipate your need before you come to it? He does.

That's the thing that's brought rest to my heart whenever anything has hit me. I say, Lord, I didn't expect this. It's a surprise to me, but it's no surprise to you.

You knew all about it before I was born and you made some provision. I've just got to look around and find what that provision is. That is why we are at rest in our heart.

And I feel sorry for all the people in the world who don't have a heavenly Father. It's like this story of the two birds that I've often quoted here. One bird tells another bird, why are these human beings always so anxious and worried about so many things? And the other bird says, maybe they don't have a heavenly Father like we have.

That's why they are so worried. We are okay. We're not worried.

Do the birds say that about you? Peace in our heart. Jesus in the midst means peace towards God, peace towards one another, peace in our home, peace in our hearts. We have stressed that from the beginning and we continue to stress it.

And I want to say something more. In John's gospel chapter 20, we read when Jesus came into the midst. This is a beautiful picture of the church.

And this is what the church should be. This is what we should be in the days to come. Jesus coming and standing in our midst and saying, peace be unto you.

And then saying, now I go to the next step. John 20 verse 21. As the Father sent me, I send you.

As we look into the future, the days ahead in this church, let us listen to the word of the Lord. All those who are committed to this church, who are not coming here just to listen to good messages, but I hope who are coming here because they want to be a witness for Christ in this generation, in this city. The such people I say, here is what the Lord is saying to you and me for the days to come.

As the Father, John 20 verse 22, 21, sorry, John 20, 21, as the Father has sent me, I also send you. Have you got the commission? Those who have years to hear, listen. I don't mean these years.

If you've got a year in your heart now, listen. Jesus in our midst right now, who has led our church all these 35 years, is looking towards the future, which he alone can see. From now until the time when he returns, he's saying to you, to all who have years to hear, as the Father sent me to this earth, so I'm sending you now.

Brothers, sisters, young men, young women, boys, girls, the word is to you. Why did the Father send Jesus to this earth? Because he did not want to leave himself without a witness. He looked for 4,000 years from Adam onwards for someone who would show what God was like, a witness to the true God, and he couldn't find one.

There were some who were much better than others. Elijah, John the Baptist were much better than Balaam and some of the others. Elisha was better than Gehazi, but still the Father longed for a pure witness for his name, and that's why when he saw the way Jesus lived for 30 years in Nazareth without preaching a sermon, and that's another thing that you hardly hear anywhere.

We've preached it here for 35 years, that Jesus for 30 years, what did he do in Nazareth? He didn't preach a sermon. He never healed a sick person. He never cast out a demon.

He never did a miracle. He never taught the scriptures, even though he knew the scriptures at the age of 12. What was he doing for 30 years? He manifested in Nazareth what God was like, how God wanted man to live, and at the end of those 30 years, the Father said, this is my beloved son.

Can you imagine the delight that came into the Father's heart as it were saying, at last, at last from the days of Adam, I've been looking for someone, not someone who would run around, who would preach and do miracles and cast out demons. No, no, no. I'm looking for someone who will manifest what I am like, and at last I found someone.

This is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased. My brothers, sisters, some of you may envy those who can preach or those who can heal the sick and those who can cast out demons. You see these great preachers standing up on platforms, and some of you may wish, I wish I could be like them.

Shame on you. You know what I have said for many years? I wish I could be like Jesus in the days when he was in Nazareth, doing little things, showing people in Nazareth what God was like. Imagine if you live like that in your home, that your husband can say, my wife, it's like having Jesus in the home.

My husband, it's like having Jesus in the home. My dad, it's like having Jesus in the home. My mom, it's like having Jesus in the home.

If others cannot say that, you know what you and I should do? We should fall before God and say, Lord, you have failed. You don't know the number of nights I've wept on my pillow because there was some little thing I did not, where I did not manifest the pure, holy nature of Jesus, the loving, compassionate nature of Jesus. And blessed are the mourn, those blessed are those who mourn, they will be strengthened, it says, and I got strengthened, and I could do it the next time.

Do you mourn? It's so important, as the Father sent me, so send I you. Jesus said in John 14, and verse, to Philip, in verse 9, you don't need to, haven't you come to know me? He who has seen me, the middle of verse 9, John 14, verse 9, he who has seen me has seen the Father. Why do you say, show us the Father? There is no need to see the Father.

If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. You know, because Philip said, Lord, show us the Father, verse 8, and Jesus said, no need for you to see the Father. If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.

Somebody comes to you and says, show me Jesus. You say, there's no need to see Jesus. If you have seen me, you have seen Jesus.

You know, that's our calling. Don't get so extreme on all this. I'm not being extreme.

I'm just asking you, did Jesus say that? You don't need to see the Father. If you've seen me, you've seen the Father. And did Jesus say, as the Father sent me, so send I you.

Put those two verses together and what do you get? You should be able to say to others, if you've seen me, you've seen Jesus. And wherever they don't see Jesus in us, we should go and fall on our face before God and weep. I'm not preaching what I'm not practiced.

You should weep. Lord, that's not the way for, that's not the way Jesus would have spoken. That's not the type of thoughts that would have gone through Jesus' mind.

Not only filthy thoughts, but even when God has given you more than enough for your needs to keep on thinking, how can I make a little more money? If you're not earning enough and you don't have enough to meet your needs, by all means you need to. Jesus had to think about how to earn money by going to the

carpenter shop and earning money to take care of his family. There were eight members in his family he had to take care of.

Much bigger family than many of us. He had to think about money, but his mind was not on how to make more and more. I want to take care of my needs.

That's right. Do you ever think that the thoughts, some thoughts that go through your mind are not the thoughts of Jesus? Don't go to an extreme on this. I believe Jesus believed in relaxation and sleep and he thought of eating food.

In fact, people called him a wine bibber and a gluttonous man. He was a normal person, but his mind was always on how can I please the father? What does the father want me to do here? These are the thoughts that were going through his mind constantly and that's why he could say at the end of his life, if you have seen me, you have seen the father. And though we may have failed many times in the past, my brothers and sisters, what the Lord is calling us to now is to say, Lord, I want to take this seriously.

That my calling is to manifest Jesus to, first of all, in my home. The Bible says Jerusalem first, then Judea, then Samaria, then the outermost parts of the earth. Don't try the outermost parts of the earth before you start in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is your home. And you say, boy, brother, it's tough. I can't be a Christian in my home.

You don't know what my wife is like. You don't know what my husband is like. It doesn't matter.

When you light a candle, does the candle say, oh, this is too dark here. I can't burn here. Does it matter to the candle whether it's dark or light? You can burn a candle here where there's light.

You can go to pitch darkness and the candle will burn the same way. If you complain that it's difficult to be a true Christian in your home because of the way your husband or wife behaves, you don't have the fire of the Holy Spirit. So Jesus said, as the Father sent me, I send you.

In other words, like I said, we should be able to turn around to people and say, if you've seen me, you've seen Jesus. Have you ever heard any preacher tell you that? It's in scripture, brother. You hear things here which you'll never hear anywhere else.

And then, knowing how impossible that is, see the next thing he said. John 20, verse 22. And when he had said this, when he had said what? When he had said that you guys have got to go and show me to others by your life, he breathed on them and said, breathed on them and said, here's the answer.

Receive the Holy Spirit and you will get my nature. And when you get my nature, it'll be easy to manifest Jesus. And that's another thing that we have stressed here all these years, the power of the Holy Spirit.

Not in the fanatic way it is often portrayed in Christendom, but in the balanced way that we find it in Jesus. Right from the And if you want to test anything, which is called fullness of the spirit, compare it with Jesus. When I see people lying on the floor and kicking their legs and laughing and saying they are filled with the spirit, I try to picture in my mind, can I imagine Jesus lying on the floor somewhere in Nazareth in his house and kicking his legs and saying, laughing and laughing? What do you think his brothers would have thought of them? His brothers would have said, we always felt our elder brother was a bit mad.

Now we are convinced. Can you imagine Jesus ever doing that? Can you imagine the ridiculous nature of that type of thing being called the Holy Spirit? It may not be an evil spirit. It's just a human spirit excited by some man who's manipulated them psychologically.

And so many things like this, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit. Can you imagine Jesus preaching and asking people to give money to him for his ministry? Where do you find that in scripture? Look at Jesus, the perfect spirit-filled man who never asked anybody for money. That's what we have proclaimed in this church for 35 years.

That's why we don't even take an offering. Because Jesus said, when you give, you must give secretly. How can you give secretly when somebody puts a bag in front of you? And Jesus said, you must give cheerfully.

How can you give cheerfully when somebody puts a bag in front of you? You have to give something because everybody's looking at you. There's neither secrecy there nor cheerfulness. That's why we put a box at the back and say, give secretly and cheerfully.

If you don't feel like giving, don't give. If you don't have anything to give, don't give. We're not interested.

Because God is a multi-billionaire. He doesn't need your money. He needs your body.

That's what we have proclaimed through the years. What is the result? Have you had to beg? Have you had to go to some bank to borrow? We've built meeting halls in so many places in South India. Never once have we borrowed money from anybody.

I've never been in debt as a church. I've never been in debt for 71 years. I don't believe in these things.

Can you imagine Jesus being in debt? Can you imagine Jesus going to somebody in Nazareth and say, hey, hey, listen, can I borrow some money from you? My heavenly father let me down and I don't know what to do now. Can you give me a few denarii? Can you imagine that? Can you picture that in your mind? A spirit-filled Jesus going and asking people, hey, listen, I sort of got to let down. If the richest man in the world was your father, say somebody like Bill Gates was one of the richest men in the world.

If he was your father and you came to me and said, hey, Brother Zach, can you give me some money? I said, you're asking me for money? Your father is one of the richest people in the world? Ah, you must have had a fight with your father. That's why you're coming to me. Your father has disowned you.

Then I can understand. And when a child of God goes to beg, borrow from others, I have to say the same thing to him. Your father must have disowned you, brother.

He must have written you off. That's why you're begging and borrowing. We believe in a living, loving father in heaven who provides our every need.

And we have longed, when we started, that we would be a demonstration in a poor country like India where there's no social security, there's no financial help from anyone, everything you have to pay for, whether it's hospital or school or education or anything, that in a poor country, those who seek the kingdom of God first and their righteousness, every earthly need will be satisfied. And I proved it in my life. Different brothers here have proved it in their life.

Down in the villages where there's poverty, people have proved it there. There are others who don't believe this, but I don't, I'm not surprised at that because Jesus said very few find the way to life. Very few will find the way to life.

And I praise God that there are a few. When the Lord instituted the Passover in the Old Testament, he said, you must tell your children this. When you, years later in Israel, when you have to celebrate the Passover, they ask you, dad, what does this mean? You have to say, the Egyptians ill-treated our fathers.

The Lord came and delivered them. This is to celebrate that. And they must tell it to their children.

They must tell it to their children. And this is God's desire from generation to generation to generation in the church. There must always be a witness.

That's the meaning of a prophetic testimony. A testimony that is a witness to the truth of a God in heaven, who is a loving father. A testimony that the God in heaven is totally pure.

He does not tolerate any sin. He does not tolerate any jealousy in any of his children. He does not tolerate an unloving attitude in any of his children to anybody in the world, even to your enemies.

That's why we proclaim, love your enemies. God wants a witness like that. He did not leave himself without a witness.

What a witness Jesus was. Make him your example. Say, Lord, I want to be a witness like that to a loving father in heaven who cares for all of my needs so that I never need to be anxious about anything.

A holy God who will not tolerate one evil thought, who will not tolerate one unloving attitude towards another. A God who came to earth to serve, who refused to be a king, to demonstrate by my life that I'm called to be a servant of others, not to lord it over them, but to serve them, serve them, serve them, serve them. And you say, well, how long are we going to serve? Till Jesus comes.

That's it. And what about after that? Then we'll continue serving in heaven. I'm not going to change our nature.

You think your nature is going to change when you go to heaven? No. This is the God we're going to manifest on earth. We have sought to do it all these years, and we pray that in the coming years, we'll be able to do it even more, that we'll go from one degree of glory to another.

But let's take this as our calling. As the father sent me, so I'm sending you into the coming days to represent me, to be Jesus, to be Jesus or a representative of Jesus to your children, to your wife, to your husband, to your neighbor, to your boss, to your fellow workers, to the servants who work in your home. Very important.

Do your servants see Jesus in you? To the sweepers, to the beggars, to the lowest people in society, you are to be my representative, says the Lord. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Let's pray.

While I head about in prayer, I want to invite you. Ask Jesus to breathe on you and fill you with the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, you'll never do it.

You can take this as a pep talk and go and try and live out like this. You'll never do it. When he had said these words, he breathed on them and said, receive the Holy Spirit.

That's what he wants to do to us. As he breathed on Adam and changed him from a pile of mud into a living soul, he will breathe this Holy Spirit into your life and change you into one with the divine nature. Like Adam got a human nature the first time God breathed on him.

You can get the divine nature when he breathes the Holy Spirit on you. Ask him to fill you with his Holy Spirit and long for that every day of your life so that you can represent Jesus on this earth. Heavenly Father, help us, we pray.

In the days to come, we don't know how much more time there is before you return to earth, but we want to manifest your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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