

Torrey Conference 1997 Maintaining the Standard

By Terri McFadden

Speaker 1: And his wicked demons during this time that our hearts would be totally focused on your word, Your Holiness, your righteousness. Father, God, I pray that you pour out your spirit here in the hearts of students. And I just pray that you tonight are speaking again today. And she could just really challenge us and pierce our hearts with the word of God. So, Father, you're in our midst. We acknowledge your presence and we come at this time to you for your glory and Christ name. Amen. Help me welcome Terri McFadden.

Terri: Worse than communism, isn't it? State says that you have to go to church this morning if you want to graduate. I know that you're here because you want to be right. Amen. Come on, give yourselves a hand for wanting to hear the gospel. [audience applauds] If you want to hear the gospel, you want to increase your knowledge of the word. Come on, give yourself a pat. Right now, I want to know God. I will not face the firing squad for not showing up. I want to know God. Amen. That's important that you have a heart to know God, boy.

And I'll tell you, you know, it's really interesting to be here with you at Biola because I understand that that we live, each of us, we live in a box. OK, basically, if you don't believe it, all you have to do is fly over the city of Los Angeles when the smog is not bad. And if you look down, you'll see a series of little boxes that people live in. Is that right? You know what I'm saying? And maybe ever play Monopoly. OK, you see in all of those little rows and I've got four boxes, I've got bigger boxes than, you know, to try it in my little boxes and get one big box. You

know, everybody wants a box. And what happens? We live. Thank you. And mental and even spiritual boxes, little boxes of our own belief system. And I know a lot of you are going to the Baptist side of heaven. Many of you are going to go to the Pentecostal side of heaven so that you never have to be bothered with Presbyterians and people that don't speak in tongues or people who do. And everybody has a little box.

But I really, really want to encourage you above all things, if I have two minutes to say anything to the student body of this university or any other university, I would tell you that God does not live in a box, OK? He's bigger than than anyone in here, including me, could even imagine. And a lot of us, when you take us outside of our box, our belief system, the little spiritual parameters that have been established in us by our parents, by our spiritual teaching, I mean, it's good. I mean I mean more than ever, we need solid foundations of biblical teaching, but still make sure that you don't get trapped in a box. And then when God starts to move and do great things, you can't do it because you can't get beyond those parameters.

A lot of you right now wondering, is Mother Teresa in heaven or hell? OK, after all, she was Catholic, OK, you know, I mean, she did all those good works. But, hey, we're not to say my works were saved by grace. Do you understand what I'm saying about boxes, about belief systems? So if there's anything that I would encourage you to do before you become older and settled in your ways. And of course, I never grew up, so, you know, so I'm not settled on too many things. I'm a teenager at heart, probably about maybe twenty or twenty one somewhere inside my head, because, you know, I always want to to know and learn about different people and different things.

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And as I look over this room, I can see that half of you drink Pepsi, the other half Coca-Cola, you know, and most of you go to McDonald's, some of you Burger King. And maybe in the back in the corner, we may have a few vegetarians, you know, pretty predictable. Please, whatever you do, take a summer, take some time after you graduate and get to know other people in other cultures. Whatever you do, give yourself to the mission field for summer in Mexico or in the Philippines or in the inner cities of Los Angeles. Take a bullet proof vest with you and everything. But, you know, go, go, but go. I mean, there's so much I mean, we live in a shrinking on a shrinking planet where people and cultures and belief systems are all blending in together. And right now, many of you think that you are a die hard born again, you know, believers, Bible belt right there in the buckle believers.

But I'll tell you what, no one can really, really know one hundred percent completely what it is that they believe until they step out of their box and get into other cultures and other belief systems. I hope to to understand what I'm saying, because I'm the most important thing about your belief system that will it will stand up OK. And and it will still be solidly at work and practice in you in the face of any other kind of system. That's when you really know what it is that you believe.

Of Course is easy to say, praise the Lord as you walk across campus. It's easy to throw your Bible on your backpack. But I'll tell you, there are some cultures that you can go into. I mean I mean, I've been in some cultures were like, you know, I like to read my Bible on the airplane and you open up your Bible like 10 seats all around you like, what is she doing? You know, it's like you opened the book of witchcraft or something.

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I mean, it's like that mystical and that mysterious. And for years, I was just a very nice, you know, pleasant, happy Christian woman who taught Bible studies at my church every Wednesday night and new members on Sunday night. And all of a sudden, the Lord put me in a situation in a secular arena with atheists and agnostics, new age people, Buddhists, Muslims. And it wasn't until I was really in that arena that my knees really begin to knock together and I really began to shake all over.

Because let me tell you something, the enemy is building up a tremendous force that is designed to attack and defeat the people of God. And I'll tell you, the last thing that God needs are spiritual wimps, serious. And so I just really want to bring you a word. We're we're we're talking about for the next time. You were here yesterday with me yesterday. I also got a whole new crowd out half half way. Anyway, we're talking about the standard of righteousness. We're talking about establishing the standard of rightness, righteousness. We're talking about maintaining a standard of righteousness. But the most important thing you're going to find in your age will be the whole issue of defending the standard of righteousness.

And I'll tell you, I was at a conference, a secular conference in August, and a metaphysical priestess came up to me at the end of the conference. She had her head shaved, all six earrings on each side, OK, some kind of robe.

This woman has a PhD in engineering and she's a professor at the University of San Diego. But she's also a metaphysical teacher who dabbles strongly in witchcraft, which is part of the new age and metaphysical movement. And this woman came to me in tears at the end of the

conference. She walked up to me and she said, Sister Terri, will you pray for me? And I said, What do you want me to pray? She says, Well, she says, I've been around born again believers before and they are the most arrogant, hateful people. She says, I feel like I'm going to hell just to be in their presence, she said. But when I met you, you opened up your arms knowing who I was. She said I was really afraid of you just because I know what these Bible thumping people, how they act and what they think and what they believe to. But you open up your arms, she said, and you put your arms around me, she said. And you just hugged me and said, I love you, so I do love you. And she says, I don't know. She said, but there's something in your eyes that reminds me of Christmas. She said, I just want you to pray for me. And I did was the hardest prayer that I ever prayed in my mind. But when the words came out, I said, Father, I pray that Fatima would know the love of God, that the love of God would find her, overtake her, wrap itself around her and just seize her heart. Because, see, there are many gods in the world, but only one of them is alive and we serve the living God.

And that is your defense. That is the greatest defense that you will have. You don't have to push. You don't have to bully. You don't have to. You know, I don't smoke. I don't chew. And I don't fool with folks who do, you know, just walk around with some spiritual attitude that you're better than the rest. Boy, Jesus. And I mean, you know, when when the Lord just kind of took me out of that safe little niche, you know, of being in the church. And I said I said, Lord, people are going to think I'm a new age person. If I go to these conferences, they're inviting me. I don't want to go. I don't want to, like, ruin my reputation. Ruin your reputation? Jesus made yourself with no reputation. He became obedient and it was difficult. I thought when I went into when I first went into a new age environment, I said, well, I'm outnumbered. All of these like, you know,

demonic spirits all around me, you know, and they're talking about can all of this Godly stuff, you know, and they love me because I'm one of the goobly Godly things in their eyes, you know what I'm saying? Well, Jesus was a great prophet, oh he said so many wonderful things. You know, he was a humanitarian and it was difficult. And I said, God, what is my defense? What do I say to these people?

I mean, the first time I got up and spoke in front of a mixed bag of corporate, Islamic, Hindu. I said God, what is my defense? What do I say? He said, remember when you first got saved and you at Pastor Hill's Church 51st in Hooper right in the heart. What? And you were saved on Sunday. And he said, meet me here on Saturday. And on that following Saturday, we went door to door witnessing. I said, wait a minute, wait a minute, Pastor. I don't know anything about Jesus. He said, hey, here's four spiritual laws. Go knock on the door. Wait a minute. What about the training? What about the proper preparation? Just talk to people, tell them that God loves you, loves them, has a wonderful plan for their lives.

I remember first time I knocked on the door, I went witnessing and I came back to my team leader and I said nobody was there. So we have to stand there and wait for the door to open. You don't knock and then walk back down there. We're in a housing project, South Central Los Angeles. And I was nervous, two new Christians knocking on door with a little yellow book from Bill Bright singing four spiritual laws. Never did figure what that meant till about two years later, finally. You know, so nervous in just reading that thing.

I'll never forget, I knocked on a door, Pastor Hill told us, he said, look, don't go in there to win the soul. Go in there to love those people and to pray for them. And they will give you their soul, give their souls to Christ. I'll never forget. I went up and I knocked on the door and I said, Hi, I'm from Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and we're praying for our neighborhood. This lady says, get away from my door. And the Holy Spirit. At the time, I didn't know it was the Holy Spirit because I didn't know who the Holy Spirit was. I know there was a trinity, a father and a son and the Holy Ghost, you know, but the ghost part, you know, I didn't know, I was a new Christian. But something picked up my wrist and said knock on the door again. [knocking] Excuse me. I didn't know what to say to that lady. I said, could I just leave this little booklet with you? This little pamphlet? She says, I'm very busy. I have a sick baby and I don't have time to talk. I said, Oh, what's wrong with the baby? I don't know. He's running a fever and and I don't know what to do. I would not go away from that door. Something would not let me close the door. Finally, I said, Can I pray for your baby?

New Christian. Two of us standing at the door, another girl named Teresa, who has a way with babies, awesome woman just has a gift for children and babies. And for some reason, that woman went and got the baby out of the crib, brought the baby to the door. Baby was burning up with fever, full of mucus, huddle over screaming at the top of his lungs. And Teresa and I took their baby to the father in the name of Jesus. Lord, we don't really know what to even ask, but this baby is suffering. Father, please touch this baby. Take away this child's fever, cool him, Lord. Take away the disease. And Teresa began to rock that baby in her arms and he got quiet and the mother was weeping. And I said, Can I pray for you? And she said, yes. I said, Do you know Jesus? Do you know him? Have you ever accepted him? She said, when I was little, but I

haven't been to church in a long time. One thing that I learned from my mom, that there's nothing more healing and nothing more powerful than you can do for a person than to hug them. And I grabbed that woman. I held her in my arms, and I asked the Lord to just bless her. And about two weeks later, when we were in that neighborhood, she saw she was out front. Hey, it's me. Remember that, the baby is doing fine.

No greater power than the love of God. And all the lessons that we learn, all the theology that we learn, all the boxes that we put ourselves in about, you know, pre millennium, post millennium and all, you know, who shot John? Oh, that's right. They crucified him. I'm sorry. Oh, no, he died in the island of Patmos. But, but you know what I'm saying? It all boils down to the love of God.

And I want to encourage you, please do not name the name of Jesus. Get yourself a new religion, become a Mormon or a new ager, but do not name the name of Jesus and I find people who are in so much pain. Who are suffering emotionally, spiritually bankrupt, coming from broken, torn lives, who tried to get rid of the pain, people of various consortium acts of sin. Oh they are in sin, they are in all rebellion, they are looking for something to take away the pain.

What do you think crack cocaine is? What do you think Alcohol addiction is? Something to take away the pain. And when you come in, you're one of those little boxed up kinda condemning. Man, we've got to learn how to love this world. I didn't say love it as to be in it. I'm talking about compassion. I'm talking about getting beyond the surface of stuff and seeing how desperately gang bangers need Jesus. How desperately senators and congressmen and corporate heads need Jesus.

About 10 years ago, because of my background in the music business and all of this gangsta rap began to manifest. I began to pray for the violent rappers, one of the rappers that I was praying for, and many of them I had an opportunity to witness to. Some of them are dead now, some of them incarcerated. Well, one rapper in particular, and I don't know if you know that much about rap music, but I don't know if Dr. Dre rings a bell to you. Any of you. Dr. Dre was basically one of the survivors of rap violence who's not in the penitentiary, who was not killed in a drive by shootout. But several years ago, whenever I would see his name in a magazine or his face, I would lay hands on it, say, Father, save this man. Lord, I don't know. But I know you were able to orchestrate the circumstances in such a way that you were able to save him and that you are and you were able to raise him up as a godly spokesman to the people that he has caused to go astray, that he's you. Good Lord, I believe that you're going to use them to bring them back to the knowledge of the truth. And you wouldn't believe this, but yes, he would.

But after a lot of very violent things that have happened in the last six or seven months, I was at a concert and I don't go to concerts. I'm a songwriter and I hate concerts, OK, gospel concerts. I don't go to concerts. But the Lord led me to go to Magic Mountain to see Kirk Franklin and I don't go to go to amusement parks. I hate them. I have to walk 20 miles inside. You had a bunch of crazy kids running up and down. You know, it's freezing at night and the rain is outside. So, I mean, hey, give me a book. All right. And a pillow and I'm happy, OK?

But this particular night, I was led to venture out to Magic Mountain, a friend who whose a publicist was tired and she said, please. She said he would just drive me out there. And she said, I promise you, they'll take us around back. We'll be right at the stage. [inaudible 00:19:15] Of

course, we walked 20 miles anyway, you know, fine, OK, we get inside. Well, right in front of me plops down Dr. Dre and the president of Interscope Records was probably the most demonic record label on the planet. And I won't go into all of that. But I mean, you can see this guy's eyes. I mean, kind of like green and purple, you know what I mean? You know, like the reptile's eyes or something. But anyway, Dr. Dre was with him and someone turned around and introduced us. And this particular lady says, I want you to meet Terri McFadden. You know, she's a friend of ours, bla, blah, blah, blah. So he shook hands with them. I said, it's really finally good to meet somebody that I've been praying for such a long time. And he says, Oh, thank you. So anyway, we go out on the patio after the concert is over and there's a big tree. Now Dr. Dre travels with three and four bodyguards because he doesn't know when he's going to be dead or alive from day to day. You understand? I mean, they're all kind of contracts all on his life, money involved.

And I could tell you the story, but I will tell you one thing about him that I do know. And you want to talk about rage and you want to talk about the devil bringing forth children, wicked from the womb and wounded from the womb. Dr. Dre's mother, when he was born, was a a young girl, who was doing some things that were not quite legal, and his father, who was a pimp on the street, told her to have abortion and Dr. Dre was born alive abortion on an abortion table. He survived abortion.

So I'm telling you, when you hear music that is filled with rage and filled with violence, there is such a long history. You understand what I am saying? Of how all of that came to pass. You know, the disrespect for women because of what they have seen women do. A disrespect for

themselves and their own manhood, their own people, their own culture. Just giving you an example of a box that I climbed out of.

But at any rate, we were in the back of the, after the concert was over, and people were trying to get to him and bodyguards were around it. And somehow the Lord just made a clearing. And I was standing next to him and we were like small talking. And I sat down on the bench under the tree. I looked up at him. I said, can we talk for a minute? And he said, Sure. I mean, people were milling around, trying to get to him. But the Lord, it was just like he just cleared everything out. We were both standing there together. So I sat down next to me under the tree and I said, you know, I really, really want to pray for you. I really believe that all of the things that you've gone through, and all of the things that you're going through right now, and I don't know what they are specifically. I said, but I can see a lot of pain in your eyes. I know you're going through things, as you know, but I believe that God is not finished with you yet. And all that you've gone through, in the end is going to be given over to for the glory of God. And when he brings you full circle and you come to a knowledge of Christ, that you're going to do great things for young people in America. And he was shaking his head up and down. Yes, yes. Yes. I said, so do you want me to pray for you? And when I said that he took both of his big hands and put them over my lap, grab my hands before I could even grab this is. Yes, pray for me now. And I just said, Father, and before I could get another word out, we were both weeping together. We just sat there and cried. And all of a sudden I just became like a mom to him. He said, I'm so tired. He said, I'm just tired and I said, you know, we need to talk again, and when we finish praying, we finish talking. I stood up and I said, wait a minute, I didn't lead him in the sinner's prayer. And the Holy Spirit said, just it's OK. It's OK. It's going to be OK.

You will not believe this. I didn't get his phone number. He didn't get my number. We didn't talk. I have never seen him before in my life except in that concert. And two weeks later, I was in a restaurant and I backed into somebody. It was him. And he said, you know, this is not an accident. [audience laughs] I said, I know, gave me a big hug. He says, do this for me, just give me a call. He says, I want to talk to you. I said, I want to talk to you. I got a lot of stuff I want to just share with you. And he said, yeah, we need to talk. And it's like a rest.

God is just ordering footsteps, ordering footsteps and see a lot of people that we are throwing away. God is going to turn it all around as we stand up with a standard. But you can't stand up for standard until you climb out of your box. Do you know that, Esther, who saved the whole Jewish race, do you know that everything she did in terms of a marriage was against the law of God? Jews were not supposed to marry outside of their race? Come on, she married a haven King by divine assignment.

See the law is not made to keep God in order, OK? God made the law to serve his purpose and he can do whatever he chooses to do to fulfill and accomplish his purpose. And that's not a license for us to, you know, go out and just trip. OK, but it is for you to know that if we are going to save a dying world, I mean, we got to have some flexibility in us because the words that God may be speaking to you may come from the heart of someone that you have been taught that is racially inferior to you. Man, some of the ministries that God will call you to, you would say, but God this is not Orange County. What am I supposed to do? I'm telling you, God is moving and he's looking for people who want to move with him.

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I want to share some things with you out of the word of God, Jeremiah. And here's a classic example of breaking out of the box. Jeremiah, the first chapter, Jeremiah lived an interesting life. I really want to encourage you to just get some books. There's a guy, I think his first initial, but his last name is Campbell. But he writes a lot of interesting profiles on the prophets. I mean, readable kind, you know, some of the stuff you read, you don't know what they're talking about unless you're just an intellectual giant. But if you're just like, you know, like a very limited, like, sixth grade level like me, you know what I'm saying? Campbell writes things in a very simplistic way and tells the story that will give you a very, very clear background of some of the major personalities of the Bible.

But in the Book of Jeremiah 1:1. Um Jeremiah shares his testimony being called to the ministry. And the words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, the priest who had an Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon King of Judah, in the 13th year of his reign. It came also on the day that Jeho...Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, the King of Judah, [inaudible 00:26:58] until the eleventh years of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, the King of Judah, until carrying away to Jerusalem in the captivity of the fifth month. OK, basically what is saying? It tells you where Jeremiah was born and it tells you about his father and his father was a part of the priesthood in this town. And Jeremiah is called to the ministry and it says, Then the word of the Lord came to me saying before I formed you in the womb, I knew you before you were born. I had already sanctified you and I ordained you a prophet to the nation's. God knows who you are. You already has a purpose for you. Then, said I to the Lord O Lord, I can't speak. I'm only a college student, a freshman, a junior. OK, I mean, what do I know about these things? And the Lord said to me, don't say that I am just a youth. For

you shall go to whom all I send you and whatever I command you, you shall speak it. Don't be afraid of their faces. Why I'm with you, to deliver you, says at the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth and the Lord send it to me, behold, I put my words in your mouth. See, I have this. They have set you over the nations and over the kingdoms to root up, to pull down, to destroy it, to throw down, to build and to plant. More of the word of Lord came to Jeremiah. And said, Jeremiah, what do you see? And I said, I see the branch of an almond tree. And the Lord said unto me, you have seen well, for I'm ready to perform my word,

Now, Jeremiah is young and one of the things that you have to pay attention to in the world's system is that the leadership and the smoke.. spokespeople in the the the image, the imagery and the ones that become the the icons or icons of this generation in the world are very young. OK, and so that the church has taken this posture that young people, you understand me, cannot be used effectively in ministry until they're, you know, they get some gray around the sides of their head. You know what I'm saying to them, married with two point three children, OK, till they've been an assistant pastor. But you know this and the other but God is saying, hey, it's not like that. You know, I'm calling for people from the belly. And I mean, I'm talking about two, three years old, four years old, six years old, seven years old. That's when these children really know. They know.

I had a friend who was going through a divorce. And I mean, you know, the wife, four children. And they had been married 22 years. They were talking divorce. Well, I've outgrown her, you know, and she's just the first she's interested in the house and I'm interested in more sophisticated things. She didn't go back, you know, and get the education she should have gotten. [inaudible

00:29:41] And I mean, I began to pray with his brother because he was like he and his family. They were just like family to me. And I began to pray and I did something that I don't do often. But I mean, I'm talking about I just began to pour out of my mouth what the Lord was saying. I said, you know what? The Lord is saying that among your son's is a prophet. And if you leave this house, you will leave this house wide open for the enemy to come in and destroy what God is doing in your children. And we sat there and wept together. And I'm telling you, he decided not to go through a divorce. And six months later, he came home from work, late one night, at work. Late one night he came home. It was one o'clock in the morning and one of his sons, the light was on in his bedroom. It was two o'clock in the morning, said he opened the door and he was sitting there with the night by the night, like trying to read. And he said, Dad, what does this book say? Because every night when I go to sleep, God wakes me up and tells me to read the Bible. Daddy, I can't read. Well, you tell me what God is saying in this book. And he knew then that God had called his son to be prophet. I mean, this stuff doesn't happen when you're 25, after you get your PhD, after you get a master's in divinity. That's not when it happens. God says from the belly.

And that's why you got to make sure that you don't get trapped in somebody else's box, that you're really, really sensitive to your own personal prayer life, what God wants to do with you. I mean, there was no such thing as AIDS, 15 years ago. So if God starts talking to you about the AIDS ministry a minute when you were 14, when you were 12. What does that mean? That must be the devil. There's no such thing. Yes. So God is going to really begin to talk to you. Now, when you are young about things that haven't even unfolded yet? And you have to make sure

that you are in some kind, that you're not in some kind of little box, but you have your own relationship with God.

So that you'll say, I'm just gonna hide these things in my heart. That's what Mary did, because I'm sure when God spoke to Mary, when the Angel spoke, Mary was like the strangest thing. Are you going to do what? How? It says, Mary hid them in her heart. You know, don't go and [inaudible 00:31:54] , but just know that God is going to do some new, mysterious, miraculous, wondrous things. And you have to move outside of that box and you have to know that your relationship with God is so intimate that you know his voice when he begins to call you.

Well, anyway, Jeremiah was a young preacher and young prophet. And because his dad was a part of the priesthood, I'm sure that when he delivered his first message that his dad and all his friends, all the other priests and all the, you know, people that grown up with Jeremiah Jeremiah's mom and everybody came down to hear him deliver his first message. So now I'm just taking some liberties here. But I'm at his dad's. And now, look, son, you're young, you know, to stick with the basics, you know, four spiritual laws, you know what I'm saying? How to get people safe to stay with the basics. You know, just just just, you know, speak, speak plain and hold your head up. You know what I mean? Don't dig in your hair while you're up in front of people you know. Don't blow your nose, just speak. And, you know, so everybody's kind of. I want to just kind of picture this.

So chapter 2, he he he he's about to deliver his first sermon. And it says Chapter 2 more over verse 1, more of word of the Lord came to me saying go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem,

saying thus sayeth the Lord. I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal when you were after me in the wilderness in a land that sung, Israel was holiness to the Lord, the first fruit of his increase. All that devoured him will offend. Disaster will come upon them, sayeth the Lord. And everybody is saying, yeah, that's good, that's good. Give them a little history. You know how the Lord has brought us out, you know, and how we were his beloved and whatnot.

Suddenly, it says in verse four, hear the word of the Lord, the word at the house of Jacob and all the families of the House of Israel, thus sayeth the Lord. What injustice have your fathers found in me that you have gone far from me, have followed, followed idols and had become idolaters? Neither did they say where is the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt? Who led you through the wilderness, through the land of deserts and pits, through the land of drought and the shadow of death. Through the land that no one crossed. And where no one dwelt. Well, I brought you into a beautiful country to eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled my land. You made my heritage an abomination. The priest did not say his father was a priest, right? Your priest did not say where is the Lord? And those who handle the law did not know me. The rule is also transgressed against me and the prophets, prophesied Baal.

I'm finished. Thank you.

What a message. Look at some of the other good stuff that he said, verse 26. And the thief is a shame when he is found out. So is the House of the Lord, a shame. They and their kings and their princes and their priests and their profits, saying to a tree, You are my father. Come on. How did

you guys get that far away from the truth. How did you get back in? Here's a good one. This is really, really interesting. Verse 33, why do you beautify your ways to seek love? Therefore, you have also taught the wicked women your ways. Also in your skirts, it's found the blood of innocent lives, the blood, the blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found them by secret search. But you passed the law, made it legal but plainly what on all of these things. Yet you say because, yet you say because I am innocent surely his anger shall turn from me. You don't even see anything wrong with what you doing so that you can imagine that he became the most popular, sought after young prophet in the land, right? I don't think so.

And that's what I mean about breaking out of the box. It's not going to be a popular popularity contest. Let's look at some other things. So he continues his ministry. And if you just want to take time to read it, when you get back to your dorm, there's some really interesting things that go on. Finally, there's a really interesting event that takes place in Chapter 20. Some of you and this is kind of like a popular event with a governor called Pashur. Chapter 20. Well, let's let's go to the Chapter 19, verse 15. Thus said the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, behold, I will bring on this city and on all her towns, all the doom that I have pronounced against it because they have stiffened their necks that they may not hear my words.

So now he goes. He's talking about the people. He's talking about his family time and his friends. He's talking about the nation. I mean, this guy is prophesied a while. He's prophesied some of [inaudible 00:36:42]. Chapter 20, verse 1. Now, Pashur, the son of Immer, the priest who was also the chief governor in the House of the Lord, heard that Jeremiah prophesies these things. Then Pashur punched him, knocked him out, beat him up, physically attacked him? Isn't that

what he says? He struck the prophet, struck Jeremiah the prophet, put him in stocks that were on the high gate of the Benjamin, which was by the House of the Lord, and he made a public spectacle out of it. Put him in chains on a public wall, beat him. Here he is, battered, bruised, embarrassed, humiliated for the gospel. The next day when Pashur decided to figured out that he had, you know embarrassed him enough, humiliated. And it happened that the next day burst through the passion for Jeremiah out of the stock. Then Jeremiah said, unto the Lord has not called your name Pashur, but Magor-Missabib. But this day I mean, that's worse than Carson, almost. OK, but thus [audience laughs] And we thought, we got some four letter words, boy. But for thus sayeth the Lord, behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all of your friends, and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies. And I mean, he just goes he goes off on this guy. All right.

But here, here's the rough. Verse 7, after he leaves Pashur, after he's been beat up, he's got, you know, an ice pack on his eye. You know what I'm saying? People have laughed on him. He's been made a public laughing stock for preaching what God told him to preach, but doing what God told him to do. Can you imagine what that conversation? Hey, look, when I started out, when I was just a kid and I started preaching, you said that you would deliver me out of their hands. I got locked up. I got beat up. Where were you? When I you know, you have to get kind of tied up in some for me, deliver you, right? You know? Look what he says he's he's upset with God. He said, oh, Lord, you induce me. And I was persuaded you are stronger than I am and have prevailed. I am in derision daily. Everybody is mocking me. But when I spoke, when I when I shouted violence and plunder because of the word of the law was made onto to me it was a reproach and a derision daily. Then said I, I will no longer make mention of him nor speak any

more of his name. I refuse to prophesy anymore. I refuse to be an outcast. I refuse to be different. I refuse to just have the government government lock me up. I refuse. I'm not going to do it anymore. Jeremiah, I said that's exactly what I've done. I would have never preached another word, but the word of the Lord, it was like a fire. The old folks used to say, shut up in my bones and I could not hold my peace.

Well, I tell you what, I dare you to have a real relationship with the Lord. I dare you to be really committed because it's not about how much you're getting paid. It's not about a career choice. It's not about a popularity contest, it's not about a television ministry. It's not about I'm going to be the next Billy Graham is not any about that. It's the fire that shot up in your bones, that thing that calls you from the womb and drives you to fulfill the purpose of God.

He tells Jeremiah. He says, Jeremiah, don't you take a wife, don't you have children. I brought you both from the womb for one reason, and one reason for you to proclaim and you to prophesy and for you to tell the people to repent. And some of you you're going to live some strange life because we're in the last days folks. In case you hadn't noticed. Some of you, God is going to bring you forth and he has brought you forth, and you're not going to fit into anybody else's model or pattern. You're not going to have wedding pictures on your mantelpiece. You're not going to live in a neighborhood and get a mortgage on a house and a van and a dog and a parakeet in your den because we're in a fight and somebody has to defend the standard.

Jeremiah was dropped into a pit. One writing said that it was an inner-pit. It was like in the cell, in the pit. Then they pulled up a lid, and dropped you down on some slop and some waste and

some water. Put it put you on a rope, drop you down there. He was in there. The king brought him out. I mean, this man suffered. He was beaten. He was in prison. He went into exile.

Everything happened to him.

And you know what he saw at the end of his life? He did not see Israel repent. He saw them go into captivity in Babylon. He sold Jerusalem, destroyed. What a way to live your life, to spend your whole life prophesying, proclaiming, calling people to repentance. And then one day, God calls your name and you go home. And he wrote in the book Lamentations as he closed the Book of Lamentations. He says, Lord, you've forgotten Israel. You're very angry with us. He puts down his pen, moves on to glory. What am I saying? There are a lot of things that God is going to call us to do in these last days, trying to live a godly life? Why am I, you know, trying my best? Nobody wants to go on a mission field. Everybody's mission is to get a Mercedes. That's their only mission. What? I mean, why do I have to be the oddball? How do I get to be the strange one?

Let me show you why. The book of Daniel and I'm going on a little bit over time, but I'm going to be close in a minute. Now, remember the condition that Israel was in when it went into captivity? We're talking about idolatry. We're talking about every kind of sin. The priests were corrupt, the church was corrupt, prophet was prophesying Baal. I mean, you know, people were sacrificing babies, killing one another. It's adultery, incest, all kinds of sexual perversion that they had learned from neighboring tribes. I mean, Israel was a mess, an abomination. Look at this. Chapter 1, book of Daniel. Daniel has gone into captivity with the other young men. Let's talk verse three. Then the king instructed Ashpenaz as the master, the eunuchs, to bring some of

the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, young men on whom there was no blemish but good looking, gifted and all wisdom possessing knowledge quick to understand who had the ability to serve in the King's palace and whom they might teach the language and the literature of the Chaldeans, [inaudible 00:43:34] .

Now, let me tell you something. The enemy is looking for the best. He's looking for God's very best. And you're going to get some offers along the way. They can make you offers that you just cannot refuse them natural. It's only going to be the spirit of God in you. It's going to recognize, oh, man, I know this is a lot of money. I know there's a big opportunity, but this is not what God has called me to. But I want you to know that the enemy is going to come after you, because he knows that you're gifted, talented, full of wisdom. Look what it says, verse 8. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. But the portion of the king's delicacies. Verse 8, nor with the wine which he drank. Therefore, he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. This is my question as we close.

How did Daniel know? I mean, Israel was at its all time lowest bottom. The church was corrupt. They had the people gone into captivity. Jerusalem had been burned. He had to grow up seeing nothing but decadence all around him. So how did he know? When he went into captivity not to defile himself, he didn't come from a nation and and from a place where people were just walking in the standard, he came where it was exactly... He came from...That's why he was in Babylon, because of what the people had done. So my question was, when I read that, how did he know not to defile himself? You remember the brothers that were with him, Meshach, Shadrack and Bendigo? Well, that was the name that they were called in Babylon anyway. And

they built the idol of gold. I mean, gold will make you defile yourself if you're not careful. And I said, when you hear the music, the solidary, the horn, the drum bowed down, it will make you defile yourself if you're not careful. It's subtle, but it will. Music, it has, it carries the philosophy with it. How did his friends know not to defile themselves? Here's a little clue.

There's a clue that I really want to give you. It's a real little clue, but it's found in the 51st chapter of the Book of Jeremiah. It says, The word which Jeremiah the Prophet commanded. So Saraya, the son of Nuriya, the son of Moshiach. Oh, God. When he went into Zedekiah, the king of Judah, to Babylon in the fourth year of the rain. And Saraya was the quartermaster. So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that had come on to Babylon. All these words were written against Baba Babylon and Jemme, Jeremiah said unto Soraya, when you arrive in Babylon and see it, read all of these words, then you shall say, Oh Lord, you have spoken against the place to cut it off so that none of these shall remain in it. Neither shall man or beast, but it is all be desolate forever. Now it shall be when you have finished reading this book that you shall Tie a stone and throw it out into the Euphrates River. Then you shall say thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from this catastrophe that I will bring upon her, and they shall be weary. Thus, thus far are the words of Jeremiah. Soraya I was going into captivity in Babylon. So when you get there, take this book with you. Let Babylon know what's going to come upon them. Remember when it said that the Eunuch that the King selected all of the best young princesses, and all the noblemen.

Look what it says, last verse. Chapter 9, book of Daniel, I'm sorry, Chapter 9. Whew! I mean, Daniel was walking this walk. Before you go to Chapter 9, go to Chapter 6 real quickly. There was a law that was signed and you know that how Daniel ended up in the lion's den. But in

6, verse 10, when the law was signed, they were the ones that plotted against him, are waiting for Daniel to violate the law so they can get rid of him. Now, in Daniel verse 10, Chapter 6, knew that the writing was signed, he went home and in his upper room with the window open windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. He didn't pray when trouble came. That was his custom. That was his practice. There was no church in Babylon. There was no Bible college in Babylon. There were no Bible studies. There were no bookstores in Babylon, it was just Daniel and a small little group who decided that they were not going to defile themselves. Who were not that, I mean. And a lot of people say, oh, Daniel was a prophet, you know. Yeah, he was a prophet, but he worked in government. He was not in a cozy little temple every day. He was around unbelievers, heathens, people that practiced the worst kind of idolatry. But he was right there in the midst of them every day. But he purposed in his heart every day, he made himself responsible for his relationship with God. And it says this, as we close Chapter 9, and in the first year of Darius, the son of Asuras of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans and the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by the books, the books, the number of years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the Prophet, that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolation of Jerusalem. He knew the prophecy because even though he was in captivity, he read from the Book of Jeremiah, the writings of Jeremiah.

I want to say this as I close, many of you are going to be called heinous, called to ministries. It may seem like you're not having any impact at all, but if you have an intimate relationship with the Lord, you're not going to be wandering around chasing people down. Well, I just want to know what God's will is for my life. Every one who takes the time to have an intimate with

relationship with Jesus Christ, God is going to reveal himself little by little. People are going to walk up to you and lay their hands on your shoulder, shoulder and say two words that will confirm what is already in your spirit. God is revealing, and I don't want you to be upset. When a hundred thousand people don't come to your crusade.

I don't want you to be upset when your husband says...when you get married and your husband says the one thing that I want you to do is to raise our children. It's a waste of time. You mean I want the college and got a degree, so that I can raise raise up a houseful of raving maniacs, breaking up stuff, [audience laughs] running all over the place, poo pooing and sneezing, temperature fever. What good is this God? I don't see the point. God may just call you to be the mother, greatest prophet, the greatest missionary, whatever it is, the only way you're going to be satisfied in the will of God for your life, if you are intimate with enough with God to know, that you know, that you know that he called you forth to go down on straight street and just stand there. Only thing that the word of God says about it. And he just went down on straight street and he stood there. When you know it's the will of God for your life. Man, it's like a fire shut up in your bones and you cannot hold your peace. Don't you believe that anything that God calls you to do is a waste of time?

Jeremiah went to grave, his grave thinking, whoa, this is a waste of time not knowing that he had become a hero to a group of young boys who saw him beaten on the wall, cast into prison. And did you hear what he told that dude after they took him down the wall? Hey, you telling me he's going to hell? Hey, he's bad, he's our hero. Jeremiah steps in heaven, after years preaching on earth. One day when he's talking with Peter and having lunch with Paul, when the angel said, hey

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Jeremiah, come, I want to show you something. Remember all the weeping you did? Remember all those hot-headed people that you thought weren't listening, away in the back in the corner, there was one guy. Boy, he's given them hell, wasn't in vain.

Stand to our feet and pray.

Father, I thank you so much. What I believe right now that you are plowing up the hearts of the people in this room, the young people in this room, Lord, that you are plowing up their hearts right now, Lord. That Lord, something is turning in them right now. I pray that something is turning in that that they would decide not to live their lives in a box of complacency, decide not to be ordinary, but to be extraordinary for you, to do great and mighty things that they know not of. I pray right now that you would give them a burning desire for intimacy with you, that everything else, the ways of the world, the ways of their friends, their mom would go strangely dim in the light, Lord, of your revealed will with their lives.

Father, I just thank you right now with every tie, every tie of indifference, every prejudice, every root of bitterness, every feeling of insecurity, every fear, everything that would work against.

Why you brought them back from the belly, I pray that it would be broken right now. I pray, O Lord that everyone in this room that has been wounded in their lives by divorce in their families, by incest, by whatever Lord, by abandonment, whatever, Lord, that you would turn that wound into a weapon this day. That that would have become the very area Lord where they would have the greatest sensitivity, the greatest ministry. Lord embrace the lonely. Folks who are here separated from their families and their friends, Lord. God, I know that they were times when

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Jeremiah felt that loneliness, you didn't allow him to marry, you didn't allow him to have a family or support system. God embrace them right now. Let them know, Lord, that you would never leave them nor forsake them, bring them to that place of intimacy. Bring each of us to that place. And we'll be so careful. And the days and the weeks and months and the years to come to give your honor your name, the praise, and the honor and the glory, and all the people raise their hands up, right now. Just raise your hands up right now. Say Lord, we love you. And we give ourselves to you. Give ourselves back to your purpose, back to your will, back to your plan. We give ourselves back to why we were brought forth from the belly. Lord, we decide this day that we will do all that you've called us to do. All in our will and to strength our power to defend your standard in the earth, to be a light, to be sought. Jesus name. Amen.