Numbers 4:1-11:35 Sunday 11/1/2026

I. Introduction to Church Vision

We have just finished our four-week study on providing a vision for your children in family ministry. We built it around one key verse, Isaiah 29:17-18. We added a lot of other verses to it, but that verse was the fundamental verse we built on, where it says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." I showed you how that is dealing with children, if you look at the verse in 17, and we looked at that. I was careful to show you the parallels of building a family along with building a church. The pastor's job and also the parent's job, they really go hand in hand. Just as the parent must keep a balance in the family, obviously, so the pastor needs to provide a balance in the church family.

With that in mind, and given where we have just come from, today, before we go back into Psalms, and we will be back in the Psalms next week, I thought it was only appropriate, given where we are at and what we finished, that I want to have our own church family vision update, like I instructed and tried to show you how to do it and gave you the models of how to do it. God is doing some tremendous things with our church, and we have seen in our church a real maturity of solid leadership develop over the last five or six years. I think it is absolutely necessary to keep you up on all of what we are doing, where we are going, and what God is doing, and where God has taken us.

Last Sunday, at the end of the service, up in the Timothy Room, we had a meeting, our first meeting for the 28 folks that are going down to the Dominican Republic. I got there just a little late; I was meeting some new people. When I got up there, Danny was already speaking. When I walked in, all 28 people were just sitting around there, and it hit me like a ton of bricks. I looked around, and there were 28 people there that you could not ask for finer people. They were all top-notch tools. I looked around there, and I was overwhelmed by it. Then the thought really hit me, and it really moved me. As I sat there and I looked around at those 28 people, I thought to myself, "You know what? I could replace these 28 people five or six times with the quality of people that we have in this church that will get the job done." Every pastor that has come here, every missionary trip that we have been on so far, or how we have worked with pastors, they all say the same thing. They marvel at how well you all work together. They marvel at how it is seamless in the operation that you work.

Last night, and get this, I understand the Christian world we live in. There are a lot of pastors out there in churches that you think doing what we did last night is of the devil. I guess it was the devil that opened the rain and kept it off, but thank you if that was him. Anyway, they do not see it. The same ones that complain about Halloween are the same ones that will have an Easter service and make God's resurrection an ode to a god of fertility. It is ridiculous. But it is more to me than just reaching the community. If you were here last night, you saw how we reached the community and the response to us in this church. Next year, now that we have had five or six years, next year, Jamie, I am going to get on this side wall out here that faces where everything is, we are going to get a big banner, and we are going to put "Old Path Baptist Church, Your

Community Church. We care about our families in Blue Springs." We are going to put that up there. We have earned the right to do that. But it is more than that. Most guys do not see it. Most guys do not see anything.

The bottom line is the reason why you work so well in these small groups. You should have seen last night, 150 plus of our people working together in unison as one, not one hitch, not one problem. This is where, in the fundamental stages, you train people to work together so that when you get to another church, you get on a mission field, or you get someplace else, it was places like last night. It was like Easter, like Christmas. That is where you galvanize your people to work together in those little areas there that will pay off in the other areas, but they do not see that. All they see is the tunnel vision of what they have been taught and trained. They miss one of the greatest teaching opportunities to build character in people and build teamwork. The core depth of this church is awesome. I have watched it develop. It was in the last five or six years that I watched you guys come on and you gals come on. Sure, you had some issues. You worked through some things. You had to get some things straight, but God began to take you and give you the vision and give you the heart that makes you what you are today. This is all by God's design. I certainly cannot take any credit for it because the bottom line is where you guys are at, I cannot teach you that. There are some things that I can teach you, but I cannot teach you that. I cannot teach you what you did last night. I cannot teach you how you cohesively work together. I cannot teach you that. That comes because inside every one of you, God develops you to the place where you are a leader. The greatest quality of a leader is his ability to follow.

In building a church and building people, it is obviously more than just giving them a vision, though that is where it has to start. For the people to fulfill the call of God in their lives, they need to have a vision, but that is not all you do. There is not just one thing that you do as a pastor to build a strong church. There are many levels to it, and it is building on a number of key areas that the pastor has to see and build into the church, his people, for the vision, as we saw in Habakkuk chapter two when we were going through it, for that vision to come to fruition and to speak. Right now in your lives, you are speaking the vision that God put in your heart. It was obvious last night, obvious with those 28 people. I sat there and I thought to myself, "I could tell this crowd to go home, pick out another 28, bring them up, tell them to go home, pick out another 28." This church is filled with men and women who can step in and do the job. You see it with the guys leading singing. You see it with the guys preaching down at the mission and preaching down at the rest homes and preaching whenever God gives them an opportunity. That is something that this church should covet. It is the young men and the young ladies and the moms and dads and the midline people and even the older folks who make it all possible. There are many levels to building people and building a church. The pastor has to understand that.

II. Biblical Models for Church Building

You are going to find that there are many examples in the Bible that I think are very important. Last Thursday night when we talked about Bible study, somebody asked a question about the seven key men in the Old Testament. I showed you how these seven key men in the Old Testament are a model. They are an example. They are a picture of the seven biblical New

Testament traits that we need to build in our lives. They are filled throughout the Bible. Along with that, you will find the models and you use the models out of the book of Acts that will be an example of how you are going to build a church and build people. Most pastors, whenever they start a church, they do not have a clue of how they are going to do it. They have been taught all their life, "If you just get up and read, scream and yell, that everybody will come," or "You put a sign out front, they are going to come." No, that is not the way you do it. You have to have a plan. You have to know how to execute that plan. You have to have a specific area of people that you want to target. Then you build out from there. There is a science to it.

You are going to find that in the book of Acts, there are two churches that for me are the blueprints. I try to do for you what God did for me in my early days. In my early days and your early days, you were better than me. Back then you were better than me. In your early stage, you are smarter. You are better than me. You are more intelligent than me. You have so much ability. I was just a young guy. But there were men that saw something in me like I see something in you. I will never forget one old boy who is home to be with the Lord now. He spent quality time with me. He said, "Bob, don't think anything about this, but I'm telling you right now, God's going to call you into the ministry at some point. And when He does, He's going to call you to build a church. Now I want to show you from the book of Acts, the two types of churches that you want to focus on, that you want to build into your people." I listened. I wrote everything down. It is in my Bible, been in my Bible for 50 some years. It is something that I never forget, how he took time with me, how he cared about me. Most important, he saw something in me that I did not see in myself. When you do what you did last night, those 28 people up there and how you work with people and seamlessly do everything, God has something inside of you. God has something for you. Maybe you do not see it yet, maybe you are beginning to see it, maybe you are beginning to feel God moving into your life, but I want to tell you right now as your pastor, I see it. I want to do for you what that old boy did for me. Because I would have never understood it. I would have never figured it out if somebody would not have sat down. If I was just left to the standard mindset of how to build a church, I would be a disaster like the other ones out there. But somebody cared enough about me to show me. I care enough about you to show you because this is where it starts.

III. The Church at Antioch

I will never forget, first off, he told me about the church at Antioch. We talk about the church at Antioch a lot. You will find the church at Antioch in Acts chapter 11; it comes all the way up pretty much to Acts chapter 13. You know about Antioch, this is where the Bible says in chapter 11 that they were first called Christians at Antioch. It is a key church. Antioch is in Syria. You are going to find after the resurrection of Christ, as we move into the early church age, Syria is the hotbed of New Testament Christianity. The church at Antioch is right in the middle of it. We know that the book of Acts is a transitional book. You know that. The book of Acts brings us from God dealing with the nation of Israel in their final phase in Acts chapter seven. Then after their final rejection, He moves into the church age. We see Paul saved in Acts chapter nine. Then through his life and through his ministry out of the church in Antioch, we see that all of the other churches that wind up being our church are started.

This old guy told me, "So look, Bob, when a pastor starts the church, he needs to look at the church of Antioch because in the church of Antioch, Bob, you're going to find seven areas in this church that are the seven key characteristics that you need to build in your church." He went down through it. He says, "Look at Acts, Bob, look at Acts chapter 11, verse 20.

1. It is a preaching church.
2. Look at Acts chapter 11, verse 26. It was a teaching church. He says, "Bob, that forms the balance. You can't just get up and scream and yell and preach every day about people dying and going to hell. You've got to teach your people too. It forms a balance. They had a balance in this church."
3. Then he said, "Look at chapter 11, verse 21, Bob, it was a witnessing church." He says, "You're going to find when you come through chapter 11, 12, and 13, it was a church that was willing to pay the price to do what God called the church. And that's what God called them to do."
4. He said, "Look at chapter 11, verse 29. It was a giving church." They understood that they had an obligation to help people, to pay for things, to get the Gospel out.
5. He said, "Look at chapter 13, verse 23. It was a praying church."
6. He said, "Look at Acts chapter 13, verse three. Once they put that all together, this church established the first missionary to be sent out in Acts chapter 13, verse three, Paul and Barnabas. It was a mission-minded church."
7. He said, "Bob, as you build your church, people, you will need to build these seven things into it." But he also said this, "Bob, before you can build them into your people, you have to have these seven things in your own life first." Incredible stuff. I think the book of Acts is absolutely one of the key books for any pastor.

IV. The Church at Ephesus

Then he said this, "Now, Bob, along with the church of Antioch, you're going to have in Acts chapter 20, you're going to have the church at Ephesus." He did not tell me this at the time, but years later I saw this. Paul's first encounter with a New Testament local church was the church at Antioch. Paul's final encounter with the church was in Acts chapter 20 with the church at Ephesus. It forms two great examples. He said, "Now, Bob, I gave you Antioch. Now, this week I want to show you the church at Ephesus." Again, "Bob, the pastor has to have these things in your life before you can build them into your church."

8. He said, "The first thing you'll find here, Bob, is in chapter 20, verse 19, that they're told to serve the Lord with humility of mind."
9. He said, "The second thing is in Acts chapter 20, verse 20, there was a church that was willing to give of himself to others."
10. Chapter 20, verse 21, it was a church based on evangelism.
11. Chapter 20, verse 24, it was a church that had a steadfastness to it.
12. In chapter 20, verse 27, it was a church that preached the whole counsel of God. There again, "Bob, you've got to have the balance. You can't get up and just preach a salvation message every Sunday. You've got to be able to give your people what they need. You've got to be able

to take your people and give them the whole counsel of God that God can use that to grow them, the base core leadership of your church."

This is what he gave me, 50 some years ago. He says, "You build these six things into their lives, just like you built the seven out of the church of Antioch." I took those things and ran with it, but as God developed me, He developed what that old boy gave me. Later on, I saw the book of Ephesians itself. The book of Ephesians is the book where the church is really defined for you and for me. It is the most intimate book in the New Testament. I like to call it the Song of Solomon of the New Testament. In this book, we see the church is revealed to us, and we always see how that the church, even back in Genesis 1:1, that the church, this church, you, was already in the mind of God. He just had to go through some time to get to the place where it all worked out in His plan.

Out of the book of Ephesians, in this book, we get even a closer look at the job of the church, the job of a pastor.

Ephesians 4:11-15

11. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

You see the threefold things of a pastor, once he puts the other things in, he does this:

13. Perfecting of the saints. It does not mean making you perfect. You and I will never be perfect. The perfection here is not perfection and you are not sinless, though you need to work as close as you can on that, perfecting you for the work of the ministry. Getting you ready, exactly where you were last night, exactly what those 28 people were, exactly like across this crowd this morning. God could drop you in any scenario and situation and you could get the job done. You know why? Because this church perfected you for the work of the ministry.
14. Edifying the body of Christ. I found the key to a successful ministry is making people feel special. When you first find them, you first get to them, you first deal with them, they first come to church, they may not be very lovable. They may have some rough edges, they may do some stupid things. It is easy for us to get to that high self-righteous position where we look down at them and think, "Well, you know, hey, I got news for everybody in here that I never forget myself. The first time God looked at you and me, we didn't look too hot either."

What did He do? He loved you in spite of it. What did He do? He made you feel special. He put people into your life to help you. He put people into your house to get you through some things in life. He edified you. If Christ is in you and we are serving Him, that is what we do. We edify each other. We perfect the saints for the work of the ministry.

15. Then he says in verse 13, "Till we all come unto him." That is the rapture of the church, the unity of the faith, to a perfect man. There is the perfect body. Verse 14 says, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro." God's people today believe every wind of doctrine that comes down their eye, because there is no steadfastness in the churches today. They believe every sleight of man, every doctrine that comes down, every cunning craftiness, lying in wait for one purpose, not to deceive you, but the job of a church. Your job, my job is to speak the truth in love. That you may grow up, look at verse 15, "into him," growing up into Him. Becoming just like Jesus Christ.

I saw that after years later, when that guy taught me all that fundamental stuff, but then I added to that as I got my own growth. I looked at the book of Revelation, particularly chapters one, two, and three, with chapter four being the rapture. I saw the seven periods in church history. I saw the church from Ephesus, the early church, which is Acts 20, right up to Laodicea, 2026, where you and I are at today. When I teach church history, I start right here and I teach it from this spot on. We can line up everything in these chapters with church history, from Antioch to apostasy, from Ephesus to Laodicea. But most folks do not realize, especially most pastors, that the Old Testament will hold some of the most incredible models and pictures for you and for me. All these there will be or should be, that used by the pastor to build a strong core base of committed people to the calling of God.

You will find your first pictures all the way back in Genesis. You will find them in Exodus. You will find them in Judges. You will find them in Joshua. You will find them in 1st and 2nd Samuel, all through the Old Testament. You will find models and patterns and pictures that if a pastor is paying attention and he is building a church and he is building it onto those two basic churches, Antioch and Ephesus, you begin to see these things. But years ago, as I was coming through my Bible, I saw that the greatest model and example for me, once I was putting all this stuff together, it was like a great bowl of chili. You put all the ingredients in and then you let it simmer for a while, and voila, you got a great bowl of chili. Well, you put all these ingredients in and then you let it simmer for a while, voila, you got a great church. Hopefully the church will not give you the gas like the chili will, but that is another message.

The nation of Israel is called a congregation, are they not? We are a congregation. The children of Israel had to build a temple, did they not? You and I are building a temple. Now theirs is the kingdom of heaven, and it is a literal temple. Ours is the kingdom of God. Your body is the temple. They had a rapture that got them out of death and took them to heaven, did they not? Yes, the Old Testament is saying we got one coming. They had their issues that they struggled with just like we will have our issues that we struggle with.

We just finished our study on child training and the family unit as a ministry team. The pastor should realize that the core strength of his church will always be the families that are in it. A lot of pastors, they will have one or two guys that get to do everything. They will have a little core, I

call the Christian mafia, that runs everything. He will not trust the people in his church with responsibility that is basically on his level. I understand why he will not, because he never trained them to handle it. So he keeps his little core of power and strength very localized to a bunch of little guys who run everything. You cannot build a church that way. You cannot build people that way. That puts everything that God is doing inside you dormant. It chokes the life out of you spiritually because you never get to do anything. Oh, I know, you come Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night and tithe and you will be great. No, you will be an idiot. Edification of the saints. Perfecting of the saints for the ministry. That is the job. If a pastor knows what he is doing, then he knows that the core strength of his church is going to be the families. He is going to focus on those families. You are going to see that.

V. Three Types of Families in the Church

One of my favorites is in the Old Testament book of Numbers. We just did Numbers about last Thursday night or two Thursday nights ago. In the book of Numbers, you will find, I think, another great model for any church. Because in any church, you are going to find three types of families. You will not find four. You are going to find three types of families. This is set up by the model in the Bible that a pastor should follow and understand if he really wants to build a church, because the church is not a building. That is another thing. You see these guys have built buildings that are 80, 90 million dollars. They have everything. They have McDonald's, they have a restaurant, they have a Starbucks, they have this, they have that. They have everything but people who can be steadfast in the book. I do not know about you, but I know which one I would rather have. One, I do not like Starbucks anyhow, and I do not need any McDonald's anymore, so I am good. You. Throw an Arthur Bryant's out, we may have a discussion about that. But it is the bottom line. This is one of the great examples you are going to find in the Bible.

You see this laid out in Numbers chapter four through Numbers chapter 11. We kind of touched on it, but I did not want to spend all my money there when I knew I was going to have to teach it today. You are going to find that the model here is how they set up the tribes when they began to camp. You are going to find that there are four basic sections to it. First off, in the middle of the camp is where they put the tabernacle that had the Ark of the Covenant in it. Then around that, you had the 12 tribes. We saw this in Numbers chapter 34, the North side, the East side, the West side, and the South side. They were in a circle on the North, South, East, and West around that Ark. Then the next group will be what the Bible calls in Numbers chapter 11, verse one, the mixed multitude. They set their tents as far from the Ark as they can, but yet can still be part of Israel.

You are all fairly intelligent individuals. I am sure you can see the picture that is emerging here. That Ark, that Ark is a type of Christ. That Ark was the center of everything that Israel had in their relationship with God. Without the Ark, they have nothing with God. That Ark represents in the Old Testament their pathway to God. In the New Testament, it is a picture of Christ. The center of your life, this church in our lives needs to be Christ, the Ark. It was right in the middle, right in the middle.

Then around that, you had the 12 tribes. You are going to find these people in any church who come every Sunday, and they are good people. This is not a criticism in one way or the other, so do not take it as that, unless the Holy Spirit of God wants you to. But that is not my intent. This is an observation of 50 plus years, taught to me by two old boys way back in the day who are both shut up in heaven right now, holding me accountable. These 12, you got the Ark in the middle, and then you got the 12 tribes all around them. They are good people. But they wish they were never really committed to anything. They will make up 90% of the churches that you will go to today. We saw this in the book of Numbers. We saw how this crowd, after 40 years of wandering, and they are now at the border, they are now at the border to go over to the promised land that God promised them. They had all of the blessings that God promised them. Now, some of these tribes do not want to go over. They want to stay on that side of Jordan. The whole purpose, the whole purpose of that 40 years and God bringing them out of Egypt was to get them into the land that God had for them, but now they want to stay where it is comfortable. We talked about it last week. More cattle, less battle. They wanted everything that God had for them, but they did not want to fight for it anymore. They wanted to sit around and soak up everything. You know what Moses said? I love this. This is a sermon in itself.

Numbers 32:6

6. And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?

Oh yeah, man. I have seen people all my life, been in church 40 years as long as they wandered. They never won a soul to Christ. They never discipled anybody. They never got discipled themselves. In 20 or 30 years, they never went through the Bible. They never grew past the beginnings of their spirituality. They want to take all that God has, and when something happens in their life, oh, they run to God, but when everything is good on your terms, more cattle, less battle. That is the 12 tribes.

Now then you had the mixed multitude. We touched on them a little bit when we came through the book of Numbers. This group was the core source of Israel's issues and problems all through those 40 years. They are half in and half out, more half out than half in. They are committed to nothing and cared nothing about what God was doing. I read about them and read about them and I wonder why they even stayed with the nation of Israel, but then I figured it out. God was blessing everybody else and the food that God was blessing the people with, they got to eat too. So I get it, I get it. If you are a pastor, you learn two things about this crowd, the mixed multitude.

16. Those who do the least will always complain the most.
17. Those who are involved the least will always cause the most problems.

In Numbers 11, verse four, the Bible defines them as people who are in the flesh. They lust after the flesh. They never can get Egypt out of their system. Every time a problem comes out of the flesh, every time a problem comes out, they say, "We need to go back to Egypt." That is the type of the world. Numbers chapter 11, verse six says that they cared nothing about the Word of God. They are complaining, "Oh, you know, we remember when we were back in Egypt, we had all

the garlic and all the leeks and all the melons and all the onions and all the garlick. All the wilderness, and all we got, all we got, all we got is this old dry manna." I know the crowd, seen them all my life. These guys will always be on the fringe of everything that God is doing and they will stay as far away from that ark as they can and still be respectable. They will not come to the Bible conferences that you have. They will not come and put Bibles together. They will not be at the special classes or Bible study. You will see them when they have nothing else going, man. You will also note, whenever the 12 tribes who were closer to the ark than the mixed multitude, mark it down. Whenever the 12 tribes had a problem, that problem always started with them being infected by the mixed multitude.

Now, let us look at our third family. By now you can see the core structure of any church will be families. In the book of Numbers, as we come through this, you will have three key families that make up the true ministry of God to the nation of Israel and to every church you are going to find. Let us examine them. As I said, first you had the ark of God. When you come through your Bible, there are seven different names for that ark. I have to give them to you on some Thursday night so you do not get confused when you bump into them. It will be the key component of Israel's relationship to God through the tabernacle, just like it is with us. The Ark is Jesus Christ and your tabernacle is your body. Back then it was a literal ark with a literal tabernacle, kingdom of heaven versus the kingdom of God. These were the three families that were in charge of the ministries in and around the ark. The ark and their jobs with the ark was their life's work. It was also the life work of their families. You find generation after generation after generation of these three families taking care of the things of God, the ark.

18. First off, you have the Kohathites. Their responsibility was the furniture of the tabernacle. Do not get me started on the seven pieces of the furniture. They are a family. They are a family working together generation after generation. There is no break in them.
19. The second family were the Gershonites. Their responsibility was the church. Their responsibility was the coverings of the tabernacle. All the skins that covered the whole tabernacle that kept the light of the world out of that, that the only light in that tabernacle was the seven golden candlesticks, which is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God, meaning you ought to keep yourself covered with those skins, the shedding of blood of innocent animals that cover you to keep the light of the world out that all that shines in your life is the Holy Spirit of God. Would you rather have what I just gave you or a Starbucks in the church? Sorry I asked. The Word of God has to be number one. The whole counsel of God has to be number one. The edification of you has to be number one. This was a family, generation after generation. Never in the Bible is there any break in this family.
20. Then the third one is the Merarites. They had the responsibility for the boards, the bars, the sockets, and the pillars, the little details. This family, ministering together, all three families have the vision of what God is doing and the vision of where they are going. That is the key to understanding the central plan of God for the nation of Israel.

Their job, these three families, incredible, absolutely incredible when you look at the parallels. Their job was to set up and take down every part of that tabernacle, every facet of it that it was made of and then to care for the ark of God. Every time Israel pulled up camps and moved, they

had to take it down. When they camped, they had to put it back up again. They did this for 40 years, 40 years in the wilderness. Also when they got into the land and then even when they built the temple with Solomon, these three families will represent for us the core families a pastor wants to build in his church. Notice they were getting that through the wilderness of sin. They were building and taking care of the temple in the wilderness of sin. You are to build and take care of your temple in the wilderness of sin. Families that are dedicated to the work and the ministry of God, 40 years.

Now, you have to see this. Stop and think about this. This is mind-boggling. How many times in 40 years did they have to tear down and set up the tabernacle? Hundreds of times, hundreds. Every time they stopped, they had to put it up. Every time they pulled out, they had to, if they moved every two weeks, you do the math. Every time they took it up or put it down or put it up and took it down, they had to do it exactly the same way. We are told over there in the book of Hebrews chapter eight that God had a pattern for that tabernacle. You want a good book on it? Probably the best I ever read before I went bonkers on Calvinism with A.W. Pink and Gleanings in Exodus. He will show you the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of parts that went into this tabernacle, that went into the ark, that had to be put together exactly the right way. You could not come to the place, I know human nature. I know me. I will do something three or four times and I am so smart, I can figure out how I can do it quicker or not use all the parts. That is why none of my kids' Christmas stuff ever worked after what they got over Christmas. Not here. It shows you and me that if you are going to be one of these three families and your lifeblood is going to be that ark and working in the tabernacle, you have to be exact. You have to labor. There are no shortcuts. You cannot think this part does not need to be here because I know a better way. No, no, God established the pattern, we follow the pattern. It is just that simple. For 40 years they did it, time after time after time. There are hundreds of parts to it, but no shortcuts. They could not misplace a piece. Oh man, I left that back in the last place we camped. No. They had to account for everything in the pattern. You got a book in front of you that is the pattern of God for your life and you better account for every piece of it. Do not think when it comes to the ministry, you can find a quicker, better way. Boy, is that popular today. No, old school is old school. Old school goes back to Antioch. No, old school goes back to the book of Numbers by the book. No shortcuts. No, I think I got a better way.

Now look at this. When you run a total up 8,500 within the three families versus what? 2 million plus of the tribes and the mixed multitude. They are a remnant. They are a remnant. They are a picture of the dedicated families separated unto the Gospel of God, Romans 1:1. In any church who will be the faithful families that minister 40 years if need be. They are exact on what they do. They follow the pattern that God set down even when it is not popular anymore. Now you have to see this. Parallels are incredible. Their job was to get the temple of God, the tabernacle through the wilderness of sin in a temporary format. To get it to Jerusalem where it was going to be in its final form, permanent. You know what our job is in this church? With your temple? It is temporary. Get it through the wilderness of sin till we get home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ in its established and glorified body, your temple. You cannot beat it. You cannot beat it. You cannot beat it. God, you see this incredible model for the church today. The mixed multitude and their bad attitudes. Never one time, never one time ever infiltrated into those three families. The

12 tribes, uh-huh, but not with those three families. These three families were focused on the plan of God and had the blessings of God and the vision of God and were close to the Ark, Christ and anybody else. They were not going to let anything or no one take that from them. The pastor of any church is to understand and see that his job is to keep the mixed multitude to a minimum in his church.

VI. Minimizing the Mixed Multitude

Now, how do you do that? Most of you have the greatest example in your own house right now, and you do not even know it. How many of you in your home have a fireplace? Put your hand up. Okay, just, wait a minute. How many in your home would like to have a fireplace? Okay, now where we are. Now, we have one in our house, we do not use it. We have a family of bat birds that live up in ours. We are not messing with them. Yes, they are up there, Barb. They fly around at night while you are sleeping. That was one on your head last night. That is why you got that bump. I went to head and it flew off and I cracked it right in the head. I am sorry about that. Anyway, get a fire going in there on a hot night, get you a little cup of coffee, not one of those sissy lattes, a real cup of coffee. Sit down by that fireplace and think about this. That fireplace is a picture of this church. Yes, based on Numbers. Your fireplace, see, I give you things when I tell you, whenever you see them the rest of your life, you will think about the illustration. That is part of my plan. So when you build your fire in your fireplace and you look at it, you think of this church. Think of every church. You say, "What are you talking about?" Well, there is a fire in the middle, right? That fire is the fire of God. The bricks closest to the fire will be the hottest. The farther course of the bricks you go, the cooler they get and pretty soon the bricks hold no heat at all. Welcome to the New Testament church.

So how do you do that? Let us go back to the book of Numbers again. I want to show you how you do it.

Numbers 11:4-6

4. And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

5. We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

6. But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Now that is that crowd right there. Lusting after the flesh, remembering Egypt, the world, cannot get it out of their system. Soul dried away and nothing but this old dry book, the Word of God. Now, what do you do? What did Moses do? Let us look and see what he did. God gave Moses the answer to the problem of the mixed multitude. Look at Numbers chapter 11, same chapter.

Numbers 11:16-17

16. And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

17. And I will come down and talk with thee there, and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Do you see that? You see what he told Moses? He said, "Gather seventy men, elders." Now in the New Testament, the elders in the seven stages of the spiritual growth, that is next to the last. You are an elder, you are someone who is supposed to help the pastor understand what he is doing. He says, "You call out seventy men, whom thou knowest to be leaders, that they're going to stand with you against the people." God came down and put the spirit that He had given Moses, the pastor, into those seventy men, and they too get his vision. Now, the pastor does not have to do it alone, does not have to bear it alone. Now they bear the burden with the pastor, and you do not have to bear it all alone. That is the answer, building strong leaders, one family at a time. In other words, keeping the mixed multitude to a minimum will simply be accomplished by the core leaders that you will build in your church.

I saw and understood this concept from day one, starting a church years and years and years ago. Here, for twenty plus years, I worked to build people knowing what to look for, knowing how to do it, knowing one person at a time is the way you do it. Today, you see what is going on around us, you see the issues, and we have our issues just like every other church, we are certainly not a perfect church by any stretch of imagination. But the mixed multitude is almost non-existent, if there is any at all in this church. There is simply no place for them to get a foothold. In this church, the Word of God, King James 1611 authorized version, is held higher than anything or anybody in this church. The light of that book gets into every crack and crevice of everybody's life. After a short visit, the mixed multitude will say, "Oh, this is not for me. No, no, all they have is that old dry manna. I'm looking for a rock band, I'm looking for the dancing on stage, I'm looking for this, I'm looking for that." Yes, we will go find it. I do not want, Bob has got too much battle, I want some more cattle.

VII. Church Growth and Global Impact

Along with that, the last five weeks, I gave you five stages of your children's growth, we went through it. After you are on your watch and you look after that, well, the church will go through the same five stages, the same five patterns, and the pastor's job is to be on his walk to keep an eye, that growth process continues, and then learn how to develop it. I know some of you, I do not know where your head is, and I do not know what you are looking at, and I do not know what you are focusing on, but our church has grown and matured into a spiritual adulthood. I have watched this thing, God does everything in a transition, and I watched this thing as God did some tremendous things. We paid our dues, we got into the Word of God, I took every counsel of God I know how to give you and looked for everybody that had even an ounce of respect of leadership and tried to develop it. God opened up the world to us without ever leaving. We started in our Jerusalem, we started with like last night, the Halloween, like Easter and like

Christmas. We started with guys going down to the jail ministry, we started with guys going to the city union mission, started guys going down to the nursing homes, and then God began to build that and began to take that. We started with so many of you working with people, discipling them, working with me in the counseling ministry and God developing that. We saw God take your jobs and what you work at and turn them into mission stations. Then we just saw God take that stuff and here we are, little toe-dunk, nobody, nothing church here in Blue Springs, Missouri. Yet, this morning as I speak here, the stuff that we have taught you and given to you, that you have worked with people, that you have provided the finances for to do it, is now all over the world. Our discipleship lessons are almost in every country on this planet. People are being discipled with the material that we have sent them. I joke about the how to study the Bible books, well, so under a million copies, that is probably true, but I guarantee you, it is all over the world with places. There are 250 pastors in the Philippines that are using the material that we put together. Now they are using it over in Europe, they are using it everywhere. They were using it in Africa. On top of that, I just got a call yesterday or two days ago that the pastors in Africa, where you guys spent the time, they wanted to know if we could put gifts, send them everything that we have ever taught, put it on a PDF, PDF, PFC, ABC file. I do not know, PDF, PDQ, pretty darn quick, I do not know. It is all going to Africa. It is all going to Africa. You, you made it possible. You were faithful in what God gave us to start with. You worked on your temple, you edified it, and now God has opened up to the world and we are sending the very stuff that has built you to pastors all across this world, us, little nobodies. You do not see me getting on the website and saying, "Well, you don't know," no, no, no, no, no, you know, with a great proof of all that will come in we do not want to lose a drop. Wait on the gentleness to Christ. Wait, oh God, you stand there and God looks down into your heart and sees what you put into getting those guys. We have invaded countries without ever leaving with the greatest book the world has ever seen.

Now the next stage, we sent the material. Now God is sending you guys, you are going. It has all been a process. We had a group go down to Costa Rica last fall. We had the Dominican kids come here. We had our team go to Africa with Kevin. Now at the end of April, we got 28 people going to the Dominican Republic. I mean, you know, it is my job, our job is in that fireplace with the bricks, keep that fire as hot and keep the bricks as close to the fire and as hot as they can be. I know how the three ladies that we sent to Africa changed their lives. You wait till we send 28 men and women down there and come back, it will revolutionize this church. It will infect you to go. It is only the beginning.

VIII.Preparing for the 2027 Bible Missions Conference

Another great part of building people and if a pastor is smart will be association. We will talk about that here just a little bit. You remember the night we had our Africa meeting with Kevin and his church right here in this room and you guys were here, well, both of you were here. Remember I told you a story. God will just put things into my world and into my life and I will not see it at the time but then six weeks later, God shows me why He did it. I have been reviewing my notes on church history, in particular the history of American Christianity and God's impact on it. For me, in my own study of church history and the Bible, I have had to break

it down into seven sections. It makes it easier for me to understand it, remember it and to be able to lay it out.

21. Hebrew history.
22. Those 400 silent years between the Testaments.
23. Obviously the first coming of Christ to the nation of Israel.
24. The development of the Byzantine Empire in Syria in the Middle East.
25. The development of Europe.
26. The seventh period of church history.
27. American church history and the Word of God.

I break them down into seven things. It is just easier for me. It was the number seven that I was going over in my notes. I came across something that I had written down years ago when America was just in its beginning stages. It was Thursday, June 28, 1787. Our country was just getting started. Actually, it was only 13 or 14 years old. Congress now had been established. Presidency had been established. But Congress had completely come to a standstill. Internal fighting and bitterness had completely shut down the work of the government. Ben Franklin, one of the key founding fathers, he was 81 years old and in very serious poor health. He died in 1790. Upon hearing of the trouble in Congress, he arose from his sick bed and literally went to Congress being carried and gave them what I think was probably the most important speech of his life. He came before the assembled Congress who were fighting, infighting and all kinds of problems. He said, "Gentlemen, 13 years ago, in this very room, when we were faced with great uncertainty," this would have been the Revolutionary War up against the British, "we got on our knees together and prayed for God's guidance. We came to the place as a body, we came back to God." For the next week, seven days, Congress shut down everything they were doing and brought in all day long for seven days, some of the greatest preachers that were around at that particular time and preached to them seven days continually, seven days of being bathed in the light of the Word of God to get God's guidance back. It saved that young Republic.

When I read that story, it hit me. I know now what we as a church, where we are at, what we need to do. Our situation is a little different. Our church is not in disarray, it is not in confusion. But the world we live in certainly is. With where we are at and what God has for us, I too want to call for a week of being bathed in the preaching of the Word of God to prepare us for next year and what God has for us if He tarries His coming one more year. So this year in our Bible Missions Conference, I am going to change it up a little bit. I have put together the most powerful lineup of men who love the book and can preach the Word of God to us to come and give us one solid week of preaching and hearing the Word of God before we face the opportunities of 2027. I have set the dates, December 27th, that is a Sunday, to January 2nd, that is a Sunday. Sunday to Sunday, seven days of the preaching of the Word of God between Christmas and New Year, basically the time we used last year.

The lineup of men:

- Mark and Patty are going to be here again. He will be preaching. He will also be setting up and working with the team.

- Kevin Bond will be preaching, led the team to Africa.
- Mike Veach and Margaret from New York are going to be here.
- Caleb from Ohio and Nishan and his family will be here.
- The missionary to Scotland, Dane Vanderpool, which some of our guys have met with, he is going to be here. He is coming all the way over from Scotland to be, he wants, he has heard about this church from Mike Veach. He says, "Mike says, 'You've got to come meet these people.'" He is coming all the way over from Scotland to be at that church that preached to us.
- Mike has got a young man, I do not have his name yet, but a young man that he sent out of his church that he is a missionary over in Sicily. Mike just took a team over there to canvas for him. He told this young guy, "You need to get to that church in Kansas City." Mike is plying him and bringing him over. He is going to be preaching to us.
- We had our team go down to Africa and they were met by two evangelists down there and two men that one of them I preached with years and years ago down in Huntsville, Alabama, I had forgotten about it. His name is Jeff Nichols. The other one is Bill Woods. Two of the most powerful preachers and two of the most on fire guys that you have ever met in your life. I contacted both of them. They are going to be here and preach to us.

We are going to tear that week apart and bathe ourselves in the light of the Word of God. It is the dead week. Your kids are out of school. It is a time between Christmas is done. You get to open all your presents and wish you had got something else. Then New Year's is coming and we will keep you from getting drunk. We are going to take that week and we are going to bathe ourselves in the light of the preaching of the Word of God. Eight men and their wives are coming too. I want to minister to them. I want to love them. Here is where the association comes in. They want to spend as much time with you as they can. You want to spend as much time with them as they can. Our future missionary trips will come out of these guys right now. Mike has an open offer. Anytime he is going on a mission trip, he trusts you guys. He knows what kind of people we have. He says, "You send me whoever wants to go on my mission trips and they've got a spot."

Let us talk about planning for that week in a few minutes we have left. Like I said, it is the week between Christmas and New Year's. It is kind of a dead week. Kids are out of school. We start on a Sunday morning with Mark and Patty. I am still working out all the details, but this is what you need to know.

- Monday night, we will have two speakers.
- Tuesday night, we will have two speakers again.
- Wednesday night, two more speakers.
- We will have things set up in the daytime as we always do. Again, this is the blessing of association. There will be plenty of time to spend with these guys to get to see them, know them, get to know their wives.
- Then that will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Thursday night, not forgetting our kids. Thursday night, we book Dave and Buster's again, just like we always do. We will get the room there. These guys will all be there. If you do not want to go down and dink around with

all this stuff, we can just sit and talk to these guys, find out everything that they know and why your kids are having fun.

- Then Friday, now here comes the second part. Friday, we always go to eat at that Italian place, Skadenzies or Skadonis or whatever the name of it is. That will be lunch. That is on Friday.
- Friday night, we switch gears. Now we are going to have, we have had the preaching. Now from Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday night, we are going to break into two conferences. Mike Veach is going to preach to the men. Margaret is going to have a conference for the ladies. We are going to have two conferences going on and Mike is going to close it out on Sunday morning. It is going to be an incredible time. An absolutely incredible time.

So it is what this church needs to prepare ourselves for what is coming next year. We have a strong core of leaders. My job is to make you better. My job is to find ways to help you get edified and be better at what God has already done in your life. This is how we do it. We are not going to do Bibles this year. We will do them next year. We do not want to do the same thing every year and fall into that trap. This is what we have to do. This is where our church is at. This is where our leadership is at. We have some of the greatest, strongest men and women and families in this church. We have to face next year. We have 28 people going to the mission field. We will have more than that go to other areas next year. We need to have seven days where we just give, that is seven days to the Lord. Sure is Lord. I am telling you now, now it is November 1st today, you got two months to prepare for this.

Here is how we are going to prepare:

28. Preparing ourselves for that week that what God is going to do. I am asking every family, every family to commit 15 or 20 minutes a day to pray for our conference. Pull your kids together. What a great opportunity. Sit down with them and pray. Pray that God have His own way. Pray that God will impact your kids, your life, the people in this church. Gather your children and sit down and explain to them what is going on, what we are going to do. What a tremendous opportunity.
29. The second thing is last year, we did this last year and it was a great success. I am setting aside the months of November and December for sacrificial giving. We raised almost $80,000 last year over our regular offerings. To pay for the Bibles, to pay for the speakers, to pay for everything we did. We dedicated those two months that we give over and above our regular offering, sacrificially, because we have eight guys coming in their wives. I want to take care of them. These guys have made the sacrifice of leaving their family, leaving his country and going down to, and we are going to make a sacrifice for them. I want to love them. I want to take care of them. I want to make sure that we give them enough money to help in their ministries to carry them through. So I am asking the church, but we do what we did last year. Make November and December, sacrificial giving two months where we give toward that mission conference to get these guys because I am going to take care of them. We are going to get, they are going to give a lot to us, but we are going to give a lot to them. Every pastor, missionary that has been here has fallen in love with you kids, you people,

> because you are the greatest people in the world. These men, they are going to come. Most of them have never been here before, but Mike Veach and these guys have told them what you are all about, and they want to come and see. God is going, I am telling you right now, God is going to open the doors for so many of you to that next level, because He did not get you to where you are at right now to leave you here. At the same time, through that offering we take up, I want to help the kids that are going to the Dominican Republic. It is going to cost them a little $1,600. I am not sure what all we can do, but we want to try to help them. I mean, they are going to represent our church down there, 28 of them. We have to take care of ours just like we are going to take care of everybody else.

I am telling you, start right now. Start right now to build your families around that week. Do not let anything stand in the way. You have two months to get everything off your chart and that you can give God this church, giving God those seven days that we can seek God's guidance for where we are going to go the next year. Making the preaching of the Word of God, the number one thing in our life for 2027. God has done this tremendous thing, bringing us to this point. I have watched God working in all of your lives. I have watched Him take you when you walked in that door and you were back there and did not know anything and look at you now. Again, I take no credit for it whatsoever. My job is my job. I will not get any reward at the judgment seat of Christ for it because that is what I am supposed to do. You do not get reward for what you are supposed to do. You get reward for what you do over and above. Now it has happened because of you. God has brought us men and women who have a heart for the things of God. God has brought us men and women who want to do what God wants them to do. They understand without ever knowing what I just gave you in Numbers. Your job in the wilderness of sin is to take this tabernacle in a temporary form to get to where it is permanent in the millennium with the Lord Jesus Christ come back. That is our job.

I look back on what God did last year. I do not know how, I came to the Halloween thing last night when I got here. I said to the Lord, "Lord, I don't know how you're going to outdo it." I mean, it is rainy out, it is kind of chilly, it is damp. I do not know how you are going to outdo last year, but He did. I sit here right now looking at what God did with us last year, looking at the faces across here, the 28 people plus another 28 plus another 28 plus another 28 plus another 28 plus another 28 and I say to myself, "God, I don't know how you will top last year." But He will. Two greatest assets of this church, not me. Two greatest assets of this church is the book that you hold in your hand and the heart that is beating inside your chest. God gave you the book and you folks have given Him your heart. The rest takes care of itself. Prepare, pray, give, pray for these men. They are going to tear this place apart and we are going to get bathed in the light of the preaching of the Word of God. We are going to get bathed in the light of the preaching of the Word of God just like our founding fathers did back in the 1700s and we are going to seek God's guidance out of it for what He wants us to do, every one of us. I love you, you are the best on the planet. I would not trade you for anything in the world. But we need to be about our Father's business. Hey, we are almost to the finish line. We have been dragging this temple around. I know I have been dragging mine around for 76 years. I cannot tell you how many times I had to replace those tires. Sometimes I just drag it through the mud and there were no tires on it. We are going to lock hands and we are going to go across that finish line together. We are going to stand

there, not as me and you individually. I am going to, when I get up to the judgment seat of Christ, I am going to call everybody else, every one of you. We are going to stand there and we are going to say, "We did the best we could. We gave it everything we had, all because we love you." The greatest words that you will ever hear, the greatest word, greater than anything anybody has ever said to you will come from the Lord Himself when He looks down at this crowd and He says, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." That is all I want. That is all I want for me, that is all I want for you. Because you are worth it. You know why you are worth it? Because He is worth it. You fell in love with the book and you fell in love with Him. He gave you the book, you gave Him your heart. The rest is a piece of cake. Let us pray. Father, thank you for the Lord Jesus.