

Genesis Chapter 12

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Date: 05 October 2014

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[0 : 00] And after this, we'll have the notices, but Genesis chapter 12. And we're going to look at a man who had two names.

First name was Abraham, and his name was extended to Abraham. So, Genesis 12. Verse 1. And the Lord had said to Abraham, Get out of your country, from your kindred, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, I will bless you. And make your name great, you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse them who curse you. And in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abraham departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abraham was 75 years of age when he departed from Haran. Then Abraham took Sarah, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, and all their possessions, and they gathered the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan.

[1 : 07] So they came to the land of Canaan. Abraham passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as Terebinth tree of Morah, and the Canaanites were then in the land. And the Lord appeared to Abraham and said, To your descendants I will give this land.

And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west, and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord, and called on the name of the Lord. And Abraham journeyed still towards the south. There was a famine in the land, and Abraham went down to Egypt to live there, for the famine was very severe in the land.

It came to pass, when he was close to entering the land, that he said to Sarah, his wife, indeed, I know that you're a beautiful woman. Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, they will say, This is his wife.

And they will kill me, but they will let you live. Please then say, You are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I might live because of you.

[2 : 13] So it was, when Abraham went into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. The princes of Pharaoh also saw her, and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house.

He treated Abraham well for her sake. And he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys and camels. But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues, because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

And Pharaoh called Abraham and said, What is this that you've done to me? Why did you tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say she is my sister?

I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife. Take her and go your way. So Pharaoh commended his men concerning him, and they sent him away with the wife and all that he had.

And so reads Genesis chapter 12. Teach me your way, O Lord, teach me your way.

[3 : 21] O precious Savior God, teach me your way. Help me to walk her right.

All my brain bless my sight. Believe me with heavenly light. Teach me your way.

When doubts and fears arise, teach me your way. Like stones and strength and skies, teach me your way.

Like stones and strength and skies, teach me your way. Shine through the cloud that way, through sorrow, sorrow, and pain.

Bring them thy cloud with me, teach me your way. God bless my life, shall bless, teach me your way

When I die, my lost weakness, teach me your way Until the race is run, until the time is done Until the time is done, teach me your way Well, please have your Bible open at Genesis chapter 12.

[5 : 05] Now, just for your interest, I brought with me a CD which I was telling the young life about Friday night.

This is the testimony of the commander of the UVF in Northern Ireland. In other words, a wicked man. These guys put to death the IRA and that was their terrible fight in the 70s and 80s and David Hamilton has been wonderfully converted.

Now, if you don't believe there's a God you're going to have major problems with this CD because David had a guy in his group who was a Christian and he had him put to death.

And David's story is on this CD. Now, I've got a few copies but if I leave one with the church and you decide that you want some maybe my friend John I could leave it with and if you get a few copies, John you can send out as many as you like but you will be blown away.

It's an interview in Stoke and Trent about two years ago. It's just sat down, talking with him. There's a church congregation listening and David, he's also a comic being from Belfast.

[6 : 15] When he's converted he goes to a church and a little old lady who's about 100 years old comes in and sits down and says do you mind if I sit next to you? So David in his rough Belfast accent says no madam, go ahead.

There's a terrorist speaking you know. So David said, oh, hope he doesn't sit next to me. He's an absolute comic.

But he's been a wicked man and in the maze he's converted through reading the Bible and it is remarkable what God's doing amongst them men. So there we go. Now, Genesis 12.

Throughout the Bible, you and I are told to please God. Okay? And then God tells you how you can please him.

This is what he says. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Okay? So if you want to please God, then you walk by faith.

[7 : 21] And four times the Bible says the just shall live by faith. Now, it's not faith in faith. That's stupidity.

And believe it or not, it's not faith in non-fact. It's always faith in facts. The Christian life is built on facts.

If you have a Christian faith that's not built on facts, ditch it quick, because you're deluded. And the Christian life must be on the solid fact that Jesus turned up, which he did, that he lived a perfect life, which he did, that he died for our sin on the cross, which he did, and that more than anything, he conquered and blew apart the grave, which he did, and he will return soon to his kingdom.

Yeah? Now, if you can't back that up, and your faith is not in that, ditch whatever you've got. You see, faith isn't built on faith.

Here we go. This afternoon, we will raise money for charity. It's a very commendable charity. The MBP Fund. It's called My Back Pocket. Okay?

[8 : 38] And I'm going to do it like this. I'm going to climb to the top of your church, which is nice and tall, and you're going to stand outside and get as many people from Whitby to watch, and I'm going to dive forwards, 50 metres, into a bucket of water.

I will then stand up, thank you all for coming, and say, would you all donate 20 pounds? Do you think that would happen? And I'm up there, and you say, Vinnie, you idiot, do not do it.

I say, well, I really believe I'll be okay. Will I be okay? But I really believe it, because the fact is, there's something called gravity, and I'm 15 stone, and I'm coming downwards, fast.

You see, you can have faith in faith, which is nonsense. You've got to have it solidly in facts. Okay? Now, the second point is this.

In life, you may forget your decisions, they will not forget you. So as you walk by faith, God says, he will bless you.

[9 : 49] To Abraham, he said, in blessing people, I will bless you. You will bless all the nations of the earth. But let me just tell you this.

If you don't walk by faith, you will also get consequences. So there's nobody who's neutral when it comes to God. So you either walk by faith in Jesus Christ, and he blesses you, or you don't walk by faith, and you become, I don't know, some atheist, and you will reap the consequences of unbelief. When you look back on your days, you will have regrets. But when your life is blessed, looking back on your days, you will smile.

And Jesus says, how are you going to walk? By faith in facts? Or are you just going to have a wicked heart of unbelief? There are consequences both ways.

Now, in the Old Testament, a man called Abraham, who was 75 years of age, was told to leave Haran, and go to the land that I will show you.

[11:02] He was happily married to his wife Sarah, and he had to load up the cart, a bit like, remember the Beverly Hillbillies? You know, they hit rich, and they went to California.

And he had to load up the cart, and he had to go to a land, and when he was in the land, God would say to him, you are now in the right place. Stay here by faith. Okay?

The interesting thing was, his brother had died, and his brother's son was called Lot. So, Abraham brought Lot with him, because he was a guardian for him.

So, they load up the trucks, or whatever they've got, and they go to a land where God is going to show them. When they hit the land, called Canaan, which is north of Egypt, this is what God says, you are now in the right place.

Stay here. Okay. Okay. Now, here's a great lesson. There was a famine in the land. In the right place, hardship came.

[12:14] There's loads of people who think, that if things are smooth, I'm in the right place. That is nonsense. If you walk by faith, sometimes it's painful.

So, don't do a runner, just because something's gone a bit wrong. Stay where you are. Get it? Because God said to him explicitly, you are now in the right place.

You're in the land. Okay. Lesson number three. A faith that cannot be tested, will never be trusted. So, it's a bit like metal in a building.

You know? Stick aluminium in there, and think it's going to hold up. It's ridiculous, isn't it? But the metal has got to be solid enough. And God will test your metal of your faith.

So, Abraham got a test. When young people become Christians, I don't jump up and down. You say, what? You're meant to be an evangelist. Why should I? Six months later, I see them just the same as the people in the world.

[13:19] I don't have any difference there. What do you want me to jump up and down for? I want them to get through tests. Then tell me, if they're real Christians. So, if you're a Christian, you will be tested.

And the consequences at that moment will either be by faith, or it will be by unbelief. This will nail you.

This will bless you. So, what was the test for Abraham? There was a famine in the land. He had a lot with him.

He had a lot of people with him. He had his missus. He had his herdsmen. He had a few belongings. And he knew if he went south, Egypt was flush with food.

So, that was the test. What did he do? And Abraham journeyed south and entered Egypt. He's going to come out of Egypt shortly.

[14:23] But like I've told you, if you walk by faith, you'll be blessed. If you don't walk by faith, the decisions you've made will dog you for life. And there were four areas that dogged him for life for going to the place he should never have been.

Let's look at them. Let's see what happened. Number one. There was a famine in the land and Abraham went down to Egypt to live there. The famine was very severe.

It came to pass when he was close to entering Egypt, so he's now going to the land of sensual, where they see, they touch, they feel. They don't walk by faith. It came to pass when he was close to entering Egypt that he said to Sarah's wife, Indeed, I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.

In Liverpool, we say she was a bit of a looker. Okay? Therefore, it will happen when the Egyptians see you, they will say, this is his wife.

And they will kill me, but they will let you live. So Abraham began to panic and he thought, Sarah, you're very pretty, even in your 70s.

[15:35] I mean, what she was at 70, she must have been the original Barbie doll if you ask me, but there we go. But when they see you, they're going to take you to Pharaoh and I'm going to lose you, so this is the plan.

Please say that you are my sister. Okay? Now here we go. Did he tell the truth or did he tell a lie? You're only allowed one vote. Okay? Do you think he told the truth? Hands up. You're all sat there thinking, I'm not going to vote.

Did he tell a porcupine? No, you're wrong. He told the truth. It was his sister. It was his half-sister.

Do you know that? And if you look in chapter 20, verse 12 and 13, it says Sarah was his half-sister. Now why am I telling you that?

[16:39] Ladies and gentlemen, he gave the impression he was telling the truth. A man got onto a bus in Liverpool and he paid the driver.

He sat on the back. He looked at his change and he had £10 given back to him too much. So he sat there thinking, Mersey Bus is a big company.

They won't miss a tenner. He's thinking, it's my lucky day. Christmas is coming. But because he was a Christian, he knew he had to live trusting God.

So as he got off the bus, he said to the gentleman who gave him the money, he said, Sir, when I got on the bus an hour ago or whatever it was, you gave me £10 too much. There you go.

The bus driver stunned him by saying, I know. I've been listening to your sermons at the back of your church for the last few weeks. I just wanted to check, are you the real McCoy?

[17:43] Ladies and gentlemen, I want to ask you a question. Do you tell the truth? I mean, the truth. You tell the truth. Now, please don't get me wrong. You can tell the truth and offend people.

Somebody who might be overweight. Well, you're overweight. I mean, it's true, but you're going to get a fat eye, aren't you? Yeah? So, we're talking about wisdom here, aren't we?

And so, the point is, do I tell the truth? Friend of mine went for a job. This is what the boss said. She was going as secretary. Boss-to-be said, will you lie for me?

What do you mean? Well, when I'm in, you'll say I'm out. I'm sorry, I'm a Christian adult. Never got the job. Will it cost you to tell the truth?

It'll cost you to tell the truth. Do you tell the truth? I'm not asking you to tell half the truth. Are you up front, transparent, nothing to hide? Is that me?

[18:45] Abraham told half the truth and he upset Pharaoh. Do you know what the consequence was? The world told him off. It is a sad day when the world has got to tell a Christian off.

When I lived over in Lancashire, I ran a youth group. I'd only just become a Christian but I was involved in youth work and a lad had come to that town to be a youth worker for a different church and in our group there was a lovely girl called Julie.

She was about 17. Shortly after that I moved to London for a job in the East End and Julie wrote to me. Now Julie wasn't a Christian. She said, this guy has asked me to go out with him.

And I said, I'm not a Christian and you are. So what do you think you're doing? It's a tremendous thing to be told off by the world, isn't it? Get out of here.

Get out. Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife? See, what was he doing? He was trying to reason it all out instead of walking by faith in God who'd said, get up to Egypt, get up above Egypt to the land and I'll show you Canaan.

[20:03] So number one, if you don't walk by faith you'll end up telling porcupines to cover up. Do I tell the truth? Do you tell the truth?

Now, number two, these are all, I've got to watch the time here so hopefully I'm finished on time.

Now look, the second was this, he's in the wrong place and the second thing that happened was this, so Pharaoh commended his men concerning him and they sent him away, verse 20, with his wife and all that he had.

And Abraham went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had and lot with him to the south. Now look at verse 2, Abraham was very rich in livestock, in silver and gold and he went on his journey from the south as far as Bethel to the place of his tent where he would have been at the beginning.

Okay, verse 5, Lot also went with Abraham, flocks, herds and tents. Now look at verse 6, now the land was not able to support them that they might dwell together.

So what he ended up with was a barney between Lot's herdsmen, remember that's his nephew, and his own herdsmen. But because he went to a rich place and he got rich, he now had more cattle.

[21:27] So what happened next? Verse 6, the land was not able to support them that they may dwell together for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. Verse 7, there was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock.

Consequence number two of walking out on Jesus, not staying in the place he was told, but going south where he felt it would all be better because he wasn't walking by faith, was he caused family tension.

There's strife between the camp now. There's tension and pain and trouble because things appeal to man's greed. That's why Jesus says a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things. They destroy his soul. And so, what happens is they have a big fallout. So here's consequence number two and here's the solution.

Tension's brought into the family, but Abraham was called to be a peacemaker. Now ladies and gentlemen, I want to ask you a second blunt question.

[22 : 45] Are you a peacemaker? One of my friends in Southern Ireland, Mr. Eric Ford, he's the funniest Irish man I know. He lives in Sligo, which is on the west.

He went up to Dublin for some trouble with his heart. I said, Eric, he's a Christian. I said, how did you get on? He said, I was telling the surgeon, blessed are the pacemakers. Here's the point, folks. Are you a peacemaker? Do you have to go to church business meetings with your armor on? I'll tell him.

You know, the flying snooker table's arrived. Or am I gentle and kind? Jesus is gentle and kind. He doesn't fudge your shoes. He doesn't walk them under the mat. He deals with them lovingly and graciously. Is that me? Is that you? Can you have a heart for people that you don't like?

[23 : 52] When I was over in Belfast about two years ago, I was taken to the Shankle Road. Now, what you've got to understand is, and you've got to explain this to an English mind, if you live on the Shankle Road or anywhere near the Shankle Road, you are usually, more often than not, a Protestant.

If you live on the Falls Road, you'd be of a Catholic background. They know you by your name. So you don't find anybody on the Falls Road called William.

But you find thousands of Billies on the Shankle. You don't find anybody on the Shankle called Sean or Kevin. And that's because they know you by name.

Okay? They have certain names. When I went to the little church I was speaking in, it was a Methodist church called Shankle Methodist. Two doors away was a plaque.

It's a blue plaque. It's this big. I don't remember what it says. I have taken a picture of it, but it goes like this. This is to commemorate the bomb that went off ten years ago and so many people killed.

[25 : 16] It was called Frizzle's Fish and Chip Bar and it was right on the wall and one Saturday afternoon a terrorist organisation set a bomb off and then people were killed.

This is the interesting bit. The first person who was on the scene that afternoon happened to be the organist who's a Christian in the Methodist church two doors away but he's also the head of paramedics for Northern Ireland.

What timing was that? When he got to the scene this is what he said.

He said it was utter, utter chaos. Bodies everywhere. Buildings, smoke, stench, fire. fire. And he said the first body the form he caught, the first form I came up to he said I found myself praying this, God help me to treat him.

Because the fellow was shouting to his mate Sean, Sean are you there? They were the bombers. The bombers gone off.

[26 : 36] And he knew by name they wouldn't have been on the Shankle Road. Have you got a heart for people?

Do you love them? Or do you turn up with an unlovely attitude? Anybody in this church ever wept for the loss that are on that promenade?

Do you care? In my experience ladies and gentlemen the church in Britain is fast asleep rocking themselves to death and singing themselves to death on trivia when men are filling up hell.

Do you care? And then thirdly he went down to Egypt shouldn't have been there should have walked by faith.

There had to be a sort out because peacemakers sort things out. So Abraham said to his nephew he said look the land is before us if you go right I will go left.

[27 : 59] left if you choose left you can have the choice of the land. So now Lot this young man was left where his family's destiny would be let there be no strife between us verse 8 your herdsmen and my herdsmen we're brethren so let's not fall out.

Is not the whole land before you verse 9 please separate from me if you take the left then I will go to the right if you go right then I will go left. Notice how Lot reasoned. Ready? Verse 10 Lot lifted his eyes and he saw all the plain of Jordan that it was well watered before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah like the garden of Egypt.

How did he know it was like Egypt? Well he'd just been in Egypt. Should he have been in Egypt? No.

When he made his choice did he go near an area of danger? Yes Sodom and Gomorrah but that was like Egypt. So when he was given a choice his experience that his uncle had taken him down to tainted his thinking.

So he put his family on the edge of Sodom and Gomorrah and he lost his wife and he lost his children. His children became the enemies of God. But how did he make such a choice?

[29 : 37] Answer his uncle influenced him for bad. Here's my question. Is my influence for good or am I helping to perhaps trap, stop, not encourage another believer?

because this was to lead to absolute disaster in his family. His wife was to be turned to a pillar of salt and his children became the enemies of God and yet his uncle was to be the godly Abraham who God would bless.

How did he get there? Because he went to Egypt. Whatever you choose folks will get you or bless you. And so make sure you walk by faith in God even if you think this is going to be a tough call because God will honour your faith.

a man was walking up an alley one night and it was dark and he saw somebody coming towards him with a torch and as he got a bit nearer he realised the man carrying the torch was also carrying a white stick and he thought this is a bit weird here's a man who's blind carrying a torch and if he's not blind why has he got a white stick?

So it got the better of him. And he said to the man coming he said sir excuse me the man stopped he said yes he said do you know you're carrying a torch and the torch is on he said yes I carry it everywhere he said well you've got a white stick that indicates that you're blind he said oh let me tell you he said I am blind I've been totally blind since birth he said but I carry this torch not that I can see but I don't want anybody to trip over me do you live like that you people who drink let me ask you a question is it an example to young people anybody in your family will perhaps take it even further over 70% of young people on our campuses of Britain have got trouble with drink am I to be a good example to believers that's what

[32 : 16] Paul said to Timothy and so the third consequence was that he helped to put difficulty and trouble into the life of another believer now he's the fourth and this is the biggest God had said to Abraham I will make your people great I will bless you okay and he said from your body will come a son and through that line will come blessing to the earth Abraham Isaac Jacob 12 tribes all of Israel get it now Abraham Abraham was 75 years when he left her he's now got to 90 odd and his missus is 90 well my sister when she was 40 had a baby and the doctor said no more

Angela no more well how Sarah's gonna get on at 90 that's amazing isn't it no more at 40 so this is what they thought well if Abraham can't bring a child into the world we'll get somebody else look at chapter 16 now we might lose a little bit in translation here Barry but here we go Sarah Abraham's wife had borne him no children but God had said you will have a child get it so what's he gonna do and she had a French made no not French she had a Welsh no not Welsh she had Mexican no not Mexican no maybe we've lost it in translation here this is new

King James Egyptian made servant have you ever noticed that Egypt is full of Egyptians you notice that that's where you get them from nothing wrong with them God blessed what had happened Agar had come into his family 16 years she was waiting to go off bang ladies and gentlemen you will either walk by faith or sight she then gave birth to Agar who for centuries has fought the Jew you've now found the solution to the Middle East they will always fight the Jew what did God want a supernatural spiritual child and he got a worldly line you might forget your decisions they won't forget you you give bad advice he'll come back to haunt you and some of that advice could be colossal couldn't it but let me just close by saying this the most wonderful thing about the Christian life is this

God can take all the mess and bring something beautiful there's a little witty boy in Liverpool he didn't like going to his grannies and she had this beautiful vase and she was a Christian and this little boy was just wild you know and she said well you can come but make sure you don't smash my vase well one Saturday afternoon bang she was in the kitchen she heard it fly bang I'll throttle him well as she's walking down the corridor she thought hmm I'll try and teach him about grace now Johnny come here you've smashed the vase yes gran well I usually give you five pounds spending money but I should really keep that back to pay for the vase but I'll let you have five pounds that's grace you see little boy said gran give us a tenner that's amazing grace but here's my point folks

would he consequences and the consequences were that through that line that he should never have trusted the enemies of God

Ishmael and all that line so what should he have done even though she was old the God who made the body the creator of the universe who sustains it all by the word of his power you can trust him so ladies and gentlemen put your faith in him even though you might think it's impossible what is the point of having a God who's got all that ability and we can't draw on it I mean imagine me and where's he gone Barry me and Barry get to there and say come on Barry let's go back all ISD years me and Barry playing footy and we say Barry let's get a team together okay and alright Barry you choose three people and he says okay let's get and he names these greats we've got to have Pelly because he's a tremendous Brazilian our friend Julian will be pleased about that okay then we must have Bobby Moore he's from West Ham his middle name's Chelsea out of interest but then we must have

[37 : 58] George because he's the best we'll get George and then we'll get Sir Bobby in and Sir Bobby comes in and we'll get the Kaiser from Germany get him in he's called Beckham Bar what a team we're putting together me and Barry now Barry we want to win trophies oh yes Vinny we've got all this squad of players right Barry how are we going to do it well Barry says I've got the idea Vinny I've entered them in the Whitby under tens what's the point of having that on your side unless you can draw upon it ladies and gentlemen what is the point of a God who's not using his resource but when you trust the impossible God blesses you so I'm in Hollyhead at two in the morning going to Ireland back to my routes to do missions and I've got about thirty Irish punts because this is a few years ago in the land of

Irish punts before it became European in Europe it's two in the morning and I've got to get across the Irish sea the fair will take all my money I've got to do three weeks fees on beach teams and I've got to get back to Merseyside and I've got thirty punts which is about twenty quid I've got a big bag a chorus sheet and a briefcase it's a windy night it's two in the morning there's a hundred cars about to go on a ferry and I've no money and I'm stuck and I'm due next day to Lord I'm on your business I would not be here unless I was sharing the gospel so please get me across but I added get me a Christian to do it well where do you find a Christian at two in the morning in Hollyhead so I went wandering around these cars looking for a fish you know the fish on the back I thought well he might have a fish on he couldn't find one I saw one man propped up fast asleep like this looking like a bulldog chewing a wasp you know fast asleep about to knock on his door and I saw the babies in the back I thought they're not going to take a stranger Lord get me a Christian get me a cross knock on the door man said yes I said well would you like to earn some money they always wake up use that line yes how's that to be then I said well look I've got this much money I'll give it to you but I need to get across to Ireland can I sit in your car he said well I've paid for five passengers so yes you can come in sir yes so he puts the front seat spring forward and then on the back seat he's got some fishing rods and I'm putting my stuff on he says mind my fishing rods so I pop my stuff on sit on man calls on to the ferry we go up the gang plant this guy says to me are you a Christian I said yeah

I am are you he said yes I'm over fishing from Ireland I'm living Lancaster I'm a Christian I said I'm going fishing he didn't get that bit but there we go what he says Vinnie your need is greater than mine here's your money get me a Christian get me a cross you want to live a life without miracles go ahead or do you want to walk by faith in God that's when your life takes off get beyond your own little means will you draw on the resource of heaven and say God use me bring God to this situation that people be astounded and on the cross Jesus who hung there went into a cold tomb and he conquered the grave he brought himself back from the dead isn't that amazing you'll never fathom me unless you're born twice and even then it's hard but it's true we're going to sing a final hymn it's a lovely hymn and it says out of my bondage sorrow and night

Jesus I come and at the end please say hello if you want the tapes please come and ask and you want to chat please ask and meet the team and thank you once again for your lovely hospitality this weekend thank you 592oun talk other night just I love Jesus, I come into your freedom, matters of light.

[43 : 09] Jesus, I come to you. Out of my sickness, into your health.

Out of my heart, into your health. Out of my sickness, into your health.

Jesus, I come to you. Now, ladies and gentlemen, we ask that God would speak.

If he's spoken to you, praise him. Okay? Pray in if God has spoken to you. If you're here today and you're not twice born, then I've got to tell you something. I'm not after your vote. You are going to die twice. You will look at your watch and before you know it, you'll be in an awful place.

[44 : 07] So Jesus says, come. And at the cross he says, come. Have you done that? Have you obeyed him? Repent and be converted and become as a child. Have you done that?

Well, if you haven't, we encourage you to say, God, be merciful to me, a real sinner. Thank you for listening. May God bless you.

Let's pray as we finish. We thank you, our Heavenly Father. Thank you that you love me. Thank you that when all the praise of people or the thoughts of people are done, behind it all there's a God who loves me and will love me to the grave and beyond.

Thank you that he demonstrated that on Calvary. Please teach me to walk by faith and help me to glorify you.

And where I've made a mess, take the pieces and make it beautiful. In your name, Amen.