

Transcript

07-04-21 PASTOR DAVE'S SERMON: "A PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR."

>> Pastor Dave: YOU KNOW, THE FIRST TIME I THINK I HEARD THAT SONG, PAM DID THIS IN ONE OF OUR PANDEMIC-ENFORCED SERMONS, WHEN I WAS SITTING AT MY DESK, AND SHE PUT THIS SONG ON BEFOREHAND, AND IT HAS SUCH AN INCREDIBLE IMPACT.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT, "I AM WHO YOU SAY I AM."

IT'S NOT WHAT ANYBODY ELSE SAYS.

IT'S WHAT GOD SAYS.

IT IS NOT EVEN WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT YOURSELF.

IT IS WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU.

YOU ARE HIS CHILD.

YOU'RE LOVED.

YOU'RE NOT FORESAKEN.

GOD IS FOR YOU.

THAT CAN CHANGE THE WAY THAT WE LIVE EACH AND EVERY DAY OF OUR LIFE, NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

SO WE COME TO CHURCH BECAUSE JESUS IS OUR FRIEND AND WE'RE HIS CHILD.

LET'S PRAY.

HEAVENLY FATHER, MAY THE WORDS OF MY LIPS AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART BE PLEASING UNTO THEE, OUR LORD, OUR GOD, OUR ROCK, AND OUR SALVATION.

THERE IS A LOT OF REALLY GREAT STUFF TO PREACH ABOUT TODAY.

LET ME SEE A SHOW OF HANDS.

IF YOU WERE THE PREACHER, WOULD YOU PREACH ON THE FIRST READING, THE OLD TESTAMENT?

I MEAN, IT TALKS ABOUT HOW GOD IS FAITHFUL, HOW GOD SENDS OUT HIS PROPHETS, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE GOING TO BE REJECTED,

EVEN THOUGH GOD'S PEOPLE ARE STIFF-NECKED AND REBELLIOUS.

I'M SO GLAD THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN.

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: WE'RE SO PEACEFUL AND SAINT-LIKE NOW.

SO A COUPLE WOULD.

OKAY, WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND SERVICE, THE THORN IN MY FLESH, WHO WOULD PREACH ABOUT THAT?

WE'VE GOT A FEW OF THOSE, TOO?

YEAH?

WHAT ABOUT THE GOSPEL?

WE'VE GOT SOME PEOPLE WHO WOULD PREACH ON ALL THREE OF THEM (laughing).

THAT'S THE DILEMMA THAT YOU FACE AS A PREACHER.

WHICH ONE OF THE GREAT TEXTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US ARE YOU GOING TO PREACH ABOUT?

AND NOT ONLY THAT, IF WE CHOOSE THE GOSPEL, WHAT PART OF THE GOSPEL?

ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE FIRST PART, WHEN HE IS PREACHING IN HIS HOME TOWN?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE PART WHEN HE SENDS THEM OUT?

THAT'S A DIFFICULT ONE.

I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE FIRST PART.

I WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING.

I WENT TO A HOMILETICS CLASS AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN MISSION VALLEY.

MARK TROTTER WAS THE PASTOR THERE, AND HE WAS TEACHING A CLASS ON PREACHING, HOW YOU CAN DO IT.

I CLEARLY NEED SOME REFRESHER COURSES.

BUT IT WAS GOOD FOR THE TIME.

AND HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THIS VERY TEXT.

HE WAS TALKING ABOUT SENDING PEOPLE OUT.

AND HE SAID, YOU KNOW, WHEN I GO ON VACATION, I FAIL THIS MISERABLY.

I PACK MULTIPLE SUITCASES, I CARRY EVERYTHING WITH ME THAT I CAN, AND I CERTAINLY DO NOT TAKE MY STAFF (laughing).

AND MY STAFF IS HAPPY TO HAVE ME GO AND NOT BE WITH THEM.

SO I THOUGHT THAT WAS HILARIOUS.

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: I DON'T KNOW IF YOU EVER HAD TO WORK WITH SOMEONE VERY CLOSELY UNDER STRESSFUL SITUATIONS, IT IS GOOD TO GET AWAY FROM THEM.

ANYWAY, BACK TO OUR TEXT NOW.

THE TEXT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SPECIFICALLY IS JUST A LINE IN THIS.

IT SAYS THAT -- LET'S SEE -- HERE IT IS.

VERSE 5: "HE COULD NOT DO ANY MIRACLES THERE EXCEPT LAY HIS HANDS ON A FEW SICK PEOPLE AND HEAL THEM."

HE COULDN'T DO ANY MIRACLES.

HOW DO WE GET TO THIS POINT?

LET'S KIND OF TALK ABOUT WHERE JESUS WAS, WHAT HE WAS DOING, AND HOW WE ARRIVED HERE.

WE KNOW A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, WE TALKED ABOUT HIM GOING ACROSS THE LAKE.

THERE WAS A STORM ON THE LAKE.

HE WAS DOING A MISSION TRIP.

HE DROVE ALL OF THE DEMONS OUT AND INTO 2,000 PIGS THAT RUSHED OFF A CLIFF AND WERE DROWNED.

HE GOT BACK IN THE BOAT, AND HE CAME BACK TO THE JEWISH SIDE OF THE LAKE, WHERE A SYNAGOGUE RULER NAMED JAIRUS MET HIM, AND SAID, LORD, MY DAUGHTER IS SICK, COME AND HEAL HER.

SO JESUS IS GOING OFF TO HER.

WHILE HE WAS ON HIS WAY, A WOMAN WHO HAD A BLEEDING PROBLEM FOR 12 YEARS THOUGHT TO HERSELF, IF I JUST TOUCH THE HEM OF HIS ROBE, I'LL BE HEALED.

SHE DID AND SHE WAS.

BUT IT INTERRUPTED JESUS PROCESSING TO JAIRUS' DAUGHTER.

JESUS STOPPED AND TURNED AROUND AND SAID, WHO TOUCHED ME, BECAUSE HE FELT POWER FLOW OUT OF HIM.

WHILE JESUS WAS HAVING THIS EXCHANGE WITH THIS WOMAN, JAIRUS' SERVANTS CAME TO HIM AND SAID, DON'T BOTHER THE TEACHER ANYMORE, YOUR DAUGHTER IS DEAD.

SO WE LEARNED SOMETIMES JESUS HEALS AND SOME PEOPLE GET HEALED, AND SOME PEOPLE DIE.

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

JESUS ENDED UP GOING THERE, AND HE RAISED THAT LITTLE GIRL FROM THE DEAD.

WE BELIEVE THAT WAS IN CAPERNAUM.

SO JESUS NOW LEAVES CAPERNAUM, WHICH IS ON THE SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, AND HE GOES ABOUT 30 MILES TO THE WEST, TO HIS HOMETOWN, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IS NAZARETH, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS, HE IS JESUS OF NAZARETH.

SO HE IS IN HIS HOME TOWN NOW, THE PLACE WHERE HE GREW UP.

THE PLACE WHERE THEY KNEW YOU FAR TOO WELL.

SO JESUS, THE CARPENTER -- THE GREEK WORD IS "TECHNON," WHICH REALLY MEANS BUILDER.

WHICH MEANS HE COULD HAVE USED BRICKS AND SOME OTHER STUFF.

HE PROBABLY BUILT THE YOLKS FOR THE HARNESSES ON THE ANIMALS THERE.

HE PROBABLY BUILT PEOPLE'S FURNITURE, MAYBE BUILT SOME OF THEIR HOMES.

HE DID THOSE THINGS.

HE HAD ACNE AND PERSPIRATION ODOR, AND HE HAD ALL OF THOSE KINDS OF THINGS THAT PEOPLE HAVE GROWING UP.

AND THESE TOWNS' PEOPLE SAW THAT IN HIM.

AND HERE HE COMES NOW ON HIS SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY.

WORDS OF HIS HEALINGS HAVE REACHED THEM.

HE HAS CALMED THE STORM.

HE COMMANDED NATURE TO BE STILL, AND IT OBEYED HIM.

IN FACT, NATURE OBEYS JESUS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN US HUMANS DO.

AMEN?

SO HE RAISED THE DEAD; HE DROVE OUT DEMONS; HE CURED THE PEOPLE WHO HAD LEPROSY; HE DID ALL OF THESE THINGS, AND ALL OF THIS PRECEDED HIM TO NAZARETH.

SO HE COMES IN.

IT HAD TO BE KIND OF AWKWARD, TALKING TO HIS HOMETOWN CONGREGATION, THE PLACE WHERE THEY USED TO HAVE TO SHUSH HIM UP FOR MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE, MAYBE -- MAYBE NOT -- I DON'T THINK THAT'S A SIN.

ANYWAY, THAT'S ANOTHER TOPIC.

HE COMES TO THE SYNAGOGUE, AND HE STARTS TEACHING THEM.

AND THE PEOPLE ARE AMAZED.

IT'S INCREDIBLE.

THE PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS AMAZED AT JESUS' AUTHORITY AND TEACHING.

AND JESUS IS AMAZED, TOO.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE IS AMAZED ABOUT?

>> PARISHNER: HOW STUBBORN WE ARE?

>> Pastor Dave: HOW STUBBORN WE ARE AND OUR LACK OF FAITH. HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR LACK OF FAITH.

ANYWAY, HE IS TEACHING TO THEM, AND THE PEOPLE ARE AMAZED.

THEY'RE BLOWN AWAY.

THEY GO, WOW, WHERE DID THIS GUY GET THIS?

WHAT ABOUT THESE MIRACLES HE IS DOING?
WHERE DID HE GET THE POWER TO DO THIS?
ISN'T THIS THE CARPENTER?
ISN'T THIS THE DUDE THAT BUILT THE FURNITURE IN MY HOUSE?
WHERE DID HE GET ALL OF THIS?
OH, AND NOW HERE IS SOME FIGHTING WORDS.
HE SAID, ISN'T THIS MARY'S SON?
YOU KNOW HOW THEY SHOULD HAVE SAID IT?
ISN'T THIS JOSEPH'S SON?
BUT TO SAY MARY'S SON IS TO SUGGEST THAT JESUS IS SOMEHOW BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK,
AND WE HAVE A NAME FOR A PERSON THAT IS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK.
ISN'T THIS MARY'S SON?
AND AREN'T HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS HERE WITH US?
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
AND THEY TOOK OFFENSE AT HIM.
DO YOU GET THE PICTURE?
THIS IS THE SETTING.
THIS IS THE SCENE THAT JESUS IS IN.
AND THEN THE BIBLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT HE COULD NOT DO ANY MIRACLE.
WHY?
WHY COULDN'T HE DO ANY MIRACLE?
SO WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IS I'M GOING TO GO OVER THREE POSSIBILITIES, AND I'M GOING
TO SETTLE ON ONE OF THEM AND SEE IF YOU AGREE WITH ME.
MAYBE YOU WILL, MAYBE YOU WON'T; I DON'T KNOW.
THE FIRST POSSIBILITY THAT I'M GOING TO REJECT IS MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE OF GOD'S
JUDGMENT, YOU KNOW?
HE UPSET JESUS.
THEY REJECTED HIM.
HE COULD HAVE BEEN MAD.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THIS, I DON'T WANT TO GO TO GOD BECAUSE GOD IS JUST LOOKING FOR
AN EXCUSE TO BLOW ME OUT OF MY PANTS.
SOME PEOPLE VIEW GOD AS A VENGEFUL, JUDGING GOD, THAT GOD IS SOME KIND OF COSMIC
KILLJOY WITH A LIGHTENING BOLT, READY TO ZAP YOU AS SOON AS YOU TAKE A WRONG STEP
OFF THE MAIN PATH AND BOOM.
THAT'S NOT THE GOD THAT WE SERVE.
IT'S NOT JUDGMENT.
PAUL WAS STRUGGLING WITH THIS SAME IDEA.
HE IS SAYING, I'VE GOT THIS THORN IN MY FLESH, A MESSENGER FROM SATAN.
CAN ANYBODY RELATE TO THAT, SOME PERSISTENT PROBLEM?
THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY DOESN'T TELL US WHAT IT IS BECAUSE WE CAN IDENTIFY WITH IT
BECAUSE WE HAVE THOSE THINGS.
IT IS A MESSENGER FROM SATAN.
AND THREE TIMES PAUL BEGGED GOD, HE PLEADED WITH GOD, REMOVE THIS FROM ME.
AND EACH TIME GOD SAYS NO, UH-UH, NOT GOING TO DO IT.

WHY?

BECAUSE OF YOUR SINS?

BECAUSE YOU REJECTED ME?

BECAUSE OF THIS?

NO.

IT'S NOT A JUDGMENT THING.

IT IS A BLESSING THING.

DO YOU GET THIS?

AND THIS IS WHAT JESUS SAID TO PAUL.

HE SAID, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT BECAUSE MY POWER" -- WHICH IS WAY, WAY MORE THAN YOUR POWER -- YOUR POWER, IF I LEFT IT TO YOUR OWN, YOU WOULD BE SO LIMITED --

"BECAUSE MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN YOUR WEAKNESS."

YOU SEE THE BLESSING THAT IS THERE, THE BLESSING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS THORN-IN-THE-FLESH KIND OF EXPERIENCE?

IT IS NOT A JUST THING; IT'S A BLESSING THAT GOD IS LOOKING TO GIVE TO US.

SO I DON'T THINK IT WAS BECAUSE OF JUDGMENT.

BECAUSE GOD'S MISSION IS NOT TO JUDGE US.

AMEN?

IN FACT, WHEN JESUS WOULD BE SPIT UPON, HE WOULD BE RIDICULED, HE WOULD BE REJECTED, BUT NOTHING WOULD STOP HIM FROM LIVING OUT GOD'S PLAN OF MERCY.

BECAUSE JESUS CAME NOT TO JUDGE BUT TO TAKE GOD'S JUDGMENT OF YOUR SIN, TO TAKE GOD'S JUDGMENT OF MY SIN, UPON HIMSELF.

NOT ONLY IS HE NOT HERE TO JUDGE, HE IS HERE TO BE THE SACRIFICIAL ATONEMENT FOR OUR SINS, TO TAKE GOD'S WRATH THAT WE DESERVE UPON HIMSELF.

SO IT COULDN'T BE FARTHER FROM JUDGMENT.

AMEN?

COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM IT.

HERE IS ANOTHER ONE THAT IS STILL CIRCULATING AROUND MANY CHRISTIANS THESE DAYS, AND THAT IS LACK OF FAITH.

THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH.

IT DOESN'T SAY THAT.

IT SAYS HERE THAT HE COULD NOT DO ANY MIRACLES THERE EXCEPT LAY HANDS ON A FEW SICK PEOPLE AND HEAL THEM.

HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR LACK OF FAITH.

IT DOESN'T SAY HE COULDN'T DO IT BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF FAITH.

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, THEN WHAT WOULD THAT MEAN THAT OUR FAITH HAD TO DO WITH OUR HEALINGS AND GOD'S POWER?

IT WOULD MEAN SOMEHOW THAT GOD'S POWER AND ABILITY TO DO MIRACLES WERE SUBJUGATED TO OUR FAITH, SOMETHING THAT WE BRING TO THE TABLE.

BUT GUESS WHAT, FOLKS?

YOU DON'T BRING NOTHING TO THE TABLE.

YOU BRING NOTHING TO THE TABLE BUT SIN, BUT GOD LOVES YOU ANYWAY, AND GOD FORGIVES YOU.

GOD DOES NOT NEED OUR FAITH IN ORDER TO DO A MIRACLE.

MIRACLES ARE A REVELATION OF GOD'S POWER OVER CREATION.
IN FACT, WHEN WE LOOK AT THE MIRACLES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK -- I TYPED OUT SOME OF THESE.

WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND HEALING.

IN MARK 1, HEALING IN THE SYNAGOGUE, FAITH IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED.

JESUS JUST DOES IT.

MARK 1, HEALING OF PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW.

FAITH ISN'T EVEN MENTIONED.

SHE HAD A FEVER, AND JESUS HEALED HER.

HEALING ALL OF THE SICK.

THE PEOPLE POURED OUT -- FAITH NOT MENTIONED.

THE HEALING OF THE LEPER -- FAITH NOT EVEN MENTIONED.

YOU SEE, WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND DOING MIRACLES?

SO THIS IS NOT -- AND IT GOES ON AND ON AND ON.

YOU SEE HERE?

YOU SEE ALL OF THESE THINGS I'VE GOT LISTED UP HERE?

SHOULD I READ THEM ALL TO YOU, OR DO YOU TAKE MY WORD?

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: YOU CAN CHECK THE LIST LATER.

I'M NOT GOING TO CONTINUE READING THEM ALL BECAUSE I'M HOPING THAT PROVIDENCE WILL PLAY ANOTHER ROUND OF THAT SONG AND I CAN CUT OUT FIVE MINUTES OF MY SERMON.

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: I'M STILL HOLDING OUT FOR THAT, PAM.

SO, ANYWAY, THIS CAN ACTUALLY BE VERY DAMAGING TO US AS PEOPLE.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD SOME STUPID -- OH, THAT'S SO HARSH, AND THIS IS RECORDED.

HAVE YOU HAD SOMEONE WHO IS IGNORANT -- THEY'RE IGNORANT -- MAYBE

WELL-INTENTIONED, BUT THEY'LL SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW YOUR MOTHER DIED BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH.

YOU CONTINUE TO GET SICK, YOUR CANCER IS GROWING BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH?

DID YOU EVER HEAR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

WHERE DID THEY GET THAT FROM?

WHERE DID THEY GET THAT SOMEHOW -- JESUS SAID THAT WE NEED TO HAVE FAITH THE SIZE OF WHAT?

>> PARISH: A MUSTARD SEED.

>> Pastor Dave: HOW TINY IS THAT?

IF I WAS HOLDING IT UP HERE, COULD YOU SEE IT?

IF I WAS STANDING RIGHT AMONG YOU HOLDING IT UP, COULD YOU SEE IT?

YOU COULDN'T SEE IT BECAUSE IT IS SO TINY.

IT IS NOT THE AMOUNT OF OUR FAITH, BUT THE STRENGTH OF THE ONE IN WHOM WE HAVE FAITH IN.

AND THAT'S GOD!

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR FAITH; IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE ONE THAT WE HAVE FAITH IN.

AND THAT IS OUR LOVING, GRACIOUS, KIND GOD, WHO IN A MISSION OF MERCY SENT JESUS CHRIST INTO THIS WORLD TO BEAR OUR SINS ON HIS FLESH, AND IN EXCHANGE GIVE US ETERNAL LIFE.

WHAT A DEAL; WHAT AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

SO IT IS NOT JUDGMENT -- CAN WE AGREE?

IT IS PROBABLY NOT JUDGMENT, WHY HE COULDN'T DO ANY MIRACLES.

IT'S NOT LACK OF FAITH.

ARE WE IN AGREEMENT?

OR DOES SOMEONE WANT TO ARGUE THAT A LITTLE BIT?

I'M UP FOR IT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: I'LL TAKE ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES AND CANCEL THAT SONG THAT PAM IS GOING TO DO.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR INPUT.

I WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT.

BECAUSE THESE THINGS ARE HARMFUL.

IF WE THINK THAT GOD IS JUDGING US, IF WE START TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE WE THINK THAT GOD HAS GOT SOME CHECK LIST -- OKAY, DAVID, YOU DID THIS AND THIS AND THIS, SO YOUR DAUGHTER IS GOING TO GET A BROKEN FOOT -- NO.

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

OR YOU'RE GOING TO GET A MIGRAINE.

CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THAT WAS THE CASE?

I'D BE IN TRACTION, IN A HOSPITAL BED ALL THE TIME, WITH BANDAGES AROUND EVERY PART OF MY BODY.

IT IS NOT LIKE THAT.

GOD DOES NOT BEHAVE THAT WAY.

GOD DOES NOT JUDGE US AND PUNISH LIKE THAT.

HE DOES PUNISH SIN, BUT HE DID IT IN THE PERSON OF JESUS, IN YOUR STED AND IN MY STED.

IT IS NOT JUDGMENT; IT IS NOT A LACK OF FAITH.

SO WHAT REMAINS?

WHAT IS LEFT?

WELL, GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE.

AMEN?

GOD IS A GOD OF GRACE.

GOD IS A GOD OF MERCY.

SO THAT HAS GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHY JESUS WOULDN'T DO MIRACLES.

HE COULDN'T DO MIRACLES BECAUSE HE LOVED THE PEOPLE TOO MUCH.

NOW, HOW DOES THAT MAKE ANY KIND OF SENSE?

WELL, LET ME READ TO YOU A BIBLE PASSAGE OUT OF MATTHEW 11:20-24 --

AND THE WHOLE GIST OF THIS IS -- I'M GOING TO KIND OF GIVE YOU THE ENDING BEFORE I GET TO THE BEGINNING OF IT.

THE WHOLE THING I'M GOING TO SAY ABOUT THIS IS ONCE PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED MIRACLES, ONCE THEY HAVE SEEN THE POWER OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST AND THEY STILL REJECT HIM, THEY ARE HELD TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY THAN FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST DOESN'T BELIEVE WITHOUT HAVING SEEN ALL OF THE MIRACLES.

THAT'S KIND OF A STRANGE -- WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION IN DOING THIS SERMON, I WAS, LIKE, I DON'T KNOW, DAVE, YOU BETTER BOUNCE THAT OFF OF SOME OTHER PEOPLE.

SO I DID, AND THEY GO, YEAH, I HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY, BUT I THINK THAT IS TRUE.

LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 11:20-24: "THEN JESUS BEGAN TO DENOUNCE THE TOWNS IN WHICH MOST OF HIS MIRACLES HAD BEEN PERFORMED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT REPENT.

WHOA TO YOU CORAZON, WHOA TO YOU BETHESDA, FOR IF THE MIRACLES THAT HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN YOU HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN TYRE AND SEDONE, THEY WOULD HAVE REPRESENTED LONG AGO IN SACK CLOTH AND ASHES.

BUT I TELL YOU, IT WILL BE MORE BEARABLE FOR TYRE AND SEDONE ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR YOU.

AND YOU, CAPERNAUM, WILL YOU BE LIFTED UP TO THE HEAVENS?

NO.

YOU WILL GO DOWN TO HADES, FOR IF THE MIRACLES THAT WERE PERFORMED IN YOU HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN SODOM, IT WOULD HAVE REMAINED TO THIS DAY.

BUT I TELL YOU THAT IT WILL BE MORE BEARABLE FOR SODOM ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR YOU.

NOW, WHAT HAPPENED TO SODOM?

FIRE AND BRIMSTONES.

IT WAS DESTROYED, LEVELED, WIPED OUT.

THAT'S THE KIND OF JUDGMENT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

NOW, HE SAYS THAT YOU, WHO HAVE SEEN ALL OF MY MIRACLES, YOU, WHO I BROUGHT THE KINGDOM ON GOD CLOSE TO AND STILL YOU REJECT IT, IT IS GOING TO BE WORSE FOR YOU THAN IT WAS FOR THAT TOWN THAT WAS MADE INTO DUST.

SO MY CONCLUSION IS THAT IT WAS GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY THAT JESUS DID NOT PERFORM MIRACLES THERE TO HOLD THEM TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY WHEN THERE WAS A JUDGMENT.

HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THERE IS GOING TO BE A JUDGMENT?

WHAT'S THE JUDGMENT GOING TO BE BASED ON?

SO, FIRST OF ALL, GOD DOESN'T REQUIRE FAITH TO RAISE THE DEAD, BECAUSE HE IS GOING TO RAISE THE BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS, BOTH OF THEM.

THERE IS GOING TO BE A JUDGMENT FOR BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS.

SO LET'S GO BACK TO JOHN 3:17: "FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH HIM."

VERSE 18: "FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET BELIEVED IN THE SON OF GOD, THEY ALREADY STAND CONDEMNED."

SO THE POINT IS: HE HAS COME -- THINK OF IT THIS WAY: WE'RE IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYBODY IS IN AN OCEAN; YOU'VE BEEN TREADING WATER FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO UNDER FOR THE LAST TIME.
AND GOD THROWS OUT THESE LIFESAVERS.
YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE.
YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE.
AND THE OCEAN THAT WE'RE DROWNING IN IS AN OCEAN OF SIN.
WHETHER WE'RE A NICE PERSON OR NOT, WE STILL SIN.
EVERYBODY DOES.
YOU CAN GRAB AHOLD OF THE LIFESAVER OR YOU CAN DROWN.
GOD IS NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU GRAB THE LIFESAVER, BUT HE IS OFFERING YOU A WAY TO
BE SAVED.
THAT'S THE WORLD APART FROM GOD.
THE WORLD APART FROM GOD IS THAT WE ARE LOST, THAT WE ARE PERISHING.
BUT GOD HAS SENT A LIFE PRESERVER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST, THAT WHOEVER
CLINGS TO HIM, WHOEVER HOLDS ON TO JESUS CHRIST, WILL BE SAVED.
AND THERE IS GOING TO COME A TIME -- THERE IS GOING TO COME A TIME WHEN GOD RAISES
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD, AND HE ASKS THEM THAT QUESTION: WHO HAVE YOU TRUSTED
IN?
YOURSELF OR ME?
AND THAT'S GOING TO BE DETERMINANT.
AND GOD WANTS US TO ALL BE ABLE TO ANSWER: I'VE TRUSTED IN YOU, LORD JESUS.
AND THAT'S THE MISSION THAT JESUS CAME HERE TO SECURE, YOUR FAITH GIVEN TO HIM, A
LOVING, KIND GOD.
AND MAY THE PEACE OF GOD THAT SURPASSES ALL HUMAN UNDERSTANDING GUARD YOUR
HEARTS AND MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.
AMEN.