

Ephesians 4:1-6

Sunday 2/12/2006

SEC: The Systematic Study of Sevens and the Safety Net of Truth

If you are a visitor here or somebody who is just checking things out, I am not really preaching this to you, but this is something we all need to understand this morning. We are going to start our study today of the seven baptisms. You are going to find out as we study each one of these seven series, and I told you when we started out that there is a whole systematic study that really goes through the Bible that lays it out based on the number of perfection, which is the number seven.

In the course of our study, we have already come through the seven mysteries. We are going to start today coming through the seven baptisms. We are going to find that in the Bible, in time, we will go through the seven judgments. In time, we will go through the seven resurrections. In time, we will go through the series on sevens that really lays out the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation as far as the dispensation of the years.

It is something that once we, and maybe you are starting to see it already, I do not know, but as you study each one of these seven series, an interesting thing takes place. If you are paying attention, you begin to see a network of Bible doctrine begin to be laid out. I call it a safety net of truth. What it does is it begins to lay a foundation, or I like to use the term, a safety net. What happens when you go through, like we just went through, the seven mysteries, we basically laid out the seven concepts by which the Bible is. Everything else in the Bible will be built around those seven things in one way or the other.

Once you get those things running this way, and each one of those lines represents a teaching in the Bible, then you start coming through the other seven series. You start to see that these things begin to interlock. They begin to cross each other. What you begin to have is interlocking truth through the principles of the Word of God that really in your life and my life form what I like to call a safety net, a safety net from bad teaching and bad doctrine.

Much of the time when I get with new people, and this is not always true, but much of the time when people come in and I begin to work with them in the very infant stages, a lot of what I do is just unravel some of the bad teachings that people have been taught. This is why I like to deal with it on their level, wherever they are at.

I am teaching you the Bible the way I am teaching because it is the only systematic way that I know for sure that builds not only the foundation in your life, but the systematic layout of truth and principles that once you interlock them in your life and you see the connection between all of these together, there will never be anybody on planet earth, there will never be anybody you hear on the radio, there will never be anybody that you hear preach, there will be nothing that I would say or anybody else would say to you that you will ever be deceived by what they say if it is not true. You will have an infallible system by which you can protect yourself from bad teaching and bad doctrine.

Remember now, when it comes to the Bible, we have already been told and we have studied it many, many times, so we are not going to go through it today. We know in 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible says that:

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Doctrine in the Bible is teaching you what is right. That is what the Bible does above everything else. It gives us a guideline, a book of what is right versus what is wrong. That is why God gave us the Bible first and foremost. Once you get saved, God then wants to teach you about truth. We live in a world where God's job is to teach you truth. The devil's job is to teach you error.

We find it rampant today in our churches, and that is why there are so many of God's people that simply are very confused today or know nothing about the scriptures. I do not look down on people like that because I realized that I was confused once myself, as was everybody in this room. But there is a process of getting out of the confusion. That process is learning the Bible, what it teaches, and developing in your life that safety net of Bible doctrine and teaching that keeps you from falling into the heresy and the bad teaching that exists and is so prevalent in our church today.

SEC: The Confusion Surrounding Baptism

Now, if you have your Bible this morning, I want you to turn to Ephesians 4. We will begin a study of the seven baptisms. This looks like it is a confusing thing. You have already seen how we have taken other confusing things that look confusing in the Bible, and then once we just line them out in the Word of God, you see how simple and easy they really are.

He says in Ephesians 4:1-6, and here is what he says:

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

The Bible says in verse 5 that there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Yet, in coming through the Bible, you will find in reading, just reading the Bible, you will find seven distinct different baptisms. I guess in dealing with people and dealing with the Bible, there is more confusion on the issue of baptism than all the other subjects in the Bible. I know it has been true

down through history. All down through history, the history of the church, the number one subject without any doubt, hands down, you do not even have to vote on it. The number one subject of misapplication and bad teaching and heresy has been the subject of baptism.

I want to tell you something. The misunderstanding of baptism has sent more people into the lake of fire than all the drugs, the booze, and all the other sins in this world. That one Bible concept of missing baptism and not getting how the Bible lays it out is responsible for more people in hell than all the other sins combined together. I am telling you a truth.

SEC: Baptist Doctrine on Water Baptism

Now, I am a Baptist. As I said last week, I am a Baptist with an explanation. I do not want to be linked with all the other crazy, idiot-stick Baptists that are out there. I classify myself as a Bible-believing Baptist. I believe the Bible. I operate by the Bible.

Baptists, real ones, have a peculiar belief about water baptism. Strangely enough, we are about the only people in the world who teach and believe that baptism does nothing more but get you wet. It is a strange thing. You hear the word Baptist and you think, "Well, it is all about water baptism." No, it is not. It is not at all. Never has been.

We Baptists got our name from the Roman Catholic Church. We were originally called Anabaptists. Anabaptists were somebody who rejected infant baptism, which is what the Roman Catholic Church was teaching. When they got a man or a woman saved, or somebody at the age of accountability, or when they won a Roman Catholic to Christ and he got saved, they immediately required them to be rebaptized. They required that every adult that ever trusted Christ as their own personal Savior got baptized in water by immersion. Yet, this group that required that believed that the water baptism that you were going through, which most of you here have been baptized, did absolutely nothing spiritually for you. It did not make you a better Christian. It certainly did not wash away your sin. It did absolutely nothing for you spiritually.

Originally, they were called Anapadro-Baptists. That term simply means "against infant baptism." These Bible-believing people were called Baptists, and later the "Anna" was dropped by the Roman Catholic Church; it became bad PR, and they were simply called Baptists. But these people taught that when an adult got saved, man or woman, or a child reached the age of accountability, they were to be baptized, immersed in water, and that baptism meant absolutely nothing as far as their salvation. It did not sanctify them and make them a better Christian. It did not, as I said, wash away their sins.

Somebody asked me one time, and this was years ago, "Why are you as a Baptist against infant baptism?" My response was, "I am not against infant baptism." The next question was, "You mean to tell me as a Baptist you would baptize a baby?" I said, "Absolutely. I go by the Bible." He said, "Well, you are the first Baptist I ever met that believed that." I said, "Well, I do not think so. I think most Baptists probably believe that." He said, "Well, I do not understand."

So I took him over to Acts 8. In Acts 8, you know the story. You have the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. In that chapter, as I showed this dear gentleman, I walked him down and I showed him, and he agreed with me that this chapter really laid out every aspect of how you and

I get saved. Philip explains to the Ethiopian eunuch about Christ dying on the cross back at Isaiah 53. The whole thing comes around. When you get down there in verse 36 or 37, the Ethiopian eunuch has now been saved. He asked this question. They are driving along in the chariot, moving through the desert, and they come around a big old sand dune, and there is a big old oasis. Philip stopped the chariot, and the Ethiopian says, "Alright, you have been telling me about the Bible and God and Christ. I accepted Christ as my own personal Savior. I believe that. You have been talking to me about being baptized. Here is water. What does hinder me to be baptized?"

Do you know what Philip tells him? In Acts 8:37, he says this: "You want to be baptized? Here is the requirement of being baptized: If you believe with all of your heart, thou mayest." I am not against infant baptism. You show me a baby that can believe with all of his heart, I will baptize him. It is as simple as that. You show me a little child that can believe.

Can you imagine the absurdity of bringing one of our little kids down here and sitting down with the Bible and trying to explain the gospel story to them? Here is how I win somebody to Christ: I sit down with him. I talk to him about God and the Bible, and I kind of lay the thing out to him, and then I have him give it back to me. I promise you, if I took Maddie now and brought her down and sat her down in our living room and I meticulously laid out the plan of salvation and I asked her to explain the story back to me, it would contain Snow White, Princess Soho Soho, and everything else that she is in her little world right now. Do you know why? Because she does not have the ability to believe with all of her heart.

Then the next thing was, the guy asked me, "Well, I guess you do not believe that baptism saves you, do you?" I said, "No, I do not." I said, "Do you?" He says, "Well, I certainly do." I said, "Are you sure you do? Because if you tell me that, I am really going to begin to question what you know about the Bible. Up to this point, I thought you were kind of intelligent. Do you really believe that being baptized saves you?" He said, "Absolutely."

I said, "Okay, let me ask you this question. You have been asking me some questions. Let me ask you one. In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, did Jesus come to this earth?" "Yes, he did." "Did Jesus mingle among the people?" "Yes, he did." "Did he heal the sick, give eyesight back to the blind, and unstop deaf ears?" "Yes, he did." "In that time period, did Jesus Christ ever save anybody? Can you give me an example?" He listed five or six examples in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John where Jesus actually saved somebody.

Then I asked him this: "Well, if baptism is salvation and Jesus saved people in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, how come He never baptized anybody?" John 4 tells you explicitly that Jesus never baptized anybody in His earthly public ministry. Do you know what that is called? That is called a monkey wrench that fits any nut in this world.

I teach you about the Bible, and I want you to learn the Bible. Let me give you a key, and this is very valuable. When I was a young kid, I loved putting model airplanes together. My dad used to do it for me when I was younger. As I got older, I remember, because I am always into military stuff. I remember, boy, I would go there and I would get me a Corsair or a Wildcat or a Hellcat, or I would get me a Messerschmitt or a Japanese Zero, or I would get me a Patton tank or a

Sherman tank. I would come home and I would look at the picture on the box with the airplane, with the tanks and all the soldiers around, and I just knew.

I would take it home, and my dad, bless his heart, he worked in a steel mill, and worked long, hard hours. He would come home, and instead of going to bed, he would put that thing together. I would just keep coming in and saying, "Is it done yet?" I would watch it build, and I would get up in the morning, go to bed, and there would be on the kitchen table my model made.

Years later, I thought I took that task over myself. Now, I have to tell you, these modeling magazines, where they look real, I would never win an award in a modeling magazine. Do you know what my problem was? One, I was too impatient. I wanted the thing to be done quickly, and I did not want to take the time to do it. Do you know what my big problem was? When I put models together, I always had a lot of parts left over. I would actually kid myself in my mind that it was going to be okay without this part. The truth of the matter is, when I was done, my F-15 looked like a lame duck goose had been shot in the rear end with a shotgun over a lake someplace up north. It just, nothing ever worked out. I had too many parts left over.

When it comes to the Bible, that is what happens. If you do the Bible right, if you do the Bible right and you learn it right, when you are done at the end of the day, there is nothing left over. When you take the position that baptism will save you, and then you get faithful to what I just showed you, do you know what you have? You have a big part left over. What do you do with that? If salvation is baptism and Jesus came to save the world, how come He never baptized anybody? The answer is, you are wrong. It is not about salvation. God has a monkey wrench, as I said, that will fit anything in this world. He will always throw a wrench into the system. When it comes to the Bible, if you have the Bible down and you learn the Bible, there will not be any pieces left over. Everything will fit.

On top of that, in the 66 books of the Bible, you could not show me a baby being baptized anywhere. Nowhere. I am telling you, baptism is a weird issue. I am not kidding you. You have sprinkling. You have some people who immerse. You have some people when they baptize somebody, they immerse them, but they put them forward. You have some people that when they baptize you, they put you down like we do, but they put you down three times. Do you know why they do three times? One is for the Father, one is for the Son, one is for the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a weird issue.

The greatest time I ever had in my life was down in Dothan, Alabama, about 21 years ago. I was preaching at a guy's church down there in Huntsville. Dothan, Alabama is a little hole in the wall down there by Slimy Creek someplace. He said, "I have a pastor friend of mine." Because of the way that they were doing that when I was preaching the revival there, he said, "We did not have church services that Saturday night. We were starting Sunday morning." He says, "Hey, you want to have a great time?" He says, "I have a friend of mine that is a pastor down in Dothan. He is a black man, and he pastors an all-black church." He says, "This church is the greatest church if you want to get inspired. You need to go hear this guy preach and see this church." I said, "Hey, man, let us go. I am all for it. There is not a prejudiced bone in my body, brother. Black and

yellow, red and white, they are all precious in this life. Jesus loves the little children of the world. I am there."

Some of the best times I ever had in my life preaching in black churches. You see, they have something that some of you white folk need. Now, I know you can get crazy in anything, but you have to have a balance. I pray in my heart for our church, "God, give us about four or five really good black families that love the Lord and love God. Balance us out. Keep you honkies in line." Oh, yeah. Unless you have been in a rocking black Baptist church, you have never lived.

Me and this guy showed up, and we were the only two white people there. That old thing, "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes!" We were the whites of their eyes. They loved us. The pastor, he accepted me, had me get up and talk about the revival we were going to do, and the people just loved it. Can they cook? Whoa, they can cook. I train. I know you come out on Memorial Day and eat my ribs, and you love them, do you not? Amen. Do you know where I learned to cook ribs? Dothan, Alabama. I learned a lot of things in Dothan, Alabama.

I will tell you what, I love black people when they love God and love the Lord. I love them anyway. But when you give me a saved black man and get me in a black church, the black that is in me comes out. I can get into it. I like it. I preached one time in a black church, and their place would go, "Amen!" I love it. They go, "Amen!" You say something that really means something, and they go, "Well!" There is nothing like a 300-pound black lady saying, "Well!" She can say it. Then I was picked down there, and an old black deacon down the front, he was saying, "Tell them, white man, tell them!" I love it. I love it. He said, "Preach it, white man, preach it!" I love it.

I was down there in Dothan, Alabama, and they were having a baptismal sermon. I laughed so hard, it was uncontrollable. We are down there, and this black church baptized them three times backwards. Who cares? I am sitting down there, and I watch this thing, and the place is rocking. They have already had two sermons, and the main one is coming. Everybody is just going nuts and crazy. It is done right. It is not spooky stuff. They are just enjoying what they have in God. This was a good black church.

He took this big old sister, she must have been 300 pounds. She is in the baptistery, and they are all down there. What happens is the family all gathers around, and they are just praising the Lord. So the first time he puts her down, she comes up, and the black sister goes, "Glory to God!" And everybody went, "Glory!" And the place went crazy. He put her down a second time, brought her up, and she said, "Hallelujah!" Everybody went, "Hallelujah!" He put her down a third time, and I am dying. The third time he brings her up, she had this startled look on her face, and she yells out, she did not know what, she said, "Merry Christmas!" It was July. I loved it. But baptism is a weird issue. You get all kinds of weird stuff going on.

SEC: The Baptism of Moses: A Type for Christian Life

Now, the Bible says in Ephesians 4 that there is one baptism. But coming through the Bible, you are going to find out there are seven. Let me tell you what you have here. This is the source of the confusion. This is like when we studied the rapture. Remember I told you how people are

confused on the rapture because they do not understand there are three raptures in the Bible, or three parts to the rapture? Well, this is what you have with the seven baptisms.

There is one baptism that is the true baptism. The other six in your Bible are pictures of the true one that will teach you something that God wants you to see and understand about something in your Christian life. I am also going to say this: this true baptism in the Bible has nothing to do with water. The true baptism in the Bible that the Bible says "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" absolutely has nothing to do with water. If you can just grab that truth, you will have more information than 99% of God's people in the world today. This is one of the greatest studies that you will ever lay out on the Word of God that begins to put the safety net together that shows you the one true baptism and then shows you what the other six teach you about what God is doing through the Bible, and much of it, as the lesson today, is for you personally.

Now, take your Bibles and turn to 1 Corinthians 10. We are going to start over here in verse 1. We are going to read 1 through 4. Here is what we have. Here is baptism number one. Baptism, without a doubt, is the weirdest issue, the most misunderstood, the most confusing issue that you are ever going to find anywhere in all the Bible.

Here is what he says:

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

I am telling you something of dying truth. I would bet on this, if I were a betting man, you could not find 10 Christians in Kansas City today. You probably could not find 10 pastors that understand and could explain to you what the baptism of Moses is. Yet, look what he says. Verse 1 says, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant." This is one of the seven things in your New Testament that God tells you as a New Testament, church-going, Bible-believing, washed-in-the-blood Christian. There are seven things you are not to be ignorant of. Yet, in every case, as we have looked at them, they are the seven most things that God's people are ignorant of.

Now, how do you explain that? How do you explain that God gave you and I in His book seven things that He says, "I want you to know this, do not be ignorant of this one thing"? Yet, when it comes to God's people, if you would ask them what this baptism was, they would look at you like a frog in a hailstorm. They would be lost as a golf ball in high weeds. They could not figure it out.

The reason the Old Testament, by the events that Israel goes through, how they fail, how they succeed, how they struggle, their victories, their defeats, the reason why the Bible in the Old Testament takes such meticulous time to lay all that out is because you and I as New Testament Christians will face the same challenges and struggles that Israel does.

I do not have time to read it this morning, but do you know what 1 Corinthians 10 is all about? It is all about showing you the thing that the nation of Israel went through. In this case, he is coming down through here and he is showing you how the children of Israel are coming out of Egypt. This story is about them coming out of Egypt. When they pass through the Red Sea, what happens? God opens up that Red Sea, and they pass through on dry ground. But the Bible says that as they go through, they get baptized unto Moses in a cloud. What does that mean?

Have you ever been to Niagara Falls? Have you ever watched that water rushing over, cascading over the American Falls and the Canadian Falls? You can stand right down there at the guardrail, never get in the water, and come away soaking wet. Do you know why? The mist, the spray, the vapor from the water will soak you. That is what happened here. They are going through, coming out of Egypt, going through the Red Sea. As they go through, they get immersed. They are under the water, and they get absolutely soaking wet.

The reason why the Old Testament lays itself out in such meticulous ways, in 1 Corinthians 10, is a great chapter for you to detail out. Because God shows you their defeats, He shows you their struggles, and He shows you their victories. Then He says this, He says in verse 6 that these things, the things that Israel went through, in this case we are in the book of Exodus here.

1 Corinthians 10:6

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Then He says in verse 11:

1 Corinthians 10:11-12

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Now, He is clearly telling you in this chapter that the things in the Old Testament, in this case the book of Exodus, in this case the baptism of Moses, is in there to show you something. Then He says, and it is an example. He says that it is an ensample, and I have told you this before, an example is something that you do, an ensample is something that you are. Then He says that these things are for our admonition, us, on whom the end of the world has come. That is us! We are right here at the end of the world, waiting for the rapture, waiting for the Lord to come back, that is us.

Then this story and the baptism of Moses in this story, 1500 years before Jesus Christ shows up, has something in it for you and I to learn. Somebody asked me one time, years ago, they said,

"Why did God write the Bible the way He did it? Why did God take the Bible and spread it out in such a fashion?" In fact, the guy said, "If I were writing the book, I could have taken everything and made it into a lot smaller book, laid it out a lot easier to read, where you did not have to go through a thousand different ways to get one truth and one answer. Why did not God just lay it out and give it all to you plain and just put it down there where you can open a book and walk away with it and have everything that God wanted you to know?"

First of all, the reason He did that is because God knows human nature. He wants to prove you. Do you know how He proves you and me? He proves you and I by telling us to study to show thyself approved unto God. Not me. You do not have anything to prove to me. Your time in the Word of God is proving something to God, not me. I could care less. I do not care whether you study the Bible or not. I mean, I do, but I do not. Personally, I do not. I only care that I get to study it. It is between you and God. Your approval, people all the time, they think of what I think about them. I do not think anything. You do not need to worry about what I think about you. You do not need to think what I think about your time in the Word of God. You do not need to worry about and fret over what Bob thinks about me either doing this or doing that. You need to worry about what God thinks about it. Forget me. I am a nothing. He is the one you ought to worry about.

A guy asked me one time, he said, "Why did not God do it that way, step by step?" Well, as I said, for one thing, He wants you to study. If you want to have a victorious Christian life and you want to overcome all the issues that you are going to have to face as a child of God, He gave you seven men in the Old Testament. You study those seven men, there will be nothing else to study. Nothing. Not a thing. Not a thing. It will all be there. You want to get wisdom and then you want to get understanding, He gave you five wisdom books. Get them down. You have it. It is as simple as that. You do not have to go any farther than that.

But in spite of all of that, let me tell you something. In many things, that is exactly what He did do. There are many things in the Bible that God gave you an ABC plan, a step-by-step breakdown of everything that you need to do. There are some places you just have not found them yet. 1 Corinthians 10 is that kind of place.

Now, He told you in 1 Corinthians 10 that the events here in the Old Testament, in this case the book of Exodus, was something for you to be an example, an ensample, and to admonish you. Well, have you ever studied Exodus? Step by step? Do you know what the book of Exodus is all about? The book of Exodus is the book of redemption. They exit the land of Egypt. Did you ever take that book in light of what I am giving you here? The key to understanding this book is that one little place there about baptism, the baptism of Moses. I am going to tell you, as far as I am concerned, the book of Exodus is one of the most incredible books in all the Bible for me. Because the baptism of Moses is a picture of something. Do you want a step-by-step preview of your growth process and what it should be? This is the book. This is the book. This is the book.

SEC: Exodus: A Step-by-Step Blueprint for Spiritual Growth

I have people that I work with all the time. I have people who I see on a regular basis, people who come to Bible study. I have people who do well. I have people who do not do well. Do you

know what I measure them by? Do you know how I can predict that a young man or a young lady is not going to make it? I know you think I am the smartest man in the world, Barb, but that is not true. Nobody is that smart. Do you know how I know that? Do you know how I can watch a young couple's life or a young man's life or a young lady's life? I can watch what they do, and I can almost predict with uncanny accuracy, "He is going to make it, she is not. They are going to make it, they are not." Do you know how I can do that? Because I have an absolute yardstick that shows me step by step. I use it to measure not only my spiritual growth, but everybody's spiritual growth that God puts into my world. Do you know what it is? It is the book of Exodus. It is the order of events that show you the guidelines for your new life in Christ Jesus.

When I start to see a young man or a young gal or a couple that are not going to make it, I will tell you right off the bat. I do not have to know anything about them. I do not have to know what their personal struggles are. I do not have to know about what their marriage situations are. I will simply tell you this: I know that somewhere in this outline that I am going to give you, God wants to show you step by step what your life should be from the moment you, before you got saved, right up to the day you meet Jesus Christ at the judgment seat of Christ. It will be one of these things that has been, or more than one of these things has been forsaken or is a breakdown in your life. When I talk about somebody stopping spiritually growing, I am talking about in the book of Exodus, as we look at this step by step. Somebody did not develop themselves along the lines the way that they should. Now they are violating something that is going to kill them spiritually. The Christian life is not hard. Man makes it tough.

What I am about to show you, without a doubt, is the most absolutely incredible concept that you are ever going to get from me out of the Bible. I do not know, as far as your Christian life is concerned, of any other thing that I could give you that would accurately portray a measuring stick that in your life you can put these things in it and almost detail your spiritual growth inch by inch, step by step. At the same time, if you are having a problem today, someplace in your spiritual life, it will be along this course. So sit back, close your Bibles, and buckle your seatbelt.

When I come to the book of Exodus, it is an absolutely incredible book. I already told you it is the book that deals with redemption. What does that mean? It means it is the book that shows the nation of Israel coming out of Egypt and entering on a journey. That journey starts in Egypt. That journey ends in the Promised Land. Egypt in your Bible will always be a type of the world. In this case, it is a very real type of the world. The Promised Land will always represent the spiritual place in your life that you grow to, that you live in a land that God has for you, not by your own power, not by your own abilities, but by your ability to trust the promises of God.

Historically, God told Israel this: "I am bringing you out of Egypt, and I am going to take you to a land that is overflowing with milk and honey." Now, guys, you can be there in four weeks. How long it takes you to get there depends on how well you do what I tell you to do. We find out that a four-week journey took them 40 years. 40 years for a four-week journey. I ask this question to you, the child of God. If you are a visitor here, I am not talking to you. I am talking to my people. How long is it going to take you? How long are you going to wander before you get your head out of the sand and realize that you have something that God wants you to do?

How long is it going to take for you to get from the world where God saved you from to the land that you live by the promises of God?

When Israel got right up to the land, God allowed the spies to go over. He allowed Joshua to go over. Then they all come back, and the rest of them were all camped there, and they all come down, and they say, "Whoa. I am not sure this was such a good idea." "Well, what do you mean?" "You realize, yes, the grapes over there are as big as softballs. The potatoes are as big as basketballs. The apples are as big as grapefruit. Everything over there is big, including the inhabitants. Joshua, I saw some guys over there that are 25 feet tall. There are giants over there. This thing is not going to be a piece of cake. Look at us. If I took this guy toe to toe, literally it is toe to toe, I would have to get a stepladder to crack his kneecap. My little sword is this long. You have to see his. I do not know what we are going to do."

About that time, the Lord showed up, and He said, "Boys, do not panic now. This is all by design. You see, you have that land over there. In fact, I am pretty much giving it to you. You see those giants over there? Well, I am telling you something. If you go into that land by your own power and your own strength and your own might, they are going to whip you. But if you go into that land taking the promises that I gave you, and boys, that is why I call it the Promised Land. It is the land where you have to live by My promises. I do not care how big they are." Do you know where the phrase came, "The bigger they are, the harder they fall"? It came out of Joshua 1. God says, "Do not be afraid of how big they are. They will receive it to you that is in the world."

That Promised Land is a picture of you and me where we have to get to. Where you and I have to get to is the place where in this world, with all the giants that want to kick your rear end tomorrow, you can take the promises of God and live in the midst of those giants, defeating them. He said to Israel, "If you do not keep the promises, they will whip you." I say to you, "If you do not hide the Word of God in your heart, this world will whip you." Am I being too theological for anybody, or is that plain where we can all grab it? It is as simple as that. We are in a warfare just as they were. Though their warfare was carnal, they had real swords, they had real spears. Ours is spiritual. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. We wrestle against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places. But the promises are the promises wherever you go.

Do you know what you have in Exodus? Do you know what you have built around this little baptism of Moses? Do you want a step-by-step way to gauge where you are at in your relationship with God? You do not need me to tell you. Just go to the book of Exodus. Are you all buckled up? Here we go.

> *Bondage in Egypt (Exodus 1-3)*

Do you know what you have in Exodus 1, 2, and 3? You have the nation of Israel under the bondage of Egypt. Pharaoh is the type of the devil. Egypt is the type of the world. Do you know what Joseph said back there at the end of Genesis when he knew they were all going down to Egypt? He says, "When God brings you out, do not leave my bones in Egypt." Do you know what Jacob said? Jacob said, "Boys, I know we are going down to Egypt, but when God fulfills His

promise and God brings us out, do not let my bones stay down there." Do you know what Egypt is? It is a picture of the world. They did not want to be part of that world system. For 430 years, the nation of Israel was under the bondage of a place called Egypt, which is a picture of the world, and a man called Pharaoh, who is a picture of the devil. The devil and Egypt and Pharaoh and the world have one thing that they want to do: it is to destroy the people of God by putting them under the bondage of this world for 400 years.

I am telling you, the bondage of Egypt is a picture of the bondage of sin. Before you and I were slaves, we were slaves in Egypt land. You know it. The world will take from you all it can. It will work you. It will destroy you. It will run you up one side and down the other from sunup to sundown, and then it will leave you where you drop. That is the world.

In Exodus 1, 2, or 3, I am not speaking for you now. This is my measuring stick. If you want to apply it, help yourself. If you do not, help yourself. But I look at this and I see Bob Alexander before God saved him. I see my life in the bondage of this world. I see the world with its oppressive foot on my neck. I see the Israelites down there in Egypt making bricks for Pharaoh's world. Every factory I worked in, everything that I did as an unsaved man, I was making bricks for this world in some form or fashion that would build this system. All it wanted to do at the end of the day was destroy my life. For 430 years, they were down under the bondage of Egypt. For 20 years of my life, I was under the bondage of Pharaoh, the devil, and this old world system that had one goal in mind, and that was to destroy me.

I come down through this story. I love it. The Bible says the bondage is so oppressive that Pharaoh is so wicked. All that he wants to do is make life absolutely impossible for the inhabitants of Egypt that they are against. The Bible says that they cried out by reason of their bondage. For 400 years under the iron furnace of Egypt, then it says in Exodus 2:23-25:

Exodus 2:23-25

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

> God Sends a Deliverer (Exodus 3-6)

Do you know what you have in Exodus 3, 4, 5, and 6? I will tell you what I have. I cannot speak for you. I will tell you what I have. I read Exodus 1, 2, and 3, and I see my life under the bondage of this old world for 20 years. And I cried out to God. I see in Exodus 3, 4, 5, and 6, just like God heard the bondage of Israel, God heard my cry. Just like He sent them a deliverer, God sent me a deliverer.

Do you know what you have in Exodus 3, 4, 5, and 6? I will tell you what you have. You have the day that God looked down on your naked soul and saw you under the bondage of this world. You

have the day that God's hand reached down, and you were touched by the true light of God. You have the day that Psalms 40 says, "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." You have the day when the Bible says, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock." You have the day that it says, "He established my goings." You have the day that "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." I will tell you what you have. You have the book of Exodus step by step. Everything that God has done in your life and my life, the time that we were under the bondage and we cried out, and then God sent me a deliverer.

Oh, the love that true salvation planned! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man! Oh, the mighty God that God did span at Calvary when God came down and heard my cry! Oh, wait. Let me not get ahead here. Yes, God sent me a deliverer. Yes, God came down to the children of Israel, and He wanted to deliver them by a great miracle. I am going to tell you something. It was going to take an absolute miracle for God to take the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt. It was going to take an absolute miracle for God to get Bob Alexander out of his sin.

> *The Battle for the Soul (Exodus 7-11)*

Before we go there, yes, Exodus 1, 2, and 3 show me under the bondage of this world. Exodus 3, 4, 5, and 6, God sent them and me a deliverer. But wait. Exodus 7, 8, 9, 10, 11: the old adversary shows up for one purpose, to keep them from leaving Egypt.

Before you go too far, I want to tell you something today. The moment God touches your soul and shows you that He is the way out, the devil is going to show right up, and he is going to do everything, and then begins the battle for your soul. I dare say here this morning, just knowing the world and human nature the way I do, that before this morning is through with you hearing what you now are hearing, knowing what you already know, there is a battle going on inside you, and it is for your soul. God is telling you to listen to what I am saying. God is reaching out, and maybe for the first time, through this feeble mouth, these unclean hands, this frail human man God is using today, and through this unworthy servant, God is speaking and telling you, "You need to come to Christ." It goes in one ear, and the devil is telling you on the other side, "Do not listen to that old crackpot."

The battle for their soul. How many times I have seen it. They hear the message of God, and out of the clear blue, an old boyfriend shows up. An old girlfriend shows up. Problems at job, their mom and their dad, their in-laws, somebody, their old friends and their family. The devil shows up and begins to unwind everything that God is trying to do.

When I come down through Exodus 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, I simply see Moses standing before Pharaoh saying, "Let my people go." Pharaoh saying, "I am not letting you go." The battle rages. The battle rages.

> *Salvation by Blood (Exodus 12)*

Then we come to Exodus 12. I call Exodus 12 the Gospel according to Exodus. Because it is in Exodus 12 that the devil loses his bid for the nation of Israel, and God brings them out. Do you

know how God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt, a type of the world? The same way He brought you and me out of the world: by the blood of a lamb.

Do you know the story of Exodus 12? Sure you do. God says, "I promised you 430 years ago I am going to deliver you, and tonight I am going to deliver you. At midnight, God is going to come through, and He is going to put an end to the battle for your soul." Here is what you have to do: "You go get yourself a lamb, a male lamb, age the 13th. Tomorrow is the 14th of April. Kill it tomorrow on the 14th, the same day Christ was crucified on. You take that innocent lamb, you slit his throat, you pour his blood into a bucket, and then you take a piece of hyssop and you go out in front of your door, and you put blood on this side of the door, blood on that side of the door, and blood on the top lintel." One thief here, one thief here. He is numbered with the transgressors, but He is higher than they are; He is deity.

Let me tell you about that blood. This was a night like any other night in Egypt. He says, we sing the song, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood, when I see the blood, I will pass over you." He said in Exodus 12:13:

Exodus 12:13

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Do you know what he says? "When I see the blood." Somebody said, "Well, baptism saves you." He said, "When I see the blood," not the baptism. We said, "I think church membership saves you." "When I see the blood," not the church membership. I do not know why people have such a tough time about it.

I go out here to KCI International Airport, going to take a plane trip someplace. I walk up to the gate, the woman says, "Can I help you?" I said, "I want to get on this plane." She says, "That is fine. Can I see your ticket?" I said, "Do not have a ticket." She said, "Well, you have to have a ticket to get on the plane." I said, "Well, I do not have a ticket." She said, "Well, Mr. Alexander, I am sorry, but you have to have a ticket to get on the plane." I said, "Well, wait a minute, ma'am. You see that guy over there? He got on the plane. If you knew what I knew about that guy, you would not let him on that plane." She says, "Man, I do not care about anything you did. He has got a ticket. Mr. Alexander, do you have a ticket?" "No." "Okay, no plane." "But you left so-and-so on that plane." "He has got a ticket. Mr. Alexander, read my lips: No ticket, no plane." Do you understand that? Do you understand that? Then why would you blink at something like that? No blood, no ticket. Simple as that.

But God's people are so fickle. I know God's people because I know human nature, and I told you it did not change. Do you know what it is like in your house today with some of you? The same way it was like back there. Nothing has changed. Let me give you three examples.

We walk down here now, it is about 9:30. 9:30 on the 14th day. God said He is coming at midnight. He said, "Well, I am going to go to the airport." God said He is coming at midnight. Now, let us just take a little journey. Look at those streets winding down through Egypt. We are

in the Jewry section. We are walking down through there. Nobody is moving. Leaves rustling down those old streets. All the places are boarded up, and you see all these houses with blood on the sides and on the top. Let us go in one of them. Here is one.

"George, what is the matter?" "Well, he said put the blood on the door, and I will tell you what. He is coming tonight, man. I put the blood on the door. He said put the blood on the door. I put it on the door." She said, "George, what is the problem? He said put the blood on the door. Did you put the blood on the door?" "Yeah, I did." "Well, what are you worried about?" "Well, what if I did not put it on right? I mean, what if I did not get enough in the bucket? I mean, what if I did not get enough on?" She said, "George, what did he say?" "He said put the blood on the door." "I know, I know, I know, but what if I got the timing down this thing wrong? What if the lamb was not right?" She said, "George, was it a lamb without spot?" "Yes." "Was it a male?" "Yes." "Did you put it on the door?" "Yes." "George, I just cannot. I just cannot. He is coming at midnight. This is the worst night of my life. What if I did not do it right? What if I did not get it right? How about if I did not get enough on? Did you read in there how much we are supposed to put on? I just do not know. I just do not know. I just do not worry about."

Let us go to another house right down the street. Dad is sitting in the living room. All the kids around him. He is telling them the story. "Kids, tonight at midnight, God is going to get us out of here. God promised that to our great-great-great ancestor Abraham. Even 400 years down here, it has been a tough time." About that time, the oldest teenage boy comes in, he says, "Dad, Dad, excuse me, Dad, can I borrow the camel? Some of the guys are meeting down by the pyramids tonight, and I just want to..." He said, "No, not tonight, son. Come on and sit down." "But Dad, all the guys are down there. I will fill it up with gas. I just need to borrow the camel." He said, "Son, it is not about that. The Lord is coming through tonight." The kid said, "Oh, Dad, we have heard that." He said, "Son, He is coming. Now sit down." The boy sat down there, and Dad said, "He is coming tonight, and I have the blood on the door." The little kid said, "Daddy, I went out and saw the blood. I saw you kill that lamb. He is going to take us out because of the blood." And Daddy said, "What God says, God does." "Wow, Daddy, that is neat."

Now, let me ask you a question. I gave you two stories. Which one was safer? They both were. It is just some people enjoy their salvation. Some people are scared to death of it. See how it works? Human nature has never changed. Never changed. Never changed.

Then you have the other guy. He is down there, and he is watching the ball game, and he is busy doing his stuff. The Cairo Kings are playing the Memphis Ragtag, and he is down there watching them. His wife said, "Honey, it is 10 o'clock now. You have everything taken care of? The blood on the door?" "Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. The blood is on the door. No problem, no problem." A little girl came in about that time, she said, "Daddy, did you get the blood on the door?" He said, "Yeah, honey. Go, go, go, go, go." "But Daddy, but Daddy, honey, honey, that is okay." "Daddy, Daddy, I am the firstborn. I am the one that is going to die tonight. The blood is not on the door, Daddy." He says, "Honey, honey, it is okay, it is okay." He says, "Daddy, I have to see it." He said, "Okay, come on." Picture out there, he opens up that door. No blood on the door. He left it for a servant to do, and it did not get done. He runs out, gets that lamb, and gets that blood all over the door. Human nature has not changed. It has not changed a bit. It has not changed a bit.

If you had walked down through that thing at 10 o'clock at night, it would have looked like any other night in Egypt. If you had gone down there at 11 o'clock, it would have looked like any other night in Egypt. If you would have gone down there at quarter to 12, it would have looked like any other night. At one minute to 12, you could not have told the difference between any other night, but at midnight, He came through, and it was the blood that got them through.

> Sanctification (Exodus 13)

Out God leads them. Out God leads them. In Exodus 12, you see they get covered by the blood, and then in Exodus 13, as they begin their journey, they learn the lesson of sanctification. They learn the lesson that sanctification and salvation go hand in hand.

Exodus 13:8-9

And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.

And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

When you got saved, the Bible says you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. When He brings you out of Egypt, the world, you do not have anything to do with the world again. You do not have anything to do with the world once you get brought out. You have to be separated. You have to be sanctified. It says sanctified in your hands, sanctified in your eyes, and sanctified in your mouth. Your hand represents the thing that you do. Your eyes represent the thing that you see. Your mouth represents the thing that you say. They are sanctified, set apart.

When some guy or some gal gets saved and suddenly some old boyfriend or some old girlfriend shows back up who is lost without Christ, you violate the principle there you are. You can rationalize it, justify it all you want. You set yourself apart because of what God did for you. He separated you from the world. "Come ye out from him, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing," no matter how beautiful she is, no matter how handsome he is.

> Water Baptism (Exodus 14)

Now here it comes. We have seen them in bondage. We have seen God send a deliverer. Now we have seen them saved and brought out. We now understand that they understand sanctification, and now on their journey in Exodus 14, they get baptized. Baptism is one of the two ordinances in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 11. They are baptized under the New Testament, and they are baptized just like you and I are baptized under the New Testament authority of a Baptist church in the Old Testament. You notice they are not under the law yet. They are in a type in the Bible, and it is a picture of grace. They do not have the law yet. When they come out of that thing, after they get saved and they start that journey to the Promised Land, a spiritual maturity, the first thing they do is when they line up with the promises of God, they get baptized.

Do you know why I got baptized? Do you know why? You need to get baptized if you got saved because everybody in the New Testament after they got saved got baptized. Water baptism does

absolutely nothing, but it means something. We will get into it later, a couple of weeks away yet before we get to the true one.

> The New Song (Exodus 15)

Then we get to Exodus 15. In Exodus 15, we have the song of Moses. This is my favorite part. Because it said in Psalms 14, "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

Now, I do not know what you know about music. I have told you before, and someday when I get the time, I am going to bring you through a biblical study of music through history. I want to tell you this: when God gave you a new song in your heart, even praise unto our mouth, that is the only thing that should motivate any music you have in your life, what Christ did for you on Calvary's cross.

We have the idea today in Christian circles. I am going to tell you right up front, I am the worst music critic you could have. I appreciate, they are not here this morning, but they called me a couple of weeks ago, and basically everybody calls me when they call about singing the sign-out song. One of the things they ask me is, "What kind of music do we have?" I make no apologies to tell them that we have Bible-based music. I am not into a lot of contemporary stuff. I do not mind some contemporary stuff, but I am not into a... We do not have a praise band because you do not praise God with a band. We do not have a bunch of praise singers up here that when Danny is up here leading the singing, they motivate you to sing. Let me tell you something, if what God did in your heart is not enough motivation for you to sing, shoot the band.

I will tell you something else. I will tell you what is wrong with music today in our churches. They do not understand Exodus 15 because Exodus 15 is the song of Moses. It says in Exodus 15:1:

Exodus 15:1-6

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Does that sound like any song you hear today in most churches? There was a time when I stood at a ball game and heard the Star-Spangled Banner that my back stiffened, my hand went all the way down to the creases of my pants, and I stood at attention just like I did when I was in the military. Some man or some lady would stand out there and sing the Star-Spangled Banner, and it would put goose pimples down my back many, many years after I hung up my M16 and M14 and turned in my dog tags. But I have to tell you, this new singing, I stood there and listened to whoever he was sing the Star-Spangled Banner, and I thought, "Here is a guy that should not have eaten that pepperoni pizza before he sang." His gas attack was influencing his voice. It was a disgrace.

I am telling you, in Christian music, it is the exact same thing. Where did our Christian men and women get the idea that your singing is for your self-expression? It is not for your self-expression, it is for God's expression. Whatever you sing has to start in your heart on the basis of not entertainment, not how good you are, but in reality how rotten you are and God has put a new song in your mouth, and you sing from there. Get Exodus 15:1, "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD." You are not singing to the crowd. You are not entertaining the crowd. You are singing unto the Lord. Do you even have an idea of what kind of song pleases the Lord? This song does.

Do you know how many songs there are in the Bible? Do not even answer that. I know you do not. Do you know what kind of songs they are? If I were going to preach a message, do you know how I try to preach? I try to preach the messages that God has given me examples of in the Old Testament and New Testament. I want to preach like Micaiah. Do you know how Micaiah preached? His verse was simply this: in the face of Ahab and Jezebel and everybody in Israel against him, he simply said, "What the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak." Those are my models for preaching. Not some guy out in the Crystal Cathedral. Not some guy down in Virginia or South Carolina or Springfield that wears \$900 suits. My models are the men in the Bible who got into the pulpit, who looked adversity in the eyeball, and stepped up to the plate and let them have it. Why do you sing any differently?

My standard answer is when they call me on the phone, "What kind of music do you have?" I say, "Well, that is a big thing with me, but just let me tell you this: there never will be less doctrine in our music than there is in our preaching." Do you know who the greatest musician is in the Bible? Do not answer that. I know you do not. If I were going to be a good musician for God, I would just think I would go through the Bible until I found the greatest musician in the Bible, found out what he was like, and then pattern my music ministry after that. But that is just me.

My Bible says in Colossians 3:16:

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

I dare you to say there is one Christian in this room that could open up, stand up right now, and explain to me what is a Psalm, what is a hymn, and what is a spiritual song based on the book. Then why are you singing? Why around this Christian world are so many people getting up, pretending they have a relationship with God? Just like when I get up and preach, when you get up and sing, you are doing the exact same thing that I am doing. When I get up to preach, I am preaching to you out of the song that God put in my heart. I want you to notice in Colossians 3 it says at the end of that verse, "to the Lord." It says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Then it says, "grace in your hearts." It starts in your heart.

You better find out. I had a young kid one time, I have told you this story, I had a kid one time that probably was one of the brightest young men that I ever met. I tell you, when I get somebody that is a quote-unquote Christian singer, when I get somebody like that and I am in close proximity to them, I always leave my mark on them. Any good junkyard dog is going to bite you no matter what you are trying to do. He may just bite you once or he might bite you a lot. But I always leave my teeth in them some way.

I asked this kid. He was telling me all the things that he did musically, and he was great, one of the greatest singers I ever heard. But I am not impressed by that. I asked him, "Let me ask you a question. Who is the greatest musician in the Bible?" He did not know. Then I asked him, "What kind of songs does God really like?" He did not know. Then he proceeded to tell me that he had memorized, trying to impress me now because he failed the first two questions, he tried to impress me by telling me, "But I have memorized over 300 songs." I said, "That is great. Did you memorize 300 Bible verses?" He had not. Now, let me ask you a question. Do you think it impresses me that you know more songs than you know Bible verses? Do you think it impresses me that you stand up in front of somebody and sing, and you do not even know who the greatest musician is in the Bible? Do you think it impresses me that you get up and you can sing? I am not talking about you guys. I am talking about musicians in general. You can get up and you can sing around the country and around the world, and everybody just falls down at your feet, and yet you do not even know what kind of songs God approves of? If I preached like some of God's people sing, you would fire me. What would you think if I got up here and gave you some mush-mouth message about nothing?

> Supernatural Food (Exodus 16)

Exodus 16. This whole thing, chapter by chapter, you get into Exodus 16, now they are out in the wilderness. When they are out in the wilderness, they have nothing to eat. Wilderness is a type of, now that you are saved, you are out in the world, you are not of the world, but you are in the world, and the world now does not satisfy them. Do you know why? Because you are separate. So do you know what they do? God has to give them supernatural food. Do you know what God did for you when there was nothing in this world that would satisfy you after you got saved? God gave you supernatural food, gave you the Bible. In this case, it is the manna from heaven.

When you come down in Exodus 16, you have one of the greatest studies you will ever study anywhere in the Word of God. The manna was supernatural. The manna came to right where the people were. The manna had to be gathered daily. The manna was for nourishment and for

strength. It came to them, but they had to labor to pick it up. It was right outside the tent door every morning. All they had to do was pick it up. But the fact that God made it so available and God brought it right to them, do you know what they did? When they opened up that tent door in the morning, they had a decision to make. They either picked it up and ate it, or they trampled it under their feet. You have the same decision.

The Bible says in Exodus 16:16 that every man gathered it according to the number of his house. The Bible says in Exodus 16:17, some gathered more and some gathered less. That is just the way it is. The manna was preserved. The manna was eaten, not to be looked at on a coffee table. The mixed multitude hated the manna that God gave them.

> Prayer Life (Exodus 17)

Then we get into Exodus 17. Do you know what you have a picture of? You have a picture of your prayer life and the battle of Rephidim and Amalek. Great study on your prayer life. Do you know there are three things in the Bible that the Bible says that you and I as Christians are our infirmities? We have three infirmities that are listed as a Christian. Do you know what they are? No, you do not. I knew you did not know it when I asked it to you.

Now, let me ask you a question. How could you be a Christian for 15 years and not find that out? I do not know. I am just asking. I am just trying to get you to understand how non-Christian we Christians can be. You have three infirmities that the Bible mentions. All you have to do is take a concordance and look up the word "infirmity." It is only three times in your Bible. Some gathered more, some gathered less. You come to me saying, "I am struggling." What are the three infirmities you have? "I do not know, but I will tell you KU stats, I will give you Mizzou stats, I will tell you everybody else's stats." See how non-Christian we Christians become? The sermon is going to be a tough message. I do not know what to tell you.

Down in this story, you have Joshua. That is a picture of your new nature. You have Amalek. That is a picture of your old nature. Moses is a picture of you and me. He stands on the mountain. A battle is going on between Joshua and Amalek. When Moses holds up his hands, Joshua wins the battle. Picture your prayer life. When Moses drops his hands, Joshua gets his tail kicked. Picture your prayer life. Moses' hands get heavy. What does he do? He calls two buddies on the phone, Aaron and Hur, and he says, "Man, I have a deep spiritual problem. Will you pray with me?" Do you know what they do? They come over and they hold up his hands. That is what you have. Every step of your relationship, the measuring stick. If you fail, you will fail in one of these places. One of these places.

> Avoiding Bad Advice (Exodus 18-19)

Exodus 18 and 19. You get the wrong advice here. In Exodus 18 and 19, Jethro comes to Moses and tells Moses he is doing things the wrong way. Now, I have to say to you, in every Bible college I have ever been associated with, other than one or two, and in every pastor I have ever heard preach about this or teach about this, everybody takes this as Jethro's good advice to Moses and even comes to the place that they will teach their young leaders that this is how you

minister. This is one of the biggest disasters that ever happened in the nation of Israel. Jethro's advice to Moses is bad advice.

What it teaches you and shows you is that when God puts somebody in your world who you trust with the Word of God, as the old saying goes, "Dance with the one who brought you." Because old Jethro comes in and he says to Moses eight or nine things that he is not to do. Yet, when you go over to the New Testament, those are the exact nine things God tells Moses he was supposed to do. Jethro shows up to Moses, giving Moses his advice. If you study the life of Moses, you will find in every chapter where Moses had a decision to make, God met with him face to face and told him what to do, except this chapter. It is a picture of Moses forsaking the message of God, the man of God, the mission of God, the Word of God, and taking the word of somebody else. I am telling you.

Now, right now, I am going to give you some advice. Right now, I am the pastor of this church. I do not deserve to be, but I am. Someday somebody else may pastor it. Right now, it is my call. Let me give you some advice. If you have confidence in me, I am not perfect. I mean, you think I am, I am not. Do not ever put me on a pedestal. I am not perfect. If you have been around me sometime when things go bad and somebody really ticks me off, you would have to look hard to find a sailor who could outdo me. Find a sailor who could outdo me. "Confess your faults one to another," here I am.

At this particular point in time, for whatever reason, God, in His soft foot, who put me in here, thinks that I have something for you. Do you know what my advice is to you? Wear me out. Wear me out. Some of you guys, when you come over to my house, I have to make you go home. I have another appointment coming in, and you are saying, "Give me just one more half hour." No. Right, John? Becca, where are you at? Do you know what? In most pastors' lives, you would be a pain in the rear end. Do you know why? You are always asking why. In most pastors' lives, they would say, "Somebody, get this woman out of my life." That is how you learn.

Brian, how long have you been in the Bible? Really. I mean, we have been meeting, but how long have you started taking it seriously in your life? I cannot hear you, Brian. If you are going to be a man, speak up like a man. "Last couple years." We met together yesterday, right? Or Friday. Brian taught me seven things about the Bible that I did not see before. Now, if I am the pastor, that should bother me. So here is how I will say that. Brian came over Friday. Brian is a fine man. Fine little guy. Brian, in the course of our study, Brian, thank you, Brian, Brian helped me rediscover some things that I had learned a long time ago, but in the busyness of the ministry, I had lost sight of. God bless you, son. God bless you. No, no, no! No! He gave me seven things I missed. Seven things that I missed, did he not? Did I not stop you and write them down in there? Was I not doing that? You bet I was. I do it with most of you, most of you. Marion has a hard time getting through, but I keep stopping and writing things in.

You see, you teach me as I teach you, but I am telling you, you want to get it? Get on my six and stay on my tail. Get everything you can get from me before I am dead. Get everything you can, drain everything out of my brain. I come over from our Bible studies on Monday when we used to do them. We do not do them anymore because they departed from the faith and they hate God

now, but I used to have great times on Monday in the Bible, and I would come back, and I felt like somebody, I mean, four hours with four people. That is an hour apiece, sometimes five, and there she is. "What about this? What about that? What about this? What about that?" "What about going down and getting some duct tape, Rebecca?" That is how you do it. That is my job. That is what you pay me for. That is what I do. Get everything you can from me, and at the same time, the moment I teach you contrary to that book, drop-kick me through the goalposts of life and find somebody else. That is my job. That is what I am to do. Your job, if you are sincere and you want to learn, get on my tail and ride me into the sunset. Get everything from me you can. I am not the only source of information, but you can trust me. I will not knowingly mislead you. I will always try to do the best, honest, open job.

Somebody asked the other week on Thursday night Bible study, "Why, who else?" It was Rebecca. "Who did you ask, walked around naked for three and a half years?" "Who was it?" "Isaiah." She raises her hand. "Why?" I do not mind, but try to say "why" differently. Say, "Why, white man, why?" "Why did Isaiah walk around preaching three and a half years naked?" Now, I know the historical answer. I know the theological answer. But the truth of the matter is, every preacher has to preach naked with clothes on. You ought to be able to see right through him and see what he is made of. That is why. That is why. When you find that guy, get on his rear end and ride him into the dirt. Suck everything out of his brain. Get everything you can. I did. I did. I bugged him so bad, brother, that they could not stand it. Because that is the only way you learn. That is the only way you learn. Because there is everybody else out there that wants to give you bad advice.

You want to get part of my ministry? Get where I am at. I am here Sunday morning, Thursday night, and every other time we have something to do. You get there, you will get there. If you are not there, I cannot use you. You are nice people, but you are never going to get to the place where you just get it down. Because I had to get it from getting on two guys' rear ends and riding them into the dirt. Sucking everything out of them I could before they died. They are not dead yet, but they do not have nothing left because I got it all. They are alive with their brain dead. Make me brain dead. Come over to my house, sit down, and get everything you can. Then apply it. Then, what I am telling you again, when I teach you wrong, find somebody else. Get another church. Do not put up with bad teaching from anybody, especially me. If you cannot trust the man to teach you the Bible, find the man you can. I do not know how else to say it.

But here is a case where Moses was getting everything he needed from God, and Jethro comes in and just destroys everything that God is doing. In Numbers, it leads to a rebellion, and it is one big mess because they quit following God and the Word of God, and they quit following the man of God, Moses, and they started following Jethro. Then instead of trusting God, they started trusting Jethro.

> *The Giving of the Law (Exodus 20-24)*

Exodus 20 through 24. You have the giving of the law. This is very important because as we as New Testament Christians need to understand the Old Testament in our New Testament world, law versus grace. The book of Romans 7, as most of Romans in the first four, five, six, seven,

eight chapters, all deals with how we are dead to the law and alive in Christ. As New Testament Christians, we need to understand the law that was given to Israel, how it applies to us, and how it does not apply to us. The key is Colossians 2, obviously. The Ten Commandments, as I know this is not popular teaching, the Ten Commandments were not given for anybody to keep. The Ten Commandments were given to show you how far short you and I fall short of what God expects. In Galatians 3, you have another piece of the puzzle, where in verse 24 he says that the law was our schoolmaster that brought us to Christ. It showed me my condition that I needed a Savior. Great study.

> Aspects of Ministry (Exodus 25-40)

Now, I am almost done here. Exodus 25 through 40, the end of the book, you have every aspect of the ministry. Do you want to be in the ministry, guys? Do you want to do something? Do you think you are in the ministry? Do you think you have been around now 8 or 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40 years now, and you are all ready for the ministry? Well, let me ask you a question. The ministry is three aspects in your Bible. Do you know what they are? Do you know what they are? Do you know what they are? Certainly you do not. If I told you what they were, you probably could not open a Bible and explain them, but this is what you have to learn. This is what I am trying to teach you, and this is why some gather more and some gather less.

All of my life, I have had people around me that heard everything I said, and some of them have learned it, and some of them have not. Do you know why? Some gather more and some gather less. That is why. Nothing personal. Some gather more, some gather less. Some make it a priority, some do not. Some know the Bible inside out and can lay it out. Others know the KU score, the MU score, and everybody else out there. Some of God's people know the Bible upside down, inside out. Some of you can track a wounded deer through the brush and find it when nobody else can. Some of you know the Word of God, some of you know it, some of you do not. But some of you can find a fishing spot in any lake where nobody else can catch fish, and you know right where to go. Some gathered more, some gathered less.

Personally, I respect you for the fact that you can track a deer through the woods. I have always respected guys where nobody else is catching fish, they go to that spot and catch it. That does impress me to a certain degree. But do you know what? It is not going to impress God at the judgment seat of Christ. Instead of tracking the blood of a deer through the woods, I would rather track the blood of Christ through my Bible.

The last part of this book is simple. Exodus 25 through 27 deals with the Tabernacle. Three areas of your life in ministry. Do you know what it is? It is your service, it is your ministry, and your calling. I will tell you right now, if you do not know what those things are in the Bible, you are dilly-squatting around, and you are only a pretend person when it comes to ministry. I am just telling you.

I told you this year was going to be a defining year. When we started our marriage enrichment classes or whatever you want to call it, I told you this thing was designed to expose the problems. If we are ever going to go anywhere and we are ever going to do anything, meaning for God in these last days, if we are going to do what I laid out to you last Thursday night, and

we are going to accomplish that when God came down and rattled that cage that night, and everybody there left with one concept, if we are ever going to fulfill that, you are going to have to start getting it down. I do not know of a better book to do it with, as you can obviously see, every aspect step by step by step.

So from Exodus 25 to 40, you have a layout of the three aspects of the ministry. We have come now through everything from you being in Egypt, getting saved, getting sanctified, getting the new song in your heart, getting the Word of God, getting baptized, getting all of those things. You are on the way to the Promised Land. Now, in the last part of this book, from Exodus 25 to 40, you have detailed out the three absolute things you have got to have if you are going to do any kind of work for God.

Service

Calling

Ministry

In Exodus 25 through 27, you have a description of the Tabernacle. That Tabernacle will represent your service. You see, service and ministry are not the same. Service and ministry are not the same. Your service for God is your attitude of heart. It is how you do what you do. There are seven objects of furniture in that Tabernacle. Those seven objects in that Tabernacle picture what ought to be in your temple, the body of Christ, that are absolutely necessary for your service for God. Have you ever studied them? Do not even answer that.

Exodus 28 through 31 deals with your calling. Do you know what your calling is? It is the priesthood. Those great chapters detail out the priesthood in the Old Testament. You are a priest. That is your office as a New Testament Christian. Within that office of the priesthood, you have your calling. A call does not mean you are called to preach. I hear him say, "Well, God has called me to preach." Somebody else says, "Well, God called me to sing." "Well, God called me to this." No, God has called you to be a priest. That is your calling. If you do not understand what that means, you have the wrong call. He has called you to be a priest.

Then Exodus 32 through 40, I call it the point of no return. It is your ministry. It is your mission. Do you know what happens in Exodus 32 through 40? They get faced with a golden calf. Do you know what he says to them down there in Exodus 32:26? He says this: They have come through a lot now, as most of you have come through a lot. Most of you that make it will come through a lot. There comes a point in your life when you follow this systematic section by section layout, and you get all these things in your life exactly the way they need to be. You begin to see these things, and you begin to measure your growth and your walk with God based on your growth process of coming out of Egypt, getting to the place where they are at right now. You are faced with the decision of going back to the world or going for God.

Do you know what Moses says? He simply says this: "Hey, look, boys, while I was gone, God told you what we needed to do. You guys built a golden calf. Now we have a decision to make. We have come a long way, boys and girls. We have seen God do a lot of things in your life. Now, when it comes to the ministry and doing what is right, you have to make a decision: Who is on

the LORD'S side?" They divide them out right there. Do you know what that is in your life and my life? That is the point of no return. That is the point where you 100% buy into what I am selling. That is the point where that book becomes everything in your life. That is the book that it becomes by putting everything in your life, every detail in your life falls into the line that I just gave you. From that point on, you are never going back.

I am not saying you will not stumble, not saying you will not fall, not saying you will not make mistakes. I am saying you will never take yourself out of doing what God... There will be no woman, there will be no man, there will be no job, there will be nothing. There will be no enticement in any way, shape or form that you will ever say, "I am going back to Egypt." When you get to that point in your life, that is when we can get something done.

SEC: The Importance of Diligent Study and Application

My job is twofold: to get you to that point when you make the right decision, and to take you to the next point. It is as simple as that. The baptism of Moses had nothing to do with you and me in the sense of my New Testament Christianity. It was a picture of the whole concept of my life, stuck in one little place that God just... For whoever is paying attention, whoever is inquisitive, whoever keeps asking why, whoever says, "Come on, Bob, just give me another hour, just give me..." Whoever out there who wants to learn would ask the question, "Why did he say the things in Exodus were for my examples and my ensamples? Why did he say they were for my admonition? Why did he say, 'Take heed, lest I fall'?" I will tell you why: because the same struggles, problems, defeats, victories, and everything else that they went through is what you and I go through. The key, get in that book. The key is not me, the key is that book. The key is not anything I have to say, it is only what God says through me.

I am going to tell you one more time. Paul says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." You follow me because I follow Christ. The very second, millisecond, microsecond I depart from teaching you that book, find somebody else to follow. You do not owe me nothing. We owe Him everything. It has to be on that basis, or we will not get the job done.

You look around the world, kids, you know what is facing it. We have talked about it almost every Thursday night. We have laid it out. You know what we are up against. You know we have come to the place where we have got to play this game, the hard line. I am willing to help anybody, anytime, anywhere, any place. You know me. But I am going to do it. All I want you to understand is I am going to do it God's way. I am not going to do it my way, and I am certainly not going to do it your way. Because I know my way does not work, and I am certain your way does not work. But we are going to do it His way. You give me that, I will get you there. If you do not give me that, I do not know where you will wind up. But that is simply the way it works.