

“Home Is Where The Heart Is”
By Jesse Rairdon
Sunday, March 23rd, 2014

Remain standing for prayer. Heavenly Father, Lord, we come to the time to hear Your message, Your Word, Lord Jesus, and I pray that You would bless Your servant. Lord, forgive the sins that he has committed, and, Lord, touch his lips, Lord, that the anointing would come from You and flow really deep to our hearts, that we all may grow and learn and be, more, a better Christian, a more Christ-like person, a better person to be the example to those around us, Lord Jesus. So, touch our hearts, correct us if we need to be corrected. Lord, encourage us if we need to be encouraged, and, Lord, save us if we need to be saved. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

You may be seated.

Good morning. Welcome. What a blessing this series has been, hasn’t it? The theme of the month is ‘The House of God,’ and our Scripture for the month is:

2 Corinthians 5:1 *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved... (Being our body) ...we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

So, today we’re going to talk about us being the temple of God; that’s not it (gesturing to the flesh), there’s something beyond this temple here.

Pastor Paine started us off in the series, he preached on “In This House.” He talked about, in this house we do love; in this house we do correction; in this house we bear one another’s burdens. Sometimes it gets ugly when we bear one another’s burdens, but, in this house, we bear one another’s burdens. In this house we do humility. We’ve got to be humble in this house. It’s not about me, it’s about God, and what God is doing through us. Amen? In this house we do responsibility. Yes, there’s time when we have to bear our own burdens. There are things that God has for us to do and nobody else to do. In this house we do forgiveness. I could share a lot about that one, but we’ll save that for another time. Forgiveness is very key in the house of God. In this house we do invitations. We invite people into this house. Amen?

Parish talked about “God’s House.” He talked about the Tabernacle that was built when the Israelites were told to wander in the wilderness. They built a house for God, a Tabernacle, a tent. Wherever God moved, and the Children of Israel moved, that house went with them. So, it was a mobile house. It kind of represents that wherever we go, today, we take God with us. There were certain things in that house that God had put in order, and put in that house. Things for cleansing, things for—an altar to make an offering for God, things for—specifically, that had to be lit, things that had to be kept in order in that house. When they settled in the promised and, the place that God had told them that He was going to give them, they built a Temple, and that temple was more permanent. He equated that to, as in our lives today, there are things that God has set up that are permanent in our lives, and, no matter where we go, those things are always there, those landmarks are always there, so we can lean on and trust in God.

Last week, Chris talked about “Jesus Is the Temple.” Jesus being the sacrifice and atonement for our sins. Like we had that altar in the Tabernacle, and we had that altar in the

Temple, Jesus became that sacrifice and that atonement for our sins. It will take some sacrifices and, sometimes, it feels like we are missing out on things, when we're in this tabernacle, when we're sacrificing, and we're striving to be Christ-like. Sometimes it's not easy. In fact, he went to a scripture where it said "...it pleased the LORD to bruise him..." (Isaiah 53:10). That's not a happy scripture. That's not something we want to go through; you don't think, "Man, I want to get bruised today. I want to get beat up today." I don't go looking for a fight today, you know? But it pleased God to do that, so that He could be a sacrifice for me; so that He could be a sacrifice for you. He shared what does it really mean to be "Christ like".

So, now we come today with us being the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Home is where the Heart is.

We all have our states and our places and our memories of where we're from. Some places, like maybe the Philippines, where your parents came from, Arman, Minnesota, some people say Texas; they don't just say Texas, they say, "The Great State of Texas." They've always got to put 'great' in there; Lord knows why. Everything's big in Texas, right? So, home is where the heart is, so when we think of somebody, we think of where they're from, a lot of times. That's their home, you know? That's where your memories were built; that's where you were raised, your home.

1. God Wants To Make A Home Where There Is Humility.

Isaiah 66:1-2 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

You can't be a know-it-all and make a home for God. You've got to be humble when you come to learn from God. It starts with humility; we have to admit that we're wrong. God's not going to make a home in somebody that's already right. The home's already established, and God can't come in and make His own rules. It starts with humility. Why did Jesus use the example of a little child—of such is the Kingdom of Heaven? (Matthew 19:14) Sister Sonia, I watched how you interact with your granddaughters. Sometimes you kind of have to give them some correction, but as soon as Grandma came over there, they're like, "Yeah, okay. We got you, Grandma." They got right in line. That's how children are; they listen, they're humble. It starts with humility. Let the sign on your door read, "Welcome to our humble home."

2. God Has House Rules.

When God moves in, there is a different set of rules. We don't learn all these rules at once; it's over time. When I went from a dysfunctional family to a foster home; there was a different atmosphere. All of the sudden, when I came into the house, I had to take my hat off, and my shoes off. There was no foul language when you went inside that house. everybody pitched in together and did the dishes, clean the house, and did the laundry. Those things were different for me, so it was kind of an adjustment at first. There was love in that home. My foster mom was a big Irish woman, and she would grab me and hug me. I would try to squirm out of it

at first, because I didn't know what love was. No one had loved me before. I was shown love; I was shown respect. I was shown how to talk to people; I was shown how to listen to people. The bedrooms were always clean and in order; very neat. You could have a lot of stuff in your room, but it had to be neat and in order. You couldn't have a lot of junk on the floor. I didn't have these kinds of rules before, but there was love in that house. The same as with God; He has a certain set of house rules.

John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

God desires to dwell with you, in you. God wants to live with you, but the condition is, you keep His rules; you keep His words. That's the condition; there's no way around it. He's not going to live in a place where you make up your own rules, and then, maybe, decide to follow God's rules. It's his house; He's the Master of the house. Sometimes, we guys, we sit in our throne, or our lazy-chair, or maybe our couch, and we've got our scepter (the remote), and we've got all these little people entertaining us, like little jesters; I'm the king of the castle. Well, God's the King of the castle, and He's going to rule on His throne, and that's your heart. So God has rules. Because we have these house rules, you can't just bring anybody over, and they can do anything in your house, too. So, I'm talking about your friends, today, too. You can't just let your friends affect you like you used to, because you have a new Master; you have new house rules. It's a little different now.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

If I brought my friends over to this new home, and they didn't take their hat off, they didn't take off their shoes, they started to curse, how long would that friendship last before my foster parents would say, "You know what?" They would give them some warnings; they would love them, but, after awhile, it was like, "You need to pick some new friends." It talks about we're the temple of the Holy Ghost, and sometimes we let people in our lives that don't need to be in our lives, at least, not too deep into our lives. I'm not saying don't have friends out there; I've got a lot of friends out there in the community, and I have supper with them, but I don't let them into my house, and let them set up their idols in my house. Not in God's house, because God has rules, and I'm not going to let them come in and take control and put things that God doesn't want in that house.

Before I was a Christian—before I let God take control of this house—I was in the Navy. At the time, I was a second class petty officer, so I had some leadership responsibility; I had been in for some time. I had a little understanding of how the world went. I had a lot of friends in the world, and I had one particular friend and our goal was that we were going to get orders to Italy, open up a bar, marry a couple of Italian women, and settle down and retire there. That was my

whole goal at the time. Okay? Along the way, my friend went over there ahead of time—we got orders to the same ship. God met me, and said, “I’ve got different plans for you. I have plans to make you a new life; to make you a new creature.” On February 4th, 1996, I got baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord moved in, and He set up the house the way He wanted to. My friend didn’t hear from me for a while, and he came back to visit before I went over there. We used to go to bars, and drink all night and do things that people like that do, but I was a different creature; I had a different set of rules; I had a different house—God was living in my house. He kept trying to get me out to the bar, and I kept trying to get him to church—we met in the middle, at Wendy’s. we had a serious discussion, and he said, “Why don’t you want to do the same things that you wanted to do before?” because I am a new creature. I don’t think like that any more; even the music I listened to before became disgusting. It wasn’t the same; I was a new creature. Now some people—Bob and I were talking before church, we were having some good fellowship, so, Bob, this is your part in the message, okay?—Some people, they don’t totally give up some things when they come to get their house cleaned up. You have some baggage, and it takes a little time to grow through those things, to move through those things. When I first got married, and, me and my wife, we established a house, there were some things that kind of bothered her, you know? At first, she maybe didn’t say something, but after a while, she started giving little hints, like I’d wash my hands, and dry my hands on my pants. That’s a no-no. every once in a while, she still catches me, “There’s a towel over there.” we’ve made a home together; there’s certain things you don’t do, so I respect that in my wife. It took a little time to kind of grow and learn those things. When we first come to God, there’s some thing some people still struggle with—some people it’s smoking, some people it’s music, some people it’s some of the friends that they may have had. So, my friend went on back ahead of me; he realized, “No way, I’m not going to convince Jesse that this is the path we’re going to go on anymore.” He became one of my worst enemies, because he made everyone think that I was going to judge them—that they were all going to Hell. So, before I got there, everybody had this in their mind who I was, you know? I had a lot of battles that I had to fight and pray through because people saw a different Jesse than what this guy saw. After awhile, God changed them, and they came to me for questions, and for prayer. This gentleman, I don’t know what happened, but, all of the sudden he got sick, really sick. They couldn’t explain it; he had to leave the ship and go back to the states. I still pray for him, you know, but he’s chosen his path, and I’ve chosen my path. I don’t go try to look him up. He chose not to receive what God had for him. Now? who knows, God could save him where he’s at. The difference was, I have a different set of rules. God has a different set of rules that I live by, and what you bring into your house, what you watch on TV, what you look at on the internet, matters to God. It talks about idols in here. What are idols? something that takes the place where God’s supposed to be. You saying, “This idol is going to meet my need when I’m lonely, not God.” So you take those idols out, and replace it with something that God wants there.

3. God Will Not Live In A Dirty House

We moved to Virginia—I moved out ahead of my wife—we rented a little place, a three bedroom home. I cleaned that thing, I thought I cleaned it really good. I was living there, and I was happy, but when my wife and saw the place, she cleaned it for like 3 days, was it babe? She has a different level of clean than I do; a different idea of clean than I do. The same is with God with us; He goes in that closet and looks, or in the basement and looks, where your guests

normally aren't invited. Everybody's got that junk drawer, too, where you've got stuff stacked up and you can hardly close it. God will go in there too, and look in there, start pulling things out, "What is this? You don't need this here, anymore. Let's replace that; teach you about this."

Proverbs 20:9 *Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*

So the question is, who can really clean like God can clean? I can't get up here and say, "Well, I'm clean." No I'm not. Only God can really clean us thoroughly, and clean out those deep, dark places.

Another point I want to make, too—I'm going to back from the other point—when we have friends in the world that are trying to pull us, especially as a young Christian, that have been around, maybe two or three years, find a good mentor. Maybe even a group of members, maybe three or four people, get their phone numbers in the church, who are strong in the faith that you can call and you can pray with, that you can meet with on a regular basis, maybe have some coffee, maybe go over to their home. If you're a young couple maybe do that with an elder couple that have been around and maybe been married for a little while, because, like we said earlier, the devil is like a roaring lion, and he's seeking out there to destroy us and to divide us, and he goes after the young ones first. You've got to prepare yourself and get some wisdom from people that have been around for a little bit. That comes from fellowship, that comes from getting advice, that comes from encouraging people, amen?

Okay, back to the message (I stepped out for just a moment). God will not live in a dirty house. So, we're walking around, and we're living in this tabernacle, and God has made this His home; sometimes we're going to make mistakes. All have sinned, and come short (Romans 3:23); am I the only one in that boat? Raise your hand if you're with me. Not any perfect people in here? Just checking.

So, David found himself in a place where he basically had slept with another man's wife. Not only did he sleep with that man's wife, he killed the man to cover it up. That's a dangerous place to be, so we're going to read his attitude, when he finds out about what he did.

Psalms 51:1-13 *(To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee*

This wasn't just a simple, quiet little prayer. "God, I'm wrong! Forgive me! I realize what I've done! I've sinned against You, and You alone! I need Your forgiveness! Purge me

with hyssop!” Do you know what it means to be purged with hyssop? When you take rubbing alcohol, and you take something that stings to cleanse a wound, or salt, and you beat on that wound, that’s not a joyous feeling. “Clean me thoroughly! I’m sorry, God; I’m wrong! I want You to come and make my heart Your home again! I can’t serve with others unless I have it right!” Do you hear that prayer of David? Do you hear that? We’ve got to have that same attitude. We can’t just say, “Cleanse me, God,” and go on about our way. We’ve got to be sincere with God. We’ve got to be real with God, because God is real, and God is dealing with our hearts.

4. What’s On The Inside Is More Important Than What’s On The Outside

We’re in the process of looking at homes, and sometimes, you just kind of glance at the outside, but what’s really important is what’s on the inside; how’s the kitchen? how’s the bathroom? is everything running good? is there heat and electricity? The same as with God; you can come to church and look really, really good, smell really clean—and I’m glad you do (I took a shower today, and I hope you did, too—but if the inside of our heart is full of idols, and issues that we haven’t resolved with God, if we haven’t forgiven somebody, we’ve got to get that clean. We’ve got to get that revived. What you’re really supposed to be on the inside:

Proverbs 24:3-4 *Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

God desire to make your home a wonderful place, His home a wonderful place, your heart a wonderful place. He desires to fill it, and put things that He wants in there. That could come from some study and some prayer time, and some listening to God, and some fellowship with one another. I know if I bring something home, a piece of furniture, and my wife doesn’t like it—she might not say something right at first, but I notice it gets moved to someplace not out in the open, first, and then it just disappears. “Hey, where did that shelf that I bought and brought to the house go? It’s gone.” She says, “I know, I didn’t like it. It disappeared.” Sometimes we’ve got things in our lives that God doesn’t like. You ever see that show, “Hoarders?” People have all kinds of junk in their house. My wife watched that with me one time, and she said, “I’m never watching that show with you again.” It gets pretty bad; it’s a disease that people have, and sometimes people are spiritual hoarders. They hoard things in their lives, and carry them, and build them up. They think it’s important to them, and they can’t let go of them until they’ve got all these things stacked up—things that are rotting, things that are disgusting, things that don’t need to be in your house. Sometimes we get like that spiritually, we hoard things, we hold onto things.

Jesus deals with the Pharisees:

Matthew 23:27 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...*

That’s a nice way to greet somebody, huh? Sometimes we’re like that, though, we’ve got to get the hard message.

Matthew 23:27 ...hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

You look good on the outside, but on the inside, you're full of dead men's bones and uncleanness.

Matthew 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

So, we come to God, and He cleans us, and He'll challenge us on those things. Sometimes, after we've been around awhile, we start to become a Pharisee. We start to look at others and say, "They're so wrong. Oh, dear Lord, help brother Arman; I'm glad I'm not like him. Dear God, look at me; I'm so holy, so pious, so religious." Oh, dear God, help us. Help me. we don't want to get that spirit.

5. God Desires To Have Supper With You.

God desires to have supper with you. I grew up in a home where there was twelve kids and two adults. If you didn't come home for supper on times, you might not get supper. Mom didn't have to yell out the door, "Supper time!" you knew what time supper time was, you were hungry, you went home and you ate supper. God desires to sup with us. So, in this home, it's supper time. Wouldn't it be a shame if the only time you had supper with God was Sunday morning? What if you only came to feed your body once a week? Wouldn't you be pretty hungry? I know there's times you fast, but if I only ate once a week, I'd be pretty hungry. Don't make supper time be only one a week; He wants to dine with us.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

God's not rude; he doesn't bust down the door. He stands at the door and He knocks. He said, "We're going to have supper. It's time. It's time to pray. It's time to get into My Word. Time to come and dine. Time to have some fellowship." I know sometimes we work hard, and, during the day, we get a little tired, and we realize that God will remind us, "Ladies' prayer meeting tonight," or, "Sister so-and-so's having coffee tonight, and she invited you." You might not feel like going, but, I tell you what, when you go, when you dine, when you have that fellowship, it's encouraging. God's the same way; He wants us to have that fellowship. supper. From the beginning of time, God wanted to have communion with Adam and Eve, but sin separated us. We separated ourselves from God. So, since then, He's been trying to get back. He did it through the Tabernacle; he did it through the Temple; he did it through Jesus, and now he wants to do it in us, and through us. God desires to have supper with you. "Supper time!" Are you ready to eat? Are you hungry?

At this particular time, Jesus had already risen from the dead, He already told Peter what he should be doing, but he decided to go fishing. He not only went fishing, but he took some others with him, and they all went fishing. So, Jesus went and met them where they were at, and He said unto them:

John 21:12 Jesus saith unto them, *Come and dine.* And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

So, He didn't sit there on the shore, and have this big beaming light and start yelling at them and screaming at them. "Come and dine. It's time for supper. It's time to sit down, and let's talk about this. Let's talk about what I have for you. You're not doing the right thing." You can read a little further on, and Peter even had to be asked three times, "Do you love me?" So, it's time for supper. How's your house? How's the love? How's the encouragement? How are the things that are in the house? Something me and my wife started doing recently, before we go to bed—about an hour before, sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more—we shut off the TV and everything else, stop the noise, put away our headphones, and we'll read the scriptures. Sometimes we'll go over the message from last Sunday, sometimes we'll call somebody up and we'll pray with them, or we'll fellowship with somebody. So, the last thing before we go to bed is not the news, or some spy show, or something that's really not important to God. The last thing before our head hits the pillow is we're encouraging, we're discussing about things of God. I encourage you to do that. I'm not going to tell you that you have to do that, but, if you take some time and rest on the Word of God, you're going to be so much better.

There's a song that we used to sing in the ministry years ago, "I've Got a Brand New Sign." I know this is kind of short notice for the musicians, but if we could close with that song, I'd appreciate it. I don't know all the words; I could kind of struggle through it. Probably some of the guys—they'll help me out? good. So, this song, there's a message that talks about there's somebody in here, Devil. Somebody more important, you're not welcome in here anymore. It's got big red letters. So, if you would like to stand and sing this song with us, you're more than welcome.

I've got a brand new sign, with bright red letters,
Hanging on the door of my heart.
Since the Lord moved in, I have never felt better
My life has changed, I've made a new start
So I'll let the devil know, he isn't wanted anymore
When he comes calling on me
Oh, how mad he's gonna be, when he begins to read,
Full up, no vacancy!

I've got a brand new sign, with bright red letters,
Hanging on the door of my heart.
Since the Lord moved in, I have never felt better
My life has changed, I've made a new start
So I'll let the devil know, he isn't wanted anymore
When he comes calling on me
Oh, how mad he's gonna be, when he begins to read,
Full up, no vacancy!
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