

“Men’s Day”

By Brother Parrish Lee and Brother Andy Giebler

Sunday, June 28th, 2015

Parrish: All this stuff is just going so good, and, I’m telling you, if you miss a week, it feels like several weeks.

Anybody here ever listen to Christian music? Anyone ever hear a song, and it was like, “Ooh, that was just getting me started. I’ve got to put the repeat on that one.”? Anybody here ever get a little carried away, and you lose a little track of time, and God starts moving, and He starts being good to you, and you just—it’s better than cake when you’re full. You just have to—and I’ve had some good cake. But, it’s just a fact that you just don’t want to let it go. That’s how it is when you’re around God’s people and they’re lifting—you know, there’s no other sound like that in the whole earth? No other sound... The whole earth, the Bible says, is filled with his praise. But, according to the Bible, he seeketh the true worshippers to worship Him. So, of all the praises on the whole planet, He’s looking for the true worshippers. That’s not even—my fifteen minutes didn’t start, yet, Andy.

Giving honor to God, who is the Head of my life, of our lives... Giving honor to the omnipotent, the merciful, the wonderful, the awe-inspiring, the all-saving, the He who makes a way out of no way, the light in the darkness God, the splitting of the Red Sea God, the One who goes and is able to travel all the way down into the pit of Hell and deliver the souls, the Bible says, giving honor to Him. Giving honor to Him who set the sun in the sky and outshines the brightest thing that we know of. Giving honor to that same, wonderful, inspiring God. Giving honor to our founding pastor and his family and all those who were with him, and giving honor to our pastor, he and his family, and all those who stand with him. Giving honor to all those who have stood in the gap to make up the hedge to see this ministry where it is right now. And, giving honor to all of y’all, who come and present yourselves before the Lord, and say, “God, feed me, fill me. Giving honor to y’all.

It’s wonderful to be here today, and I say that on several levels. On all levels, it’s wonderful to be here; it’s wonderful just to get up in the morning. It’s wonderful to open my eyes. It’s wonderful to breathe. It is wonderful to walk across the floor. It’s wonderful, it’s wonderful just to be able to open my eyes, go to work, drive a car, put gas in it, get something to eat, and not worry about somebody taking all that away from me. Amen. You start thanking God, and He starts reminding you things that He’s doing for you.

This month is Men’s Month, of course, and today is Men’s Day. Women, you did an incredible job last month. So, we pray the same thing for Men’s Day. The message today is going to be two-part. I’m going to deliver part of it, and then Andy’s going to deliver another part. The title of the first half is:

Men’s Day—Callings and Examples

Ephesians 4:4-5 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

If you could bow your heads with me for just a moment, just one moment. Lord, we thank You, the giver of all good and perfect gifts. God, we come before Your presence, and we thank You for what You’ve done for us this day. Never mind what You have done for us all along; we thank You for what You have done for us *today*. And, God, right now, we thank You for the praise and worship time. We thank You for the fellowship time. We thank You just for the peaceful, harmonious environment inside of Your sanctuary. And we pray now, Lord, as we go and visit Your Word, the thing that You might have given us,

we pray that You would do exactly as it says in the Book of Isaiah, that Your Word would not return unto You void, but would accomplish surely that thing that You sent it to, that we might benefit, that we might be better by it; that we might be the recipients of the blessing that You have for us this day, that we might go on to accomplish Your wonderful and perfect will. This we do comme and present in Jesus' name, and everyone said, amen.

It's wonderful to be back, and, you know, it's Men's Day, and I'm going to talk a lot to the men. But, I want to say a couple of things. One of the things is, somebody asked me, "Why do you mention the founding father of your ministry, why do you mention your pastor, why do you mention the elders that went before?" And, we've said it before; we want to say it again: This is the labor that's been bestowed, and that's why we have this particular ministry. There's been labor that's been bestowed, and that's why we have the Word of God. there's been labor that's been bestowed, and that's why we have this faith that keeps going, and the Lord said, greater things will we do, than He (John 14:12). It's all about giving honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7). Amen? Amen.

So, our Scripture thought form the Book of Ephesians chapter four:

Ephesians 4:4-5 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

From time to time, we get to talking about callings, and that's something that we hear about. That's a semi-popular subject in the sanctuaries of our church. "What is your calling?" "What is my calling?" It's interesting because you get interested in our callings because you see the people who have gone on before, and, obviously, they all had a calling. And you get interested in something like that, because the thought comes naturally, "If they had a calling, what about me? I mean, I see the callings of the people in the Bible, and there was Peter; he was a great speaker. He preached the first big message, three thousand people got baptized, and it was on the Day of Pentecost, and—wooo!—that must have been an awesome calling! And, you see Apostle Paul, and how he travelled, after God smote him blind, and called him to establish churches; to be able to pray over a handkerchief, to see that whoever owned that handkerchief get healed. Oh, what a calling that must be, and it only lends to the question, it lends to the question, 'What must my calling be?' What has God called me to do? What great things will I do that I'll come before God, and people will know about me? What will be my testimony? What will be my legacy?"

The Bible says that you were called in one hope of your calling, and that, that particular calling is without repentance. The gifts and calling of God are, according to the Bible, without repentance. And, in that one calling that the Bible talks about—calling, not callings with an 's,' there are many gifts, but one calling-- in that one calling that we have, the Bible says, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. One Lord, one faith, and one baptism. And it is, you get to know, people say, "I've heard it all before; I'm ready to move on. You want to talk about that one Lord? I know who the one Lord is; don't belabor the point. Let's move on!" That one Lord that we go to serve, we will learn about that one Lord for the rest of our lives. Because, the Bible says the Heaven, and the Heaven of heavens could not contain all of His glory (1 Kings 8:27)—how much less our sanctuary, or temple? Have you ever gotten so filled up that you felt like you were going to bust, that it felt like it was coming out of your ears? Every opening in your body. Anybody ever been touched so much, you didn't know what to do with that much God in your life? And you understood, you understood that He had so much more for us, but He would just fill us up with what He could. If you haven't ask Him for it. If you haven't gotten filled, and touched, and overflowing, and just to the place where I feel like I'm going to bust, I can't hold anything more, God, ask Him for it. Ask Him for it; He is the giver of, according to the Bible, all good and perfect gifts (James 1:17). Wisdom? Let him ask of God, who giveth liberally, liberally (James 1:3). And, yes, we are called, believe it or not, you are called to be filled. And that one Lord that we talk about, that one Lord that we need to learn about.

Anybody that would say, "I got that down," no, you don't. No, you don't, because nobody comes into the presence of Jesus and leaves the same way he came. Nobody does. You might leave with some regrets, you might leave saying, "Wow, He said a lot of hard things; I don't think I can accept it." You might leave saying, "Wow! It was hard to fend that stuff off," but you never leave the same. Whenever Jesus is on the scene—the real Jesus—whenever the real Jesus is on the scene, He changes everything.

So, this one Lord we're talking about, instead of skipping across that part... This one Lord that we're talking about, that the flesh wants to skip over... This one Lord that we're talking about, it talks about how, when we come before Him, His only commandment to us with the one Lord was to love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind (Mark 12:29-30). That's the commandment; that's the one thing that He's—yes, yes, Men's Day. Love the Lord your God—love the Lord, *your* God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. If anybody says, "Well, I've done a lot of stuff, and I've got that pretty well contained, and I've got that love of God taken care of, and I've gotten the faithfulness taken care of, and, you know what? I've gotten several other stuff... Let's move on to the good stuff?" That is the good stuff. That is the good stuff. Before you're going to have the experience with the calling, when God calls you to pray over somebody and they need healing; before the whole essence of, you go ahead, and God fills your mouth, and you're able to prophesy, or discern, or minister so wonderfully and truly in someone's life. Before God fills you with wonders, and all the rest of that, there is the calling of the one Lord, and the one faith and the one baptism. Yes, Saints, that is the gifts and calling.

We have to say, truly, many people do get turned off at this. "I want to love what I want to love." Generally, people don't like to give up their love for free. You know, they're real protective about who and what they love. I love what I love, and I can't—how do they say that? I saw it in some goofy show: "The heart wants what the heart wants." Is that what they say? "The heart wants what the heart wants?" There's a Scripture for that, about how the heart—if you just follow your heart, the Scripture says that your heart can be desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Did you ever follow your heart, and found out you got in trouble? Did your heart ever want something that you know you have no business wanting? Honestly? Your heart, yeah, your heart. And then you have to ask, "God, I need You to wash me, make me clean, come and bring me back, set me right, and give me—as David said—"Create in me a clean heart." (Psalms 51:10) Amen? Amen. Our one Lord.

And, so, as we go on to our one Lord, one faith, we learn about several things in this one faith that we serve that one Lord with. One of the things that we learn about this one faith thing is, yes, men, yes, men are notorious for wanting to be loners, have our own specific private time. One of the things that you're going to find in this one faith is fellowship. Fellowship. Simple word. Fellowship is easy to go on, and smooth over, but the Bible, in the Bible—fellowship, actually, is the kind of thing that if it doesn't find you, you need to go and find it. If you find yourself saying, "Nobody's called me; nobody's looked me up," grab your phone, find a door, look up an address, a phone number, and if it hasn't found you, you find fellowship. And this goes back to Genesis; this goes back to Genesis—you know what? I am famous for being alone; I am a famous loner. I had to get it out of my blood. But, it goes all the way back to Genesis, after God created Adam, and after Adam did all the things, God said, "It is not good for Adam to be alone." Men, we need to fellowship. So, in the one Lord, one faith, one of the things that we find is fellowship. You know what else we find in fellowship? In fellowship, some might say, "I don't want to fellowship with certain people. I want to choose my fellowship with people that I like." That's all flesh talking. "I'm going to choose my fellowship based on only people I can benefit by." But, fellowship is the type of thing that you're supposed to give and receive. For the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. Amen? And, the Bible also says that we are called to know Him in the power of His resurrection, and in the fellowship of His sufferings. The power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, *and* that we are called to have fellowship with God. We are called to have fellowship with God. ##18:10##

You know what else is in this one faith? Prayer. Prayer. We're going to name five things in this faith that we're talking about. Not movie-prayer, but honest, sincere, life changing, God-filling prayer. And, inside this prayer that we pray, we don't want to have the attitude that, "I prayed a week ago; don't tell me I have to do it again. That was a great prayer we had a couple of weeks ago; people were all around the altar. We were calling on God. Wooh! That ought to last me at least until summer." But this prayer that we're talking about is a humble prayer, and it comes, and it creates a communion with God. This is the kind of prayer that He's called us to. A sincere, open prayer that God would—prayer isn't one-way, by the way. Prayer is two-way. We pray, and we open it up to Him, and he said He'll take our hearts from the other side of prayer.

Another thing that—another one of the five things that we have to have in that one Lord and one faith and one baptism that we're talking about. We talked about fellowship, we talked about faith; another thing that's in here is study. Being able to know God's Word, so that God's Word might be that lamp unto our feet, and a light to our pathway, that we can know where we stand with God, and that we can understand His ways, and we can understand His will.

And, another thing, men, we have to have worship. Men have to have worship with God. For the Father, the Bible says, seeketh the true worshippers to worship Him (John 4:23). The true worshippers to worship Him. Fellowship, faith, study to know His ways and to know His will, to have worship so that He can come in and fill us. I will say this right quick: Whenever we go to worship God, we are never going to give more than we receive. When you really worship the Lord, you will not beat the Lord in giving, because He's waiting for the opportunity to fill us.

And the last thing, the last one of the five that I wanted to talk about, is, you've got to tell people about this Lord in your life. You have to take the Gospel from you on to the outside. And, just right quick on this one, as we share, as we evangelize, as we testify to what God has put in our life, we create, all over the place, foundations and candles for God's grace. So, as we testify, if we were to—You know, when I got my F-150, I had an F-150; this was a few years ago—when I got my F-150, I could not shut up about it. I loved to drive it; I hated to fill it, but I loved to drive it and I—it was hard to talk about, and whenever I got the victory to shut my mouth a little bit, somebody would say, "Hey, that's a nice truck." As soon as my mouth would open, "Blah, blah, blah, blah... 5.4 liter. You know what? That's a monster truck; it can go anywhere. It can handle anything." I would tell them all about that little F-150 that God probably took from me because I talked too much about it. So, whenever you have something that you desire, that you love, that is wonderful, that is great to you, you find yourself testifying about it. You find yourself talking about it. Let God be that one thing. At least, one of the things that you find so great, so loving, so appealing that you have to talk about it. Just as we have excitement about a new gift, a new car, just got married, new job, we should be excited about the Lord that we serve and commune with.

And then there is that one baptism. The one baptism. I'm not going to take a long time on this; I know I'm starting to run out of time. But, in that one baptism, the Bible talks about baptism—of course, it means to be completely overwhelmed with a liquid or a force, right? So, how much of you is to get baptized? Every part of you. Every part of you is to be brought under the grace of the Lord. Every part of you is to be washed by that regeneration of water. Every part of you is to submit to His perfect word and His perfect will. Every part of you is to be buried into His death, that you might know Him in the likeness of His resurrection. Every part. That is that one baptism; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

1Timothy 4:12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

Now, we need to make sure that when we're being an example of the believers, we need to be sure, men, we need to make sure that, as an example of the believers, every place we go, we are able to be an example to our young men. Every place we go, we're an example to our older men. Every place we

go, we're an example to each other. We need to be an example of the believers, in faith, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. That doesn't mean—an example of the believers doesn't mean when somebody's looking up at you and seeing the mighty things, or the wonderful things, or the beautiful things, or the life-giving things that God might be doing in your life, that doesn't mean that you want to rip open your shirt, and you want them to see the magic letters on your chest, or you could turn to your side, and they could see your cape just flowing more and more and more, and they could say, "Oh, what a mighty man of God that is!" That means that we tell them, "You know what? I was a sinner, and God saved me. Everything that you see God doing in me, is what God is doing," that they don't think, "I can attest to that wonderful Christian over there, I'm going to be like him," but they can say, "That Christian pointed me to God, and I'm going to be like God wants me to be." And, to be able to know that I don't have an 'S' on my chest, but I will tell you this much: when I am weak, that's when I'm really strong (2 Corinthians 12:10), and, when I'm really hurting, I do know the great Comforter (John 14:16), and, when I lack wisdom, I can ask of that one God who giveth to all men (James 1:4), and, when it's dark for me, He told me that He would be light and my guide (Psalms 119:105), and there is nothing that the Lord will not be able to do.

And lastly, my last point, is to know; let everyone know that God wants to bless you. God wants to bless you. He doesn't want to just give you a hope, He doesn't want to just give you the crumbs, God wants to fill you. He wants to make your life wonderful.

Psalms 37:4 *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

Amen. Brother Andy.

Andy: I want to say, to echo Parrish, it's an honor to be here this morning. And, I count it a privilege to stand on this side of the pulpit, knowing the men that we watched over the years, taught us. I don't take that lightly, and I never want to forget the things that I've been taught, or those that taught them to me. Because, I haven't always done this. It's only been a few years that I've been on this side of things; on this side of the blue chairs, we used to call it. But we all had to start somewhere. And, as men, we have a starting place. We start off as sons, and we become men. Some of us become fathers. But, all of us have responsibilities. All of us have—even in society, we have responsibilities, but that came from God. God gives us responsibilities, as men.

I'm going to read from Second Timothy. It's a little lengthy, but I'm going to read the entire chapter, chapter three.

2 Timothy 3:1-15 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent [which means they have no self-control], fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

I'm going to read that one again:

2 Timothy 3:15-17 *And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

I read this whole Scripture for several reasons. At the end of it, we see that we have the tools, and we have the power. We have the tools to do this. God has given us His Word. God has given us His Spirit. We talked about the responsibilities of men; sometimes it's kind of scary. It's kind of scary to think, "I've got to read this Word. I've got to be responsible for it, for teaching others. I've got to be responsible," for those that are married, "for my family, my wife, my children." You know? And, as men, we're responsible for that. As men, we're maybe not a father; we may have nephews, nieces, cousins, maybe parents that don't know the truth. We have a responsibility as men to carry this Gospel. And, the power that we have, we read:

John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:*

I read this passage to highlight—this is a couple of thousand years old, what we're looking at, here. It sounded like I'm reading out of a newspaper from today. Things haven't changed much. There's still evil in the world, and we still have to stand up against it. It's easy to sit in our own homes, and sit in front of the television, or sit in front of the computer, or just sleep; do our job, and that's it. But that's not what we were called to do, because this world is not going to get any better. We have to be the ones to lift Him up. We have to lift Him up in our place of work. We don't have to go around preaching all the time. We don't have to go around and thump people on the head with the Bible, or stand on street corners and shake the Bible. But, as Phil said, being wise. He was talking about, you know, not necessarily sitting to here they look like they have a Bible Study. But they're sharing the Word of God. There's no doubt about that.

And we have to be the ones to take a stand for Godliness. Because, if we don't do it, the world's not going to do it. The Scripture even talks about having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). There's a lot of people out there—it could very well be us, sometimes—I'll say that plain: It could be me, sometimes, having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof. There's people out there that know the Bible front to back. There's people that read the scriptures, that went to college for doctorates in theology, but that's not what God wants. God called us to preach His Word; He called us to read and study. "All Scripture is given..." well, it's no good if I don't read it. I've got to know the Scripture for myself. I can sit there—my father-in-law is a pastor; I have the privilege to sit and listen to him from time to time. And he talks about how he's got people on his preaching team, and he told them, straight up, "If I catch you going to the internet, to find your sermon, you're done. You're not preaching here no more." It's a tool to use, but if you're going to find your sermon, if you're going to find your truth on the internet, (holding up his Bible) you need to be in here. We may find a historical reference, but your truth has to be coming from your own study time.

I had to learn something when I first took a billet as a teacher in the Navy. I'd been out in the field; I'd worked on electronics. I'd worked on fire-control systems, radar systems, large weapons systems. I fixed things when they broke; we'd be out to sea, and, all of the sudden, this critical system

goes down. I was able to do that; I was trained to do that. I got into the classroom; I had students here, now, and they asked me a question. I knew how to do it if I were in their shoes, but how do I teach it? How do I teach them this principle? How do I tell it to them? How do I say it in a way that gets it across? Because it's fine for me. But now I'm—and I had to say, "I'm going to have to get back to you on that." Because I had to go and learn what I had known previously in a whole different level. I had to learn it on a level to teach from. I had to learn it at a level where I could explain it, because I told them what I knew, and he looked at me with a deer in the headlight look. "Huh? What?" Because I was teaching something that I wasn't prepared to teach. I could go do it, but I couldn't teach it. The same thing I'm learning here; I'm learning it every day. And I'm thankful for the grace of God that, as I stand here, every day, I'm learning more and more of the Scriptures. Looking back at the things that I have been taught. A lot of us have been taught over the years. But that's not good enough. I can't be comfortable with what I was taught. A lot of us talk about how we sat in Bible studies, you know, several days a week. It was great. It was good for us, getting in those Bible studies. In my mind, I knew that the world looked at what we were doing as foolish. I knew it. You know what? I didn't care, because I knew that what I was doing was keeping me from Hell; it was keeping me from sin. It was building foundation, and, men, that's what we've got to do. We can't be comfortable in what we have. I'm not saying all of us have to be Bible scholars, but we have to be comfortable in salvation. We have to be comfortable with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We can talk about all these things in the Bible, and somebody wants to get into Revelation—it's got its place—Do we know the Gospel of Christ? Do we know the story of Abraham, Moses, Isaac, Jacob? Do we know that whole story, of how Joseph was sold into bondage? Do we know the story of how Israel came about? If we speak to someone from Israel, do we even know how that nation came about? Those are all fundamental things that we've got to know as men. Women aren't off the hook, either, but we're talking to men today.

But, the bottom line is, we talk about Godliness. I said it once, I'll say it again: The world's not going to fight for Godliness. If we don't nobody else is. And, husbands and our marriages, if you don't fight for your marriage, ain't nobody else going to do it. If you're not going to fight for the love of your wife, no one else is going to come and help your marriage. You may get people who counsel you, you may get people who share good things with you, but, if you're not willing to do what it takes to foster that relationship, no one else is going to do it for you. No one's going to fight for our kids. No one in that school building is going to tell them about Jesus. No one's going to tell them about the love of God. You might find a few good people in there, but, overall, the world's not going to do it. We have a responsibility in our home to teach our children well. I am so thankful for what we have back here; these children, and our teachers, and they do a wonderful job, but it can't stop on Sunday morning. I, as a husband have a responsibility to pray with my wife. Sometimes, she has to needle me sometimes, "Hey, we need to pray." That's because I've got a good wife. We're human; we make mistakes, but it's my responsibility. We have a responsibility to pray with our children, and sometimes that's not comfortable. I know that. Sometimes—I'll just say it personally, in my flesh, I don't like—I can stand up here and pray, I don't have any problem; I get into my home environment, there's just something in my flesh that doesn't want to do that. That doesn't change the fact that I have a responsibility to do it. That doesn't change the fact that, if I don't bring God into that home, I'm not going to have the blessings of God that I desire. I've got to bring God into that home.

We read a lot of Scriptures, and we listen to a lot of customs, and:

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church...*

We talk about man as the head of the household, the head of the wife, but it doesn't say that here. It talk about the wives being subject to their husbands. That's not a power position God's talking about there. That's not talking about power and authority in those scriptures; that's talking about the

love of God. It's talking about, in our customs and our traditions, we want to say, "I'm the man. My house." And we should, but, when it talks about the head of the household, here, the head of the woman, it's talking about loving my family, loving my wife as Christ loved us. It's talking about how much love do we have for them? It's talking about—it's not talking about making sure that she respects me; I's not talking about making sure that my children respect me. It's making sure that I'm showing the love to them that Christ showed me. Because, one of the things that's gotten through my thick skull over the years is, if I'm doing what God called me to do, people respect me. People will—my wife will respect me, my children will respect me. They may not like it, but if I'm doing what God called me to do, especially if I have a household that's serving God, they're going to respect that; they're not going to fight it. But, if I'm not living for God, and I come in and try to pray with my family; if I'm not living for God, if I'm watching things on TV that I should not be watching, if I've got to tell the kids to close their ears and cover their eyes, maybe I shouldn't be watching that show. That's our responsibility, too. We have a responsibility about what we teach our families. If we're sitting in a movie theater—I'm getting real, now—and they start to have a scene you weren't expecting, I've gotten up and walked out of a theater. And we've got to get back to that. I'm not telling you to do that; I'm telling you to listen to the conviction of God. If I sit in that chair in my house and watch that movie, if I sit in my chair and listen to worldly music that's just talking about everything but the grace of God, and it's hard to preach about that, because I know there's a lot of music out there. A lot of good music, a lot of bad music... Pay attention to what you're listening to. And don't make excuses, to say, "Well, it's good music, it's not really talking about..." Be protective of your children. Be protective of your family. Be jealous, because that's what Christ did. Jesus talked about a jealousy. God's jealous of us. There's one song that I heard on the radio, and I couldn't help but hear it—I hear it in stores, I hear it everywhere—and it says, "You think I don't know what you've done. I know I'm not the only one." I can't help hear that, it's all over the—I hear it in the stores. It's talking about a man and a woman in a relationship. I thought about, "Okay, God's a jealous God. Where do I fit in? Am I flirting with the world, outside of God? Am I—" Because the Bible talks about adultery in the form of the world. No necessarily talking about a man and woman relationship, it talks about the Bride of Christ serving another. And I don't want to make this real heavy today, but I want to make a point that we've got to put God first. Parrish, you used the Scripture, "Love God with all..." We've got to love God with all. When we love God with all, we'll be the man of the house. When we love God with all, He'll put the things in our lives. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added..." Sometimes we want things. I do; I'm guilty of it. Sometimes there's nothing wrong with wanting, per se, but, the Scripture says that God clothed the lily; He even takes care of the birds (Matthew 6:26-29). "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." We've got to stop and think, "What is His righteousness?" Especially in my home, what is God's righteousness? I'll leave that to you to seek God about that; I'm not going to belabor that. Because God's righteousness isn't our own. I know I've failed, and I know I've missed it sometimes. It's something that it's got to be first and foremost on my mind when I wake up.

So, where does it start? I've heard the question, "How do you eat an elephant?" One bite at a time. That's something that, if there's a daunting task, something that you don't understand, sometimes you just got to start. Pastor Paine talked about something a couple of weeks ago. He said, "I'm going to tell you how to live a perfect life." He was relating a story that someone told him. The point is, you don't live a perfect life, but you do live it one day at a time. You start off saying, "Okay, God, this day is yours," and, if you make it through the day, great, day two; day three. If you mess up, you pick up, and you start over again. But, that's how we do it. It's one day at a time. We have to give God what's His.

And, I want to reiterate something that we've been talking about lately: It's all in. We refer to it as—we use the reference of a card game, you're betting money on a hand. But, when we talk about our life with God, it's really not gambling. We've got the Book, here, we know the ending. It's not a game. If you're giving it all to God, it's not a gamble, because we know the ending. It's about faith. Faith without

works is dead (James 2:20). It's about faith. You trust in God. It's not like you're hoping that that magic number comes up, or you're putting money on a horse. You don't know if that horse is going to win. I know Jesus is going to win. There's no two ways around it; it's not a gamble. That's what we've got to be, all in.

I'm going to ask Brother Parrish to come back up here, and we're going to take some time to pray. We're going to take the time to—men, if you want come up and pray with us. If there's more to be had in your life, if you want to come up higher in God, if you just want men to pray with you, because, Parrish and I aren't anything special in ourselves, but the God we serve. We want to call upon that God this morning.

