

**“Life’s Not Fair, But God Is Good”**  
**By General Pastor Peter F. Paine**  
**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

You may be seated. I am so thrilled to be here with you, today. I bring greetings on behalf of the mother of our ministry, Sister Davis. I want to thank you for your generous gift to her: flowers for Mother’s Day; she received them, and appreciates them greatly. I also bring you greetings from my wife, Debbie, and our son, Adam, and our daughters, Holly and Heather. They’re doing well, and I appreciate your prayers and your love. I look out today, and I see many, many familiar faces; faces that I have come to know and to love and to appreciate more than I can tell you with words. Now I’m done visiting with you, because I brought a message.

I’ve been praying about being here. I have no notes, but I just have something on my heart that I feel like the Lord would have me to share with you. I think this message has a title, and I think the title is, “Life’s Not Fair, But God Is Good.” I’m going to challenge you today, to tell the story of someone who gave their heart and life to the Lord and then never had a problem, never had a challenge, never had a struggle, never had adversity, never had a health issue, never had betrayals, never had, never had, never had. Just gave their heart to the Lord, and it was kindergarten all the time. But, wait a minute, even kindergarten is not good all the time. Don’t you remember when someone took your lunchbox? Don’t you remember when someone took your pillow that you were going to use for your nap? Even kindergarten’s not good *all* the time. But, as parents, when a child complains about something that happened in kindergarten, we know better. We say, “Oh, you know what? Oh, to be in kindergarten again. Oh, to have those little problems again.” But we are older, and we’re wiser, and we don’t think much of those little problems any more, because now we’ve got big ones. “What’s your message, pastor?” Life’s not fair, but God is good.

You might have gotten passed over for a promotion, or you might have gotten fired instead of being promoted. Somebody went to pay the bills, and found out there were more bills than money in the checking account. Somebody went to the doctor and they got bad news; they were told they had cancer, and they never did anything to deserve it—they didn’t smoke, they didn’t bring it on themselves. How come? How come I? Somebody’s child, they were coming home from the hospital. People are hurting today, aren’t they? Life’s not easy; I’ll go further: it’s not fair. And if the devil has his way, he’ll tell us that God has somehow left us. And if the devil has his way, he’ll tell us that somehow God is out of the picture, and we are in trouble, because the devil’s driving the car, and we don’t know where he’s going. But I came to tell somebody today, we do know where he’s going: He’s going to Hell. I’m not going with him; I’m going to Heaven. How about you? The devil and Hell are real, and we make a choice every day whom we’ll serve. We just sang it, He’s worthy of our praise. He’s worthy of our praise. I came today to tell somebody that the devil tries to get us to focus on our problems instead of on our solutions. Somebody knows exactly why I’m here. Somebody knows. Somebody says, “Oh, my goodness! I took my eyes off the prize! I started looking at how bad things are, instead of how good God is. I’ve started telling God how big my problem is, instead of telling my problem how big my God is. I forgot that He’s raised up men and women who were able to kill the lion and the bear, and kill Goliath, too, and, you know what? He called me by the same calling.

Some of you have been told that you’re weak and you believe it. Well, if that’s you, I came to bring some good news today. I’ve got some good news in my baggage today. I came to give you a letter today, that you’re in good company, because Apostle Paul said when he was weak, then he was strong (2 Corinthians 12:10). If you’re feeling weak today, then I’ve come to tell you that’s good news, because that when God can be strongest. When we think we’re so strong that we don’t need God, we’re like the fifteen-

year-old who says to his mom or dad, "I got this." Hmm. Some of you are teaching your fifteen-year-old how to drive. You have more information than they want. Sometimes we're that fifteen-year-old to our Heavenly Father. He's got more information than we want. Hello? When our son Adam was fifteen, I told him more than once, "I'm going to outlive this, Adam. You think I don't know how to fight my way out of a paper bag. You think I'm not smart enough to come in out of the rain. I'm going to live long enough 'til you find out I'm smart again. When you were five, you knew I was brilliant." Okay, that was a little humor to help this go down, but some of us are fifteen-year-olds to God. We don't want His advice any more, we don't want His counsel any more, we know better! That's not a put-down; I used that analogy because we can all relate to it. When I was fifteen, I had all the answers. My dad got stone-stupid when I was fifteen. He didn't have a clue! He didn't know how to cut his hair; he didn't know what kind of music to listen to, he drove too slow, he had stupid rules... Somebody say amen; don't leave me up here all alone! We've all been fifteen, unless you're younger. Now I'm warning you, when you get to be fifteen, you're parents' brains will fall out. Here's some good news, when you get to be twenty-one, or twenty-two, or twenty-three, it'll happen sometime in your life, their brains will get back in. All of the sudden, you'll say, "Man! I'm so glad you're smart again! Where did you go?"

Life's not fair, but God is good. We'll spend a little time in First Samuel. Reading about my buddy, David. Oh, my goodness. David who slew Goliath, who had favor in the sight of King Saul. What could be better? The king was going to give him his daughter. They're going to get married, and life's going to be perfect. He's known all over the land, in fact, there comes a popular song in the day. You read about it First Samuel, the people are singing it. They loved David. Saul loves David; everybody loves David. David won American Idol; I mean, everything's going perfect. Then the people start singing this song about David—oh, if he only knew. He'd have stopped them before they got the second verse out. They were singing, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten-thousands." (1 Samuel 18:7) And they were singing it in the streets, and Saul heard it. An evil spirit came on Saul, so much so that—I'm just paraphrasing through it; read it, First Samuel chapter seventeen all the way through chapter thirty-one—David has to flee. What happened to everybody loves David? What happened? David doesn't deserve this. He had a chance to kill Saul; he wouldn't do it, because Saul is God's anointed. What happened? Why? What did David do to bring this on? Life's not fair, but God is good.

So, David decides he's got to go someplace. He takes six-hundred men, and they leave. When they come back, their people are gone, their wives and sons and daughters are gone, and their village has been burned. Now the men that were with David want to stone him. What happened to everybody loves David? So, David inquired of the Lord, "What do I do?" and the Lord said, "Go." That's a paraphrase; it actually happened in two parts, but they went, and, you know what? God protected their wives and their sons and their daughters, and they brought them back. Then everybody loved David again. Except Saul. Life's not fair, but God is good.

What chapter are you in in your life? Everybody love you today, or nobody love you today? Huh? "Oh, good God Almighty, he's not meddling right in the middle of my life!" Some days your husband looks at you and says you're the prettiest woman he ever did see, and some days he looks at you and says, "What did I ever see in you?" God Almighty, what happened to that man; does he need glasses? Does he need a lobotomy? What's going on? Sometimes you look at your husband and say, "You're a muscle-man," and sometimes you look at your husband and say, "You're a monster-man!" What happened to this woman? What happened to cause her to think that...? Life's not fair, but God is good. What chapter are you in your life? You see, David had high times, and David had low times ...

Job; let's talk about Job for a few minutes. Oh, my goodness. Let's go there. Here's this upright man, he lived for God, he loved God, God loved him; all is well with Job. His wife loves him, his children love him, God loves him, he loves God; how does it get any better than that? Job is on top of the world, so much so that when the conversation takes place in Heaven, God says to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" Oh, Job would have said, "No, Lord, don't say it! Don't say it! Don't do it! Let me be!

I'll praise You! I'll worship You! Don't do it!" Can I preach today? Can you imagine if Job could have been in on that conversation? If you're not familiar with the story, it's an Old Testament story and it's about a man who really is doing everything right. A conversation took place in Heaven, and God was so proud of Job, that He said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant, Job? You know what? This is my man. Job." And it's true; He blessed him. He had all kinds of health and wealth and... And Satan said, "Well the only reason he serves You like that is because You put a hedge around him, You've given him all that stuff." And God said, "Not so. Take all his stuff." That's a paraphrase; you can read it. Read the whole Book of Job. His stuff was taken, and Job was still standing. He lost his family, and Job was still standing. His wife said, "Why don't you curse God and die?" But Job was still standing. Life's not fair, but God is good. I came to tell you today, because you're feeling sorry for yourself. Somebody, life's not been fair to you this season. You think God's left you; He hasn't. You think somebody else got the position you should have gotten. Maybe it's right here in this church; somebody else is doing something that you're more qualified to do. "Why does he get to do that?" "Why does she get to do that?" "Why am I not doing that?" "How come they got appreciated and I didn't get appreciated?" "We celebrate Mother's Day, but what about Son's Day?" "What about Daughter's Day?" They're part of the family... Moms and dads know that Son's and Daughter's Day is every day. I heard that, mothers. See, if the devil has his way, he'll have us feeling sorry for ourselves. We know that Job survived all that. God blessed him and he had twice as much. And then Job got a little full of himself—watch out, now, blessings will trip you. Watch out, now; blessings will trip you—at the end of the Book of Job, God had to remind him, "Where were you when I created the Heavens and the earth? Where were you when I put the stars in the sky? Where were you? Who do you think you are, Job?" Remember how it started? "Consider My servant, Job?" But, then, Job got full of himself. Job got full of himself, and God had to say...

So, I don't know what season you're in in your life, today, but I came to tell you, life's not fair, but God is good. If today you're feeling low, there's a good remedy for that. That's the good news. This is not all bad news. This is not 5 o'clock; this is not Channel Seven. There's good news in this news, and here's the good news: God's still God. Whatever season you're in in your life, wherever you're at in your journey, God hasn't quit being God. God's still in the saving business; God's still in the rescue business. Hmmm.

We're going to back for a moment, and pick up that last part of First Samuel. Maybe you're going to get your wife, or your son, or your daughter, or your husband—but, in the story, the men tried to retrieve, David and six hundred, well, four hundred by the time they get there, because two hundred stayed by the brook, but they went to get their families back. Maybe you're here today, and you're saying, "My family's gone." That's too broad a brush to paint with to make it personal to every circumstance, but God is still God. "Raise up a child in the way it should go and when he is old, he will not depart..." (Proverbs 22:6) If their heart's still beating, keep praying. You might even have to go do some rescue. There's not a father or a mother in here, that would have a child in a burning building and wouldn't get in that building to get their child. Am I right about that? Not because you're a hero, but because you're a parent. Well, our Heavenly Father loves us more than we could love each other. Some of us need to rescue our family. Rescue them with prayers, if not with people. Rescue them with prayers; petition the Almighty. "Bring them back to You, Lord. Remind them of that dedication service. Remind them of their calling. Remind them of their love for You." Amen? Some of us have given up on people God hasn't given up on. I'll say it again: Some of us have given up on people God hasn't given up on. We've got to be careful.

So, let's talk about what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, when He said, "**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God... and all these things shall be added unto you.**" I want to tell you that that verse doesn't work backwards, and what I mean by that is, you can't wait until all these things are added unto you, and then seek the Kingdom of God. It says, 'first,' it means first. Amen? I promise you that if I proposed to my wife, Debbie, like I did a little over forty years ago, because we'll be married forty years this June, and I proposed to her sometime in the fall, we had about a six month engagement, I proposed to her towards

the end of the year, I don't remember that day. I remember our wedding day—don't stone me. We were married June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1975; I don't remember what day I proposed to her, but it was a real high-class proposal. We were on Sheridan Road, and we had stopped at "The Spot," and got a cheeseburger and a root beer, and I had the ring in the glove box, and I said, "This is it; this is the night," and we were driving down Sheridan Road, and I thought, "What's the classiest way that I could do this?" So, I pulled in the parking lot of the Homestead Bar and Grill—I wanted it to be top class!—I don't know if it's still there, but it was on Sheridan Road in Kenosha; of course, this was years ago. I said, "Debbie, could you check the glove box? I think there's something in there that I need," and she opened it up and she said, "I don't see anything." I took this silver and black ring box, and opened it up, and asked her to be my wife, and she said, "Yes." I told that story for a reason; why did I tell it? "Seek ye first," that's it. Thank you for reminding me. So, if I'd have said to Debbie, "Debbie, there's these three or four girls that I've been thinking about marrying, and I'm going to ask all of them, but I wanted to get your opinion, and see where you're at in this whole equation, because, you see, I've got it down to a short list. There's just these three or four, and how do you feel about that, Debbie? Do you think maybe we should get married?" I don't think it would have gone so well. One of us might have just wound up lying in that parking lot. I just don't think it would have gone as well as it did. Does that make sense? What we read in Matthew 6:33 is that Jesus is teaching 'first' and we get that first means first. It doesn't mean second is first. First is first, right? You hit the baseball from home plate, and if you run straight to second, you're out. You've got to go to first, first. Does that make sense? You've got to seek God first. Sometimes we don't have all these things that are added on to you in the second part of that verse, because we haven't sought God first. You always look at somebody else and you say, "Why does he have?" "Why does she have?" "Why do they have?" Have you been seeking God first? Because that verse doesn't say, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then, maybe..." because it already said it *will be* added. I'm not preaching name it and claim it; what I am preaching is faithfulness. Even when the season of your life doesn't look good; even when there's no fruit on the tree... Hello? Do you know what I'm saying? Some of you are looking at others coming off the baptistery full of fruit and yours is bare, and you're thinking, "What wrong with me?" Well, this might be that season of your life. I don't know if everybody here has seen an apple tree, my father was—we grew up on an apple orchard. My father grew up on an apple orchard. You know when you see an apple tree in the winter, it looks dead. When you see an apple tree that's pruned, it looks like you killed it. When that pruned proper apple tree come out of winter, when the warm winds of spring, and the rain descends, and nourishes the roots, and the leaves pop out and the flowers, and the apples follow, and it's full... Some of you are in a winter season in your life. If you're in a winter season, don't forget that God is faithful. Don't forget that God is good. Winter season only lasts for the winter, but the spring is coming. Some of you are discouraged. Some of you feel that God has left you. Some of you are comparing yourselves to someone else. Why would you do that when God needs you to be you? I came to tell you today that life's not fair, but God is good. You say, "Preacher, what kind of a lousy message is this? We came to church to have you tell us that life is great; I'll never have any illness, I'll never have a doctor give me bad news, I'll never have a bill that's overdue, I'll never..." Well that just isn't true. Why would you come to hear something that isn't true? How about hearing some truth, that God's good even when life is bad? Tell me the story of the person that doesn't have challenges. But, would you rather have challenges without God or with God? Would you rather have challenges with God or without God?

So, think about the parable of the Prodigal son. We see two sons in that parable. It starts in Luke chapter 15 and verse 10. Think about this parable, and, in fact there were two sons in this parable, and one son is just full of, "I gotta go do this; I gotta go do that..." I can relate to that. I mean, if I look back at my early years; if I look back on my teen-age years. When I graduated High School, I had enlisted in the Navy on the Delayed Entry Program, and I had several weeks before I actually came in the Navy. When I came in the Navy, we were still sending troops to Viet Nam. My oldest brother was in Viet Nam, and I thought

I was going to get in the Navy, and go over and help him finish the war, and we'd come home heroes. I had the whole thing pictured in my mind, the parade and all. I was pretty excited about how this was going to work, and he and I would be home-town heroes, and the couple that won the war, and the president would thank us, and the nation would be grateful, and it didn't happen exactly that way. So, I graduated High school—you haven't read my book—so, I graduated High School, and I had a summer job at the car wash, and I was, you know, going in the Navy, and I had three buddies, and we'd always talked about doing a trip. You know, when we graduated, we were going to—they were going to college, the three of them, because they did something different in High school, and they got accepted. I was going in the Navy because no college would accept me. You don't have to make fun of me; I'm doing it for you. So, I was going in the Navy, and we were out of High School, and we were about three days into our summer break, and, one morning, I was leaving my house, and driving to the car wash, it occurred to me that we had graduated, and the clock was ticking towards what would happen next: college, and the Navy, and all the follow-ups. Instead of going to work, I went to my buddy's house and I woke him up. I said, "Are you ready to go on that trip?" He said, "Yeah, sure." I said, "Pack your bags." He did. I didn't think he would, but he did, and so he got in the car. Now there was two of us. I hadn't packed my bags yet, but I didn't tell him that. We went to the next buddy's house, and we said, "You ready to go on that trip?" He said, "Yeah." Then he said, "I got to work this afternoon..." We said, "Call and quit, because that's what we're doing." So he packed his bag, and then we went to the third buddy's, and then there were four of us in the car, and I said, "I've got to go home and pack my bag." Well, I took a lot of razzing from them for that because I'm the guy that threw out the first dare, and I hadn't told them that I hadn't packed my bag. It only took me about a minute and a half to pack my bag. You know when you're eighteen years old, there's only so many things that you need to take. So, I packed my bag, and we had all our duffle bags, or gym bags, or whatever they're called, we threw them in the trunk of the car, and we headed south. I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and that's about six, seven, maybe eight hours away from Washington, D.C. So, around dinner time, I thought, "I'd better call my dad and tell him where I'm at." I called my dad, and I said, "Dad, I'm in Washington, D.C." He said, "What are you running for, Pete?" I said, "I'm not running for any office, dad, but we're running for Florida. We're going to go on down the coast, you know. Larry, and Tony, and Gary and I, we've decided that we're all going to take our trip, you know, that trip that we've always talked about making. My dad said, "I thought you had a job at the car wash?" I said, "I did until this morning." There's a reason for this story, stay with me. My dad paused for a while, and he said, "What made you think that was a good idea?" I said, "Dad, I'm just two months away from being in Viet Nam, and my buddies are just a few months away from being in college, and I'm eighteen, and I own this car. I bought it with money I earned at the car wash. I don't have any bills. Frankly, I don't need my summer job, because I'm going in the military; I'm not saving for anything. We've got enough money to make this trip, and it just seems like the right time in our life to do it." And there was a pause on the line, and he said, "Well, you know, Peter, if I was eighteen years old, and I was restless, I think I'd be with you. Have a good trip. Stay in touch." I tell you that story because we're in different seasons of our life. Right now, that would be the stupidest thing I could do. Wouldn't couldn't shouldn't, no way, no how, uh-huh. Back then, it made sense, but some of us are trying to be eighteen again. Some of us are trying to live our lives as if they were in a different chapter. Live your life in the chapter you're in. Live where you're at. Let God be God. Let God be God. And, you know what? If your parents are stupid—we talked about that earlier, but I think I'm going to hit that one more time--remember they love you. Even if they've made a mistake, remember they love you. There's a couple of people here that think I'm picking on you personally; I'm not. I've got broader shoulders than that. I'd pick on you all alone if that were the case. I'm just preaching what the Lord would have me to preach today. I came to tell somebody today that God knows you've got a broken heart. I came to tell somebody today that God knows you carry a heavy burden. I came to tell somebody today that I know it doesn't seem fair where you're at right now. I came to tell somebody today that God knows that you feel like you've forgiven more

than you've been forgiven. I know that somebody here today needs to hear this: You're childhood wasn't what it should have been. You don't have any good childhood memories. But your heavenly Father loves you. I'm not here to tell you that it doesn't matter; it matters greatly. I'm not here to tell you that your hurt isn't real; it's very real. I'm not here to tell you that divorce doesn't till make you lie awake at night and wonder what happened, how did it go wrong; I know it does. Life's not fair, but God is good. Life's not fair, but God is good. I came to tell somebody stay on track; don't give up, because the Bible says that it is one appointed for men to die, and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). And, you know what? Some of the battles we're fighting now—are you kidding me?—what difference does it make?

I want to tell you about another story about my relationship with my family. I just feel pricked in my spirit to tell this story; some of you have heard it, and I apologize for repeating it. I was an adult; our children were already born, and I was visiting my brother Gary. I'm one of six children; I have four brothers and a sister. I was visiting my brother Gary, who is a year older than me, in his home on Columbus, Ohio. The point of this story—I'll tell you now, so you don't get lazy on me; I want you to hear this story—the point of the story is that... I was talking about our childhood, and I said, "Oh, Gary, you remember that house we grew up in? Remember how we used to we could walk out the back door of our house, and once you got to the end of the yard, it was just woods, and the woods went on forever, and we used to play in those woods hours and hours and hours, and not come home 'til late at night? Remember how we used to build lean-to's?" Those of you that didn't grow up in the mountains probably don't know what that is, but that's a fort on a hill. All you have to do is build a roof out from the hill, because the hill is steep enough. We called it a lean-to, I don't know if that's a slang name or the real name, but that's what we called it. Sort of, you could build a fort, and you could build one after another. "Remember how dad used to take us to Canada to go fishing, and you remember how..." and I just went on and on and on, talking about all these great memories of my childhood, and a lot of them had to do with how wonderful our parents were, and how wonderful our life was. It occurred to me, after a little while, that Gary was becoming increasingly troubled about me taking to him. He had this expression on his face, and he was bothered by my stories. I was just reminiscing about our childhood, and our quality of life, and our father was still alive then. My father was always an alcoholic, but his drinking problem just much worse toward the end of his journey. It was very bad at this point in his life, and I tell you that because what Gary said to me next was, "Pete, are you talking about the same dad that was too drunk to go to your High School graduation, and, when you came home and asked him why, he said, 'Oh, I didn't know you were graduating today.'? Are you talking about the same dad that..." and Gary went with a list, rapid-fire, of things that had happened that he was still hurting over. When I probed him a little further, I didn't realize this until then, but Gary had broken off his relationship with his father, with our father. Gary had then, and has now, two sons, who are both adult men now, but, at that time, they were in High School, and he had severed the relationship from his sons to their grandfather. He had become bitter, and he was angry. His memory of our childhood was such that he had been dealt such a bad hand, he'd been given such a poor deal, why would he ever have any good memory of our father? IF it feels like I'm leaving my mom out, she got very, very sick when I was young; I don't want to leave her out, she was a wonderful mother, but at age ten, she had a cerebral hemorrhage that left her in a nursing home for the rest of her life, so she wasn't much of our day-to-day life at home. She was very much a part of our lives, but my dad raised us up as a parent. It's great that we got the best of him. I'm not making light of it, it's a serious problem. Some of you know the pain of that, and Gary became involved with bitterness. But I pled with him that day, and I said, "Gary, someday he's going to die, and, if things go their normal course, he will proceed you and I in death. And, if you don't resolve this, all you'll have left is bitterness and you'll carry it to your grave. You will leave it as an inheritance for your sons."

I'm done with the story, because that's all I needed to say to make my point. Are you bitter about "Life's not fair" so much so that you'll carry it to your grave and leave it as an inheritance for your children, or are you ready to put it behind you, and say, "Life's not fair, but God is good."? I now I'm not preaching

evangelistic now, I'm not being funny now, I'm not being dynamic right now, I'm just trying to be as sincere as I can be and tell you that life's not fair, but God's still good. Somebody say amen. When the devil tries to tell you why you should go and kill Saul...

Now I'm going to wrap it up right where I started. If the devil is telling you to go kill Saul because he's not fair to you and—for those of you who are not familiar with the story, I don't mean to talk over your head, I just mean to say: Here's David, he has done nothing to deserve the wrath of Saul, the king, and yet, Saul wanted to kill him. David didn't get bitter, he got better. And, by the way, I'll close with this—I didn't think I was going there, but here I am—by the way, when David sinned with Bathsheba, David, after he was king—I know I've gone all over the Scriptures in this message, I hope you're with me—if you're not familiar, I'll just try to take a moment to say that David became king, he was anointed, but he forgot. I know this is out of order chronologically, but he forgot a message that was as sure for David as it is for us today, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." David somehow got mixed up and thought he was as good as the song they were singing about him. He was reading his own press clippings. He looked from the rooftop, and he saw Bathsheba, and he had her brought to him, she conceived. He covered it up and tried to kill Uriah—he didn't try; he had Uriah killed—her husband. How did he get there? How did he get there? So, maybe somebody today, maybe somebody today needs me to tell you that, even if that's the chapter in your life, and you've slipped and you've fallen, and you've sinned, maybe you've brought embarrassment on you and your family, God's still God. God's still God. The God I know is still in the forgiving business. The God I know is still in the saving business. And the God I know is still good. Somebody here is down on their back, and they're thinking, "Count me out," and you think there's no way to get up, but God's already made a way to stand up, and He says, "Just hold my hand," like Peter and John at the hour of prayer. Great God Almighty. Somebody came here today and thought, "Well, I'll just go through the motions 'till I die. There's nothing good for me left." That's a lie from the pit of Hell, and you call it a lie, and you call the devil the liar he is, and say, "God, You're my God, and You're still good. I ended with that story about David and Bathsheba because I feel pricked in my spirit that somebody here needs to be reminded: You might have slipped and fallen, but falling isn't failure unless you refuse to get up. I'll say that again: You might have slipped and fallen, but falling isn't failure unless you refuse to get up. God still loves you! Life's not fair, but God is good. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. You think I've ever felt like quitting? I have. I hope that doesn't discourage somebody; I apologize if it has, but I've been discouraged. I've felt like quitting. Parrish, come stand with me. I remember the day it happened to me, Parrish. I'll never forget. I was just so hurt and so discouraged and so frustrated and so overwhelmed, and I forgot that God is good, and I thought, "Woe is me!" I got feeling sorry for myself; I got eat up with, "What about me, God?" So I went in the coatroom at 621 Belvidere, and I was just crying out to God in that room all alone. It was summer; there weren't any coats in there. I was just standing in that dark room; I didn't even turn the light on. I was just crying out to God, "Have pity on me. Why would you save me if You're just going to mock me? I would You save me if I'm just going to have a useless life? Why would You save me if my life won't ever matter? Why would you save me, if it's all for naught? I'm standing there all alone, saying, "God, is there any hope left? Is there any hope? Is there anything at all left for me to do, or should I just give up and quit now? Can I just get out of the way right now?" This man walked into the coatroom; he turned on the light, physically and spiritually. He said, "I don't know why, but the Holy Spirit pricked my heart, and told me to come to you right now and say, 'Your ministry matters.' To come to you right now and say, 'Your testimony matters.' To come to you right now and say, 'Your sacrifice matters.'" Maybe you need to tell somebody today that their ministry matters, that their sacrifice matters to God and for God. If the devil told you your days are no good, that you're worthless, say, "I'm God's child; He's still got something great for me to do. He's prepared a place for me in heaven. If it were not so..."