

# Book of Ruth – Part 1

## Mike MacIntosh

Ron Hafer:

[00:00:00.120] For twenty five years, Dr. Mike MacIntosh has been at one place not too hard to take down in San Diego at Horizon Christian Fellowship and has a little bit of a following from down there. For four years prior to Mike's being with us last semester, we had students saying you ought to have this guy here and he ought to be preaching at Biola. So once he was here, we found he found a way and we're delighted that he is returning his his bio sketch isn't nearly as important as his life and the defining things that are happening. Not only has he pastored this church, but they've planted a whole bunch of others all over Southern California, actually, and around the world. I hope that Mike will take a moment. He has somewhat modest, but I I think it's great to be able to hear how God has used one person who is a gifted pastor and evangelist and touched many corners of the world. He works together with Miles McPherson. Wild, Wild Miles down in San Diego.

[00:01:09.210] And they they actually are involved in rallies that involve really thousands of people and many recently have come to know Christ. Once Dr. Mike MacIntosh was invited, he told me immediately that he'd like to come. We like that he also knew right away what his theme was going to be. And here's the joy. He didn't change it. How wonderful. How refreshing. So he's going to take on the book. This is not his first time at Biola, but it is his first time to Torrey conference. And I told him that you are a warm welcome. So I hope that you will do that now as Dr. Mike MacIntosh comes to speak.

Mike MacIntosh:

[00:01:55.700] Thank you. I've got this clip on here so I can walk around like audio adrenaline and come up in the audience with you. Is that right? You ever seen them? They go crazy. Turn to the Book of Ruth. It's in the Old Testament, on the left side of your Bible in the back. It's a short story, but I get three times with you and hope that we can finish it. And by Friday morning. I just came from three days with four hundred and thirty of our leaders, officers with the local mayors and the sheriffs and all the big wheels, you know, got to serve the Lord Jesus with them.

[00:02:34.890] And the state trooper told us about this blond that he was following in Florida. And Florida has some real straight highways. And she was going a little bit fast, but not that much faster than the speed limit that he thought he needed to give her a ticket or anything. But he noticed that all of a sudden after following her for about five miles, that she started swerving in the other lane and then speeding up and she had swerving the next lane, come back and slow it down and swerve. And she kept going back and forth. He followed this for about, oh, about a half a mile. And he said, that's it. There was no traffic is as a drag cement everything. He pulls her over and the blond lady says, Oh, officer, I'm so glad that you stopped to help me. I'm I need your help. And he said, no, I didn't stop to help you. I stopped to arrest you for drunken driving and being dangerous on the highways.

[00:03:18.030] Oh, no, no, I'm not drunk. I'm not drunk at all. And he said, all right, tell me your story. And she said, well, I was just driving along listening to the CD. And all of a sudden this green tree just appeared in the middle of my windshield and I swerved into the other lane and the green tree was there and I tried to miss it. I went to the right tree, to the right side. The green tree was there and the trooper just leaned over the windshield, tapped on the windshield and said, Lady, that's your air freshener. So then there's this blond that this blond got in an accident at this

intersection, and so the guy in the other car saw that she is blond and said, we're not going to involve our our insurance company since we're going to save some money, OK?

[00:04:00.020] Oh, yeah, whatever. What about the dents in my car? There's nothing to it. You go home, get in your driveway, then just start blowing into the back of your exhaust pipe and the dents will just pop out. So she pulls into her driveway and she's down there blowing air into the back of the exhaust pipe in. Her blond roommate comes out of the condo and says, what in the world are you doing? And she told him, I had this accent. The guy said, is blowing the exhaust pipe in the Denso pop out. And she said, You silly, that won't ever work unless you roll up the windows. So there's two of them together. I guess that's my favorite one was the lady standing in the cafeteria and she had a handful of quarters. And there's this vending machine. And so she takes a quarter and she puts it in, pulls the handle, and out came a bag of Fritos.

[00:04:41.690] So she took the bag of Fritos and she set it up on the top of the counter here. And there's this man comes rushing and he's got to get back to work and he's looking at her. She slowly takes a quarter and puts it in the vending machine and pulls the handle and outcomes. A Hershey bar. She takes the Hershey bar and she puts it up on top of the thing there. And she takes another quarter and puts it in and pulls the handle and outcomes of Dr. Pepper. She stands up and puts it up and the guy says, Lady, would you hurry up? Aren't you finished yet?

[00:05:04.730] And she turned around, looked at him, says, well, duh, I'm still winning. It just got it, I can tell. All right, great. Miles McPherson was just in Buffalo, New York last weekend. They had thirty three thousand kids show up. They had five thousand seven hundred decisions for Jesus Christ in two nights. Amazing. And many of them were gang bangers that came in. Great numbers of of their gangs came to the Lord all at one time. And the Lord is doing some

very unique things. When I was at these banquets, I realized, you know, if God is speaking publicly about the Bible and about the lordship of Jesus Christ and salvation through Jesus to police officers, he can talk to about anybody then any. And that was a sign to me that there is a little bit of a revival popping out.

[00:05:58.590] It's happening on college campuses. I was able to speak at Harvard and Yale and a lot of the eastern schools the year before last. And we had a great time given the gospel. They didn't want to hear it, but we had a great time given it. It was amazing to see the pseudo intellectuals that really they don't know what they're talking about or studying, but they have the vocabulary to sound like they're intelligent. And I just want to encourage you that this is a very precious time in your life that you'll never, ever get again.

[00:06:28.760] You'll never have your youth and your strength like you have it now. You'll never have the opportunities to make the friends that you have now and can make this is an honor for you to be at a Christian university. And it is an honor for me and a privilege to not only be in your presence, but. All right. Torrey is a guy that really had a profound effect on the whole world. We have a leadership training thing where I trained pastors and leaders and we started with a living room Bible study of ten people. I lived in Orange County and I drove one hundred miles to San Diego. And I drive back and start with these ten people. I said, I'll give you the gospel of Mark one chapter every week for 16 weeks. And then that's it. And I started Maranatha Music at that time and we'd started the first contemporary Christian music. And that church today has grown into about forty thousand people meeting on Sunday morning in twenty eight different locations now and around the world, there's all sorts of things going on. But it started with ten people.

[00:07:22.820] And I want to encourage you that God wants to use you to do things. And we have given out in our leadership training where we take people and just give them about 12 weeks of discipleship and training. One of the required books I have them read is Oratories The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, very simple little paperback. If you've never seen it, I'm sure you have it in your bookstore. But he talks about the power of God's Holy Spirit and being baptized in God's love and living that love flow like a river out of your life.

[00:07:46.970] And it'll impact your life if you've never read it before. He traveled sometimes we are told with D.L. Moody and I was telling Ron that I'd read an article because when I was in graduate school, I did a lot of church history and on evangelism and I found this article that oratory and D.L. Moody and Andrew Murray all were on the same platform somewhere. I thought, what an amazing event. I guess it went like this, that Andrew Murray, if you've never read any of his booklets on devotion, grab everyone you can get.

[00:08:16.550] They go deep into your heart. He started out with a devotional and the auditorium was packed, thousands of people. And then oratory got up and started giving an expositional Bible study and then deal Moody got up and preach the gospel and gave an altar call and hundreds and hundreds came for the Lord. I mean, it's really a dynamite team. And I've got a feeling that in this gymnasium tonight, there's a dynamite team. Every one of you have the potential of being part of a dynamic team. One or two of the three of you, a dozen of you. And I think you remember my testimony last year, earlier this year, that I had brain damage from an overdose of LSD. I was going to be a living sacrifice for some Satan worshipers. A bag was over my head. My hands tied behind my back was put on the ground, gun stuck to my head for hours earlier. That gave me an overdose of strychnine and LSD.

[00:09:02.270] And I was going to be their little sacrifice. And when the gun went off into the ceiling or whatever they did, I thought they blew the whole side of my head off. And I spent two years thinking I was dead. I spent 17 months of psychotherapy, of working with a doctor to get me to believe the first ten months it took him to get me believe I was alive. And then I said, OK, I'm alive. But why is this whole side of my head missing when I'm shaving in the morning and I disappear in the mirror?

[00:09:26.780] If I'm standing on a street corner talking to somebody, they disappear. Why is it I hear the gun go off every night and I run out in the middle of the street in Huntington Beach screaming? And that went on for two years of my life. And then I met Jesus Christ and he healed me a brain damage. I had lost my wife and my children had gone insane, literally, like the Bible tells us about Nebuchadnezzar, that his hair grew out like eagle feathers. And I was not a hippie hippie, but I had eagle feathers for hair and his fingernails grew out like bird claws.

[00:09:56.630] And for seven seasons he lived out in the field, in the dew, and he slept as a homeless person. He's totally insane and I literally had no hope of ever being a normal human being. I'm questioned on that point even today if I am. But I really knew in my mind that I had destroyed myself because of drugs. And I am a grateful man that God said, I'm going to change you. And one night. I went to a prayer meeting and Pastor Chuck Smith and the elders of Calvary Chapel laid hands on me and I was instantly healed of brain damage. I mean, it was like I woke up from a dream and a little electrical shock I saw go across my head and and this verse came to me says, Michael, I have not given you the spirit of fear, but love, power and of sound mind. And so when Sandy saw the change in my life, she gave her heart to Jesus Christ. And after three years of divorce, we were remarried and we got married very young and started having our children very young.

[00:10:45.310] We've been together for thirty three years. And I just want to encourage you. You're going to you're going to run into some rough times when you get out of school. You're going to run into rough times when you're in school. But Jesus Christ is the one that'll take you through them all. And you could be sitting here a cynic tonight saying, oh, no, I'm going to be cool. I'm a get rich. I know a lot of people that are cool and rich and they're lost and they're unhappy. Just leave room for God to be in your life on a daily basis. And the best way to do that is to read your Bible every day and give time for the word of God to soak into your heart and let the Holy Spirit be real in your life. You don't have to be religious. You don't have to be a phony and honk if you love Jesus, because some days you you don't feel like honking if you love Jesus. And you don't have to have all the vernacular in the Christian Christianities, but be yourself in the Lord because you're the only one like you.

[00:11:30.310] He made and many of your friends sitting beside you right now say, thank God for that, but be yourself. You don't have to be somebody else and you live up to the Lord standards and not yours or somebody else. And you're going to be at peace with yourself. And so you take this advantage, you have it Biola University and learn everything you can learn.

[00:11:47.860] I dropped out of high school because I had a baby at 17 years old. My brother was killed when I was 15 years old. My mom and dad got divorced and life was a disaster. I was an alcoholic at twenty years old, I was drinking a pint of whiskey and a six pack of beer during the summer, my 20th year running from everybody, fighting with everybody - so bitter, so angry and no purpose in life. Don't waste your life. Don't waste your health. You only get one shot at this thing. And if you really want to enjoy life, then later life's down at God's throne and ask Jesus to use you to love other people. There's no greater thing you can do than to serve. And you should be servants and take advantage of your education.

[00:12:26.170] I went back to school against all odds and I got three master's degrees and a doctorate ministry and and those years of doing that, as I got finished in ninety two, started in eighty six, I didn't need to do it. I wanted to see if I could do it. Raising five children, passing on a church of ten thousand people traveling around the world holding crusades and major cities and still was able to get all A's for six years. Only three B's. One of them was Greek and they had to give me the B because I'd paid for the class and I had to graduate. But I want to encourage you that you may say yes to hard. I don't like it. You're entering a century and a millennium where your education is going to be extremely valuable and you want to get all that you can get right now while your folks can afford it. Right. And take advantage of it. And thank God for education, because on the 12th of October, just a week ago, the sixth billionth human being was born on planet Earth.

[00:13:23.830] According to the United Nations, there are now six billion. Now it's more because several thousand are being added every day. But there are six billion human beings on this planet. And that child, when he or she becomes ten years old, you're going to be off into your families and your careers. And that child needs to know God. And all those being born to that generation are now entering into a world where it's OK to be confused. If you're a man or a woman and don't know what you are and you're entering into a world where the week before last, Ted Koppel on ABC spent five nights with the leading government officials, military officials and the leading professors dealing with biological new warfare in the United States.

[00:14:07.510] Five nights in a row, ABC had some of the highest ratings they've ever had with millions watching. And you know what the answer was of each night, of the five nights, if you didn't see it, it was not if we're going to have biological warfare in the streets of the United States, but when we're going to have it, they know it's coming sometime the next year to three

years. They expect our cities are going to be hit. One vial of anthrax can be taken into a subway by a person getting off of a plane in the Middle East in the morning, walking to one subway and setting it down on the track that when the first train comes through the subway and the vacuum hits and they're sucked out from that tunnel, it'll crack that tube. The bacteria will float through the air. The hundreds of people getting off that train will pass.

[00:14:54.640] Hundreds of people getting on the train. The ones leaving will have ingested it. By the time they've hit the stairs, they will walk up and start coughing and spitting all over New York City. The other ones will be stopping at the next stops and they'll be coughing as people get on and they will get it. And within the first day, as this man or woman, the terrorist gets back on a jet and flies back to Paris and then back into the Middle East. Three million Americans from that one vile will be infected with a deadly disease, it's going to kill him three million from one vial. We live in troubled times. The Bible warned us about troubling times and it told us about the end of the world. And we need to be prepared for the things that the Lord Jesus has warned us about. And one of the greatest things you can do as a man or a woman is have your focus on the Lord, love him with all your heart and soul and strength, and then love your neighbor as yourself.

[00:15:41.980] In The Book of Ruth is a great love story, tremendous love story. But it's really a great character builder, too. And I'd like to point out some of these attributes of the characters of this book with you. So fall along with me here in verse one, chapter one, The Book of Ruth. It came to pass in the days when the judges ruled that there's a famine in the land and a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab. He and his wife and his two sons. My mother's name is Ruth and her dad was a minister and he died when his was twenty six years old and she was like four years old. My mother, my grandmother was a very religious lady,

extremely religious and a prayer warrior. But my mother ran away at 17 years old and was rebellious and her life was a disaster, went through three marriages, lost her whole life basically.

[00:16:27.260] And when she saw I changed. She was 60 years old and she gave her heart to Jesus Christ. And the hippies were around then. And I was doing a Bible study in by the pier at Huntington Beach. And I was barefooted and had t shirt and jeans. And I said, Mom, I want you to come with me. She came down from Oregon as I welcome this Bible study with me tonight. She with us for two weeks on our vacation, said you're going to a Bible study barefooted and jeans and a T-shirt. And I said, yeah. She said, no, no, no. And then when she saw about four or five dozen kids sitting around there and getting the word of God, this is different. It isn't what I grew up with. And she was extremely rebellious. And maybe you're rebellious against your mom and dad's religion, too. But my mother told me this. She had read the Bible every night of her life from nineteen thirty two to nineteen seventy two every night before she went to bed and never knew Jesus Christ. Isn't that amazing?

[00:17:19.330] And I remember in high school my mom being in bed and be reading her Bible and I'd be going out to party or something and I didn't know what she was doing or reading, so I would hope that the Bible would come alive to you. And I found an old Bible of hers a few years ago and they're scribbling all over it. And I said, where did all this scribbling come? She said, Were you did that? I said, really? And I was thumbing through. And the first page of Ruth was missing. And I said, Why is this page of Ruth missing out of your Bible? She said, You did that. I said, I did. She said, yeah. You saw that my name was in the book there. And you said, you don't belong in the Bible. I said, I did. Well, I'm sorry, Mom, but now and now, at eighty six years old, she gets up at 4:00 in the morning and starts praying for all of her family and all the great grandkids and all of her kids. And she's the head of our international prayer network

throughout the world and prays for people. You ever need to get the shingles paid off your house? Call my momma and she'll pray for you and she'll she'll get the job done for you. Now, this is an interesting thing about the Bible came to pass in the days when the judges rule.

[00:18:17.380] If you want to know something about the background, all you have to do is go to the book just before Ruth, the Book of Judges, and you can get the background to this book.

What was going on? Well, it was in the time the judges rule. If you're reading the book of judges, you're going to find some very interesting stories, some very exciting stories. But you're also going to read that there's incest in the land, there's rape in the land, there's murder in the land, there's political immorality and the priests are corrupt. And so it gives you a background that spiritually and morally during this time, things were really bad. And yet it goes on to tell us that it got worse because there's a famine. But in the land, a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab. He and his wife and his two sons, and the name of the man was Elimelech. The name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Melun and Chilian Efforts, Knights of Bethlehem, Judah.

[00:19:08.980] And they went to the country of Moab and remain there. Now Bethlehem means House of bread. You do weird study on these names. You find them very interesting because when you read the Old Testament and you look at names, somehow the parents had a way of knowing what their daughter would be like or their son would be like. I don't know how they did that, but they usually grew up being like that. But these names are kind of radical names.

Elimelech means my God is king. So his mother and father must have thought that this boy is going to grow up and see God as his king. Imagine having that name that you walked around town and everybody looked at you and hey, my God is king. And if you are trying to cover up,

not let them know you're Christian or not, let them know that God, you know, that you want to party. You sure would change your name real quickly, wouldn't you?

[00:19:51.130] Can you see working the factory and the my God is king. Come to the office telephone call. My God is king. But on the other hand, he became a witnessing tool for the Lord just by his name, just like a Christian should be by our attitude and in our presence. Now, that was his name. Naomi means pleasant, our pleasantness. So she's probably had a very placid personality, very peaceful, very calm and very easy to get along with. Now they have two sons at. They're low riders from La Habra, Mellon and Chilian now, doesn't that sound like you're in your shabbiness, bouncing and going down the highway here, these two dudes, you know, Cheech and Chong all the way now?

[00:20:29.620] I don't know what's the matter with them when they're born, but you know what their names mean, sickly and pinay like wimpy, I mean sickly and pinay sort of like you ever watch Mayberry and Andy Griffith and Barney Fife? I mean, he's so frail that Barney doesn't even let them have a bullet for his gun. And he just is not very masculine looking. And that's the image I get a melon and Chilean sickly and pinay they've got, you know, always sick, always weak. But this blows my mind when they get to Moab, Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died when they went into Moab and she was left and her two sons and they took wives of the women of Moab. The name of the one was Oprah Winfrey and the name of the other was Ruth. Oh, I'm sorry, Orpah. Orpah. And the name of the other was Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. So the two boys lived there for ten years.

[00:21:20.170] Mary, these non Jewish women, which was not good for scriptural living, and they married these Moabites. Now this gets me because their names mean fawn like a deer, a

baby deer and beauty. So Orpah and Ruth are fond and beauty. So fun would lead us to believe that she's probably very petite, pretty to look at and probably athletic and agile. A runner, a jogger, you know, a surfer, agile. And the other one is just stunningly beautiful. Now, there must have been a problem with the women of Moab. They must have been blind or something to marry sickly. And Pinay, you got, you know, these two wimpy dudes and they get the best of the litter right here when they get there. So now the Furcal and the particles move into Moab and they get these beautiful women and they lived there about ten years and then both Melan and Chilean also died. So the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

[00:22:17.200] Now, maybe you come from a family where death has hit. If you haven't, it's one of those things that until you've experienced it, you don't really understand the impact of it. But I want to encourage you today, when I was 15 years old, I can remember, I call it the day the Earth Stood Still, that a lady drove up in a pickup truck and said might get into the car. She is a friend of my oldest brothers. And I said, why should I want to give you a ride home? Is your mother there? And I got in with a friend and and I looked at her face and I said, What's the matter?

[00:22:47.620] She said, is your mother home? I said, yes, she just got home from work. She's there. I'll tell you when we get home. And I could tell by looking her face something as a matter, and I actually turn the key off of her truck. And I said, tell me what's the matter? And she said, two hours ago, your brother David was killed in an automobile accident and he was riding with a friend and the friend was speeding and 70 miles an hour he hit a telephone pole and he was crushed in the car and he died.

[00:23:12.460] And I got so angry at that moment, I screamed and said, you're a liar. They'll never say anything like that. She said, no, I'm sorry. So she said, you've got to be strong right

now. I didn't have a dad, so I couldn't go and say, Dad, what do I do then? I was the one that's supposed to be the strong guy. And we went home and I said, You make a pot of coffee when the coffee's ready, bring it out and then I will tell your mom. But I said, right. She didn't wait till the coffee was done. I heard a scream that now, years later, being a minister in counseling people I know it's only the scream a mother can let out for her child dads. You know, they scream, they make noises, too. We get hurt if something happens to our children. But there's only something the mother and her child that's different and I was a wrestler at that time, played football and was on the track team.

[00:23:57.280] And and I sat down next to my mom and she grabbed a hold of my arm with both of her hands and she almost snapped the bone in my arm. She had so much grief. Now, I can imagine. Can you sympathize with Ruth for just a minute? She has lost her husband. That in itself is a big setback. And she goes on ten years with these daughter in laws and the two sons, and then all of a sudden the two sons die. This lady has tragedy upon tragedy upon tragedy. And I want to encourage you with this story right here, because some of you are going to face tragedy, I'm sorry to say that, but an audience this large, it's obvious, including myself in this crowd. And you know what? Tragedy can make you bitter. That tragedy made me bitter that I went from that time at fifteen years old to twenty six years old hating God. I hated him.

[00:24:45.040] If there were really a God like I heard about in Sunday school, why would he let the divorce come through our family? Why would he let my brother be killed? Why we would he let us live in poverty? Why would he. Why would he. Why would he. Why would he. Why would he? And I was always mad at God and I'd get drunk and think, this is it. I'll get in fights, I'll do whatever I want. Nobody will ever tame me. And I hated God.

[00:25:07.120] But some of you, on the other hand, your character is going to be challenged by tragedy. I wrote a book called *The Tender Touch of God*. I think it's in your bookstore and there's a story in there called *Triple Tragedy*. And I was preaching on a crusade that some friends of Billy Graham's had asked me to do in Kansas. And they asked if I would take this crusade and I said yes. And a lady came up to me afterwards and started talking and she was weeping. And it was Memorial Day weekend. And we're out in an open park in a Kansas town. And I said, tell me why you're weeping.

[00:25:37.780] And she said it was a night, the same date, same weekend, same park that I was at a event with a youth group. And I went home. And then my brother and my fiance were supposed to be there at that evangelistic outreach. And they didn't show up. 10 o'clock that night. The phone rang and the editor of the newspaper said, you've got to get to the hospital immediately. Your brother and your fiance were both in a horrible auto accident on the highway. She was with everybody that was there at that outreach, heard the sirens and didn't think anything of it. And because the town was so small for the sirens wailing, everybody knew something was up on the highway.

[00:26:18.910] Well what had happened was a 17 year old boy was driving home drunk in a country road, came out on the main highway and decided to go back onto another country road, didn't look. And they went right into him. The boy lived, the fiance, who was 19. He died about an hour later after she got to see him for about ten minutes. And then her brother died. And I said, man, that was really painful. She said, well, it didn't end there after we had the funeral there. And then my fiance, who was from Toronto, was his body was being sent in the coffin to have a funeral for him with his family. I went on the plane.

[00:26:54.040] When I got off the plane. My future mother in law was pale white and weeping, sobbing. And I said, what's the matter? She said, well, my husband, your future father in law, was so grieved over what happened to our son that he had a massive heart attack and died today. So boom, boom, boom, boom, all three of them just died. And this is twenty-two year period. Now I have a friend named Paul Clark, who's a musician, the singer, and he happened to be there, Dennis Janie and doing music that night. And Paul says I was here twenty two years ago and I was the musician that night and I remember the sirens and I thought what would be the odds of these two people meeting again?

[00:27:28.660] And so we kept on talking and I said, you know, you still though, you're telling me a story. You have a lot of pain in your heart and a lot of hurt. Do you ever know what happened to that boy? And she hung her head down and just sobbed and sobbed. I waited. She said, well, you see, if you go up this country, road up the other side, one mile, his farmhouse, his mother and father's farmhouse was on the corner there. And they still live there today. And if you turn right at their house and you go down a half a mile, my farmhouse is there and I still live there today.

[00:27:55.840] I said for twenty two years you have been driving past that house, coming and going every day of your life. She said Yes. I said, Have you ever stopped to talk to the boy? Of course. He's thirty nine years old now. Have you ever? No. Have you ever stopped and talked to the mom and dad? No. I mean can you imagine how the mother and father feel that their son was drunk and killed somebody? Could you imagine the pain and the hurt in this young man's life that he's still carrying the day? If you're carrying this pain, imagine the other side. She said, I call this a tripple tragedy. How could I do anything?

[00:28:27.280] And I said, you know what? Jesus tells us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross daily and follow him. And this is going to hurt maybe. But you're going to have to have the strength to go knock on that door and look him in the eye and they'll know who you are. They've seen you every day for twenty years, drive by the house and every day your car goes by. And every time they know something's going on at your house, their heart is broken. You know, the world is full of triple tragedy stories. La Habra, La Mirada, Whittier. Don't need to go to Buena Park. Don't you need to go to Anaheim? People's lives in Southern California are twisted and tormented.

[00:29:03.820] So you can understand the pain that Ruth is feeling. No husband lost her son to daughter in laws that are Moabites but not Jews. No money, no way to support herself. And she needs some love. And that's the greatest thing that you can leave this university with. Defined yourself and realizing the world is full of people need to be loved. Now, look what happens here. There's a change of events. Melun and Chilian died, the woman survived, and she arose with her daughter in laws and she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited his people by grieving them, that by grieving them, giving them bread. And therefore she went out from the place where she was and her two daughter in law's with her.

[00:29:42.700] And they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. And they only said to her two daughters in law, go and return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with me and the dead and the Lord great that you may find rest each in the house of her husband. So she kissed them and they lifted up their voices and wept. Now look at the character of these two young women.

[00:30:03.130] A great character sketch. The mother in law says, May God grant to you peace and kindness like you have dealt with the dead. And with me, something happened in that family because these women did not know Jehovah. It must. Have been the role model of the father that had affected the two sons, Marlon and Chilian, that they were godly men and these women were so touched by their role model that we hold these huge outreaches in Mexico and I'd hope that Biola could go with us.

[00:30:34.480] Our latest one was in Juarez. We had a great challenge in Juarez. It's the fourth largest city in Mexico. One of the four largest cities might be 30 second. Right now, a little over two million people. One hundred and sixty eight young woman have been brutally raped and murdered and chopped up and beaten to death in what are called the killing fields. There are these fields between the border of El Paso and Juarez. And there has been these perverted murderers going around and tormenting these young women that are leaving work late at night from the factories.

[00:31:03.310] And we were told from the State Department of the United States and from our security teams doing their investigations, this is not a place we want to go. And being public, we take about five hundred people from all over the United States and different Christian universities. And we start at the beginning of the week down on the streets, we take about a million dollars worth of food, medicine and clothing. We take in doctors and nurses and paramedics. We take in FBI agents, ATF, local police, sheriffs from all over the country.

[00:31:29.140] We lecture in their universities. Every department gets lectured in by a Christian counterpart. Every law enforcement department gets minister to fire departments. We do everything we can to touch the city. We go on their radio and television talk shows. We bring

music groups in and all of a sudden the church has got the vision for this deal. We've been doing it for many years. They'd heard about a festival, but they were saying, you know, it's such a wicked city.

[00:31:52.240] For instance, you're in a restaurant in Juarez and a guy came in with an AK 47 and shot 14 people in the restaurant over a drug deal. I mean, there's just cocaine everywhere and heroin in this city. But God had a better plan. Not only did he unite the churches, but for ninety five days leading up to the Crusades in their Olympic stadium and the week of being on the streets with clowns and mimes and jugglers and musicians and every high school, junior high school, every prison and juvenile center was touched.

[00:32:20.590] Thousands had come to Jesus Christ before the first night in the stadium, but the churches prayed and fasted for ninety five days around the clock. Twenty four hours and different churches had different days and different weeks and different Christians took just 15 minutes. Somebody get up at three o'clock and pray from three to three fifteen and somebody else get up in the morning three fifteen to three thirty and made it very simple. I was able to not only minister to the governor, the mayor, to the chief of police and to the leaders of the city.

[00:32:49.900] A thousand of their leaders came together one night and I talked to him about ethics and morality. A thousand of them came to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. You know that the chief of police sat down to lunch one day and says, we have hard copy data from the computers that in the ninety five days of prayer up to this week of the festival, major crime of murder, burglary, robbery and violence have dropped drastically in half.

[00:33:17.980] And he knew that we were praying for nine to five days. One of the violence most wicked cities in the world. It was in Time magazine. It was in Newsweek, US News World

Report in the week before two weeks where we left the front page of warez was City of Tears. And it went on talking about these hundred and sixty eight twenty somethings that have been murdered by these perverts in the city. And not only did the crime go down, they arrested the two men that had been doing these murders. They found them finally.

[00:33:46.030] And, you know, a minister said yesterday four more arrests that that week that we were there, that he had been called out to something and and a young man have been shooting a rifle up in the air. And the Juarez police came in and grabbed him and they threw his old mother down on the ground and she had varicose veins and her leg started bleeding. They started beating him and he had a broken leg. And he had about two more weeks to get the cast off. And they beat him so badly that when the ambulance got there, his leg was at a 90 degree angle. Then they beat up the father and beat up the brother just brutally.

[00:34:21.310] It was horrible thing that happened. Now, we had just ministered a couple of days earlier in their police academy and the chief was so touched, he said this video will be displayed for every police officer in our department and every new recruit has to watch this ethics and morals video. So this pastor, when he heard what happened to this 19 year old guy, that didn't mean to be doing something that he went to the commandant of that area and he walked into his office and he saw a plaque sitting on the commandant, his desk that in the name of Jesus Christ that I had given him.

[00:34:52.390] Thank you for your help in service to the spreading the gospel in your city. And he saw that plaque and he says, didn't you just get that from Mike McIntosh last week at the banquet or something? And he said, yes, I did. And he told him what happened. He said that Commandante lowered his head in humility. This never happens in Mexico where the authorities

would respond to a minister. And he said, I am so ashamed and so embarrassed and we will start an investigation. You know what happened? They not only fired all those cops, but the city is paying all the bills of the family and restoring their health to him, the gospel did that in the City of Tears. You know, the front page of their newspaper said City of When We Left City of Tears. Now, City of Hope and Joy, because the preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. And when you think of this family with no hope, no joy, I'm sure that all of you know somebody that's suffering like this.

[00:35:45.020] But when Jesus comes and just brings some bread to a land that had famine, the whole world has changed. And you could be the person that is going to bring the bread of joy or the cup of cold water to somebody to encourage them. And you may even be in school tonight in this hot, sweaty place, wishing you could get out of here a little depressed, maybe wondering if you're going to finish school or whatever. Don't don't be depressed over it. It's only the devil beating up on you because he's got a plan. God has a plan for you to love people and help these terrible tragedies. The world is only getting darker and worse, and it needs more women and more men that will take their gifts and their talents and give them to Jesus Christ. I have a daughter in law. She's in a group called Chasing Fairies. Her name's Sarah and Sarah is traveling with jars of clay right now.

[00:36:32.360] Jars of clay. They're like they're groupies. Chasing fairies is headlining four jars of clay, jars of clay, sold a trillion and three hundred million records or something with their song Flood. You know, remember that. And and that got my attention that here's jars of clay. They sold out for guys that love Jesus Christ, Christian young guys. Twenty one to Steve was twenty one. It was a hit record making millions of dollars singing at the state fairs and these huge stadiums.

[00:36:56.990] And flood was number one the summer before last every week on the charts for the entire summer. And what were they saying about Noah and the flood? And here's people dancing and boogie and and having a great time driving around their cars, listening to the flood on the AM and the FM and buying their CD. And they're telling them listeners, get ready.

Judgment is coming, as in the days of Noah and Steve spent the night at our house.

[00:37:19.460] One night I said, Steve, how in the world did your song ever become a hit record? You said, We have no idea. We just figured out that God wanted to be a hit record and it's a hit record. Don't know if we'll ever have another one. And they haven't. But God gave a warning. He gave a one shot warning through them. Now they're set for the rest of our life from that one hit record. But they're out touring right now and they get a lot of money for one night. And you know something? God may be preparing your life like he did. Elimelech, and just use you for just one thing. One thing now. Thank you, Paul the Apostle. It says in the Book of Acts that Paul was blinded their scales over his eyes and God spoke and gave a vision to a certain disciple named Ananias.

[00:38:05.330] And you could be that certain disciple. And all of a sudden, he says, there's a man named Paul over in a street called Straight. And I want you to go over and see him. And I want you to lay hands on him because he's having a vision that you are coming to see him now.

There's the sovereignty of God. He's looking in one house looking for a certain disciple that'll respond to the call. And he's looking at another house where there's somebody that has a great need that God plans on using in a powerful way.

[00:38:31.700] And this certain disciple just put your name in there, just anybody. And he says to him, But, God, I hear that this guy kills Christians. Now there's a prayer life that you want to

develop where you can talk to God in question. Is this you? I mean, if you ever really wanted to know something and you heard a voice or you got a feeling and you said, is this the Lord? You ever done that?

[00:38:53.930] You know, is this really you, Lord? I asked for a million dollars and I got it. No, you know, you haven't done that. And you wonder, is this the Lord? Well, this guy was questioning. Is this really you telling me to go to a murderer's house and lay hands on him? And God said, no, you go for he's my chosen servant and you do what you say, what I say. You remember the next verse when Saul was in the house blind and that certain disciple went, you know, the first words out of his mouth were Brother Saul.

[00:39:23.300] You know, if God recognizes you as my brother, I recognize you. And I just want to pray. We never hear of this man again, ever. He's out of the picture, but we've all heard of Saint Paul. But in God's kingdom, Saint Paul get a lot more crowns and halos than a certain disciple that was obedient to the call of God. You all have God calling you right now. Some of you hear him, some of you know he's calling you and you don't know what he has waiting for you, but he has something for you. And if you can train yourselves now to hear his word and hear his voice in the middle of the night, he can wake you up and he could say, I've got a mission for you.

[00:40:05.540] Will you do it? We have a computer box. It's in a drawer, in a cupboard, in a room, highly air conditioned with computer screens. It's right in San Diego right now in one. Green shows a red light coming on from Portland, Maine, shooting all the way to that box in San Diego and there's a map of the United States. Another one shows one from Honolulu, Hawaii,

going over to Nebraska. Another one will probably show something like New York City going over to Oklahoma City, another one to show Idaho shooting down to San Diego.

[00:40:34.370] And what that TV screen shows you if you ever want to come and see it is all the kids that are calling one 800 hit home right now. Twenty four hours around the clock all over America. And they're calling in. They're saying, I have a gun in my mouth right now. Don't blow my brains out. Can you tell me a reason that I should? My uncle just raped me and and he's left the house. My mom at home.

[00:40:56.680] What do I do? Or how about the 14 year old girl they call this one day my secretary to call said, you know what, I'm I am. And she can tell you what what are you? And she was in Houston outside on the highway and she was in a closed down service station, crumpled up in a phone booth the night before she was at a truck stop. She was hitchhiking. A truck driver picked her up and got her in a truck and said he has taken her where she wanted to go and shot a needle of heroin into her arm, got her stoned and then raped her for two hours and beat, left her for dead, just threw her on the side of the road and she crawled in in her purse.

[00:41:32.710] She had one eight hundred hit home. She had heard the number on a rock and roll station and she called and all the lines were busy. In my section. I was talking, I said, why don't you just answer that right now? And she was able to call the Houston police and they got a hold of the line deal. They found her and they called us back and said had she not gotten through, she would have been dead within an hour. She so badly mutilated and beaten by this jerk.

[00:41:56.680] My son took a call the other night, as well as in June, actually before graduation in this teenage girl called up and said, I have a friend. Will I get in trouble if I tell you this? And I said, he's going to blow up the school during our graduation. He said, Are you sure? Is this a

joke? Is this a prank? No, I know he is. He's crazy. He's a devil. Worshipers going to blow up the school with dynamite. So Philip called the police department. I said call the sheriff first of the county, get the number from information and tell him the situation. And they went out and they called us back in about six hours and he said, we've investigated and this boy doesn't know it, but he is a little bit crazy and he has the ability and we're going to watch him for the next two days.

[00:42:37.120] They call us back and they arrested him and he was going to blow up the school with dynamite. Kids in America today are hurting so badly, they are hurting so badly. I could tell you stories that would make you want to vomit that we get. I mean, just we get three hundred thousand of them calling every year. Can you imagine that there's about 70 cities in America where in that little box it goes out to that city and all of a sudden there's a Christian at their home and the phone calls go into your home, your office or your campus, and you start talking to the next generation.

[00:43:10.060] You see the generation that just graduated from college just before you. They were the first generation in the history of the United States of America to go from preschool to kindergarten through elementary and junior high to high school to college, and never been told in one of those seventeen thousand hours of classroom that there's a God, let alone there's a God who loves you, let alone there's a God who created you, let alone he has a son they love so much they let die for you.

[00:43:32.680] So here you are on the tail end of the first time in the history of America, all these godless people that are going to be running the country. And do you think it's going to be easy for you ten years from now when this little child that was born is the six billionth human being is ten years old? You think it's going to be easier to give the gospel or maybe a little bit tougher?

You know what? There are so many people of every age group as a chaplain, the San Diego Police Department, we're dealing with eight year olds that are shooting up heroin in their arms in the elementary schools in San Diego.

[00:44:00.550] Things are really, really sick out there. And I can imagine this lady saying, where am I going to go with my boys? They're gone. Where am I going to go with my husband? My marriage is gone and I've got these two daughter in law. What can I do? I can't take these pagans back across the border and let them know that my family stepped out of the Jewish heritage and intermingled in marriage. Let's finish up here with just a couple little more insights. The Lord deal kindly so we see your attitude and their character. So she kissed them and they lifted up their voices and they wept and they said to her, surely we will return with you to your people. But they only said, turn back my daughters. Why will you go with me?

[00:44:38.890] Are there still sons in my womb that they may be your husbands turn back. My daughters go for I am too old to have a husband. And if I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, would you wait for them till they're grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters. It grieves me very much, for your sakes, that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.

[00:44:58.540] Underline that in the persons Bible sitting on your left side, would you? The hand of the Lord has gone out against me. She's basically saying if I were to get married this afternoon, have my honeymoon tonight and get pregnant tonight, would you wait eighteen years to marry my sons? No. And I'm grieved for you. So we see her character that she is really sympathetic. She appreciated these young women, that they were willing to do something with her.

[00:45:20.830] But notice what she says. The hand of the Lord has gone out against me. It sure looks like it, doesn't it? And then they lifted up their voices and they wept again and kissed her mother in law. But Ruth clung to her and she said, look, your sister in law's gone back to her people and to her God's return after your sister in law. But Ruth said, and treat me not to leave you or to turn back from following after you forever. You go I will go wherever you lodge, I will lodge your people should be my people and your God shall be my God. Where you die, I will die. And there will I be buried. And the Lord do so to me and more also, if anything. But death parts you and me.

[00:45:56.740] Here's the character of this young woman, like many of you beautiful young women here tonight with so much opportunity and future. And she said, I will follow you out of respect. I will follow you out of honor. And wherever you go, I want to go and I want your God to be my God. Now, think of the life that she must have been showing to this young woman. Think of all the young girls that you women here could change their lives. I visited just recently a twelve year old young girl in the hospital. Beautiful.

[00:46:32.630] Looks like she's sixteen and thinks she's sixteen. Gone through a horrible divorce and her family, the bitterness and the anger is there. And she started drinking lye and bleach and taking a bottle of pills, trying to get some attention. Then the mother discovers a letter that she's had sex with her boyfriend at twelve years old. And this is a Christian family. Disaster hit and I turn to something I said, could we just get some 20 year old woman that would go love this 12 year old or an 18 year old or a 16 year old? That would be a role model for her and you guys. The same thing.

[00:47:12.320] I came out of Bible study on a Saturday night and there was a guy, a marshal standing there that I knew. And I said, what's that? He said, What do you smell that? He said, No. I said, Are you smoking marijuana? No smoking marijuana in the Christian cop. So you don't smell isn't all smelly things. OK, so I went to my car, so I guess no, not an ATF agent came out and he wanted to say something to me and he goes to the church. I said, Larry, you smoking marijuana? He says, no one is smoking marijuana. I said, you don't smell that. Something's burning somewhere. What is it? So I walked around the corner of the auditorium and here were seven teenagers smoking joints with their skateboards sitting there right outside the door of the auditorium.

[00:47:57.950] I was just preacherman out and I leaned back and said, everybody got your badges. So I reached my wallet and got my badge and we just went right around the corner. All right. Freeze right there. You're all under arrest. This is these kids. This one guy had a bong pipe that is passing to his girlfriend the rest of our joints, and they're in the bong pipe. He went just like this, put it in his hand, red hot, stuck it into his pocket. And he's sitting there, you know? And so I purposely stood and watched him and man, that smoke was coming out the pocket in his hand.

[00:48:28.310] I knew it was getting him. And I said, hey, are you guys smoking marijuana? You're smoking crack or something? No, no, no, officer, not us. I said, you know, this is a federal agent. This is a marshal right here to it. You're in big, big trouble. Oh, no, no, no, we're not doing it. I tell you what, if you have dope on you and you are smoking and you'll admit it and you'll dump it right here, right now, you probably won't go to jail tonight. Oh, really, miss.

[00:48:56.190] And the tide comes out and ash is going everywhere and little embers and it's all bright red and there is this little girl there. She was 11 years old and a half. She said she is 12. I said really said, well, 11 and a half. And I said, are 11 or No. Eleven and a half. She was four foot four, four foot. She was just real small and she had a little midriff deal here and the bell bottoms. And she was trying to be a big girl and she had a ring in this side and a diamond on this side. And we had so and she had them everywhere she could, piercing the belly button. And she was just trying to be grown up. And she was the only girl in this crowd.

[00:49:30.960] And I looked at that little pipsqueak, Pippin and squeaking and I said, how old she is. Eleven and a half. Did your mother know you're here? Oh, my mother isn't home. It's Saturday night. She didn't she didn't care what I'm doing. Oh, how about you, buddy? Oh, my dad's a drunk. He didn't care. I'm out. Oh, what about you? And each one of them came from a broken home. Well, my youth leader had just asked me, can we start a skateboard park? And I said, no way. I don't want those little rug rats over here, you know, smoking their dope and beating each other up. So they're like, here they are right outside this close to us. It's like, cast your net on the other side. So I said, if you can come up with the money, will build a skate park. Is it right?

[00:50:13.830] A week later, he came, said a lady just sold a hotel in Las Vegas that has a house there and a house here. And she came me said, You want to reach teenager and she wants to give us some money to build a skate park. I said, take it. All right, we'll do it. That's the word. Sounds good to me. Do you know we built this really great skate park? I don't know if you skateboard, but all sorts of pipes and ramps and you name it, but it doesn't come. And then we fenced it off in the parking lot and you join the narrow gate skate club for twenty five dollars a year. But your mother or father has to come in and sign the paperwork for you.

[00:50:41.820] There's no smoking, no drinking, no pushing, no shoving, no hitting, no cursing or you're out. That's it. So I said, alright, as long as we got really strict here and they got to pay something so they feel like they have something but make it so cheap that they can all do it. Do you know that last October we signed up sixty kids from the neighborhood, non Christian kids every day after school. But you know, this October, this Monday, one year to the date, we now have one thousand one hundred teenagers that are non Christian in that skate park. Can you imagine that? We've had an average of thirty thousand kids come through all last year that have come through that skate park from all over the city?

[00:51:22.800] Now we have some of the nation's biggest skate guys that come and donate their time and services, Gordon and Smith and skateboard companies and Billabong. And people are giving away free shirts and everything. And these kids are coming to the Lord like crazy. But I'm the big pastor said no skate park. We don't want those kids around here. They'll mess up the place and they're out there smoking a joint. Right. Next year may encourage you that your character would be such that you would say wherever you go, Lord, I'll go, just like she said to Ruth, and I want your God to be my God and that your life would just be so filled with love and concern for other people that this little generation right next to you that maybe you're ignoring your little brothers and sisters.

[00:52:02.970] You could be the Billy Graham's for them. You could be the next preachers and the teachers and the pastors and the nurses and the doctors and the lawyers and the law enforcement officers and the wives and the mothers and the husbands that would look after them and reach out to them. Because this kid was just born in the church. Isn't even considering this child that was born this week. Your chaplain here has spent most of his life here loving college students.

[00:52:28.830] And I mentioned to him a friend of mine that left here in nineteen seventy one. He knew him immediately. God has you here for a purpose. And you're going to need people to go through terrible tragedies and you're going to need a lot of love and compassion to help people. And this is the word of God that's going to give it to you.

[00:52:43.980] Father I pray for my brothers and sisters in this room right now that you'd give them a great love for the Bible, a great love for truth, great love for honesty, a great love for character. And I pray for them that your Holy Spirit would impress them tonight, that you're calling them, you're reaching out from heaven and you're calling them, you're wanting to touch them. You've got a plan for them. You know how many babies they're going to have. You know how much money they're going to make. You know exactly what's going to be happening ten years from now when that little child that was born this week is ready to go to the skatepark, are ready to go to who knows what in ten years, that may they really have a focus for the gospel and may this student body be the most powerful, empowered Holy Ghost people that has ever graduated from Biola, made this group in this room be instrumental in the largest revival in the history of the church, made these men and women that sit here with so much hope and aspirations and yet so much potential untapped.

[00:53:46.310] May not be distracted by sex, by drugs, by alcohol, by greed, lust and covetousness. But may they be driven to the cross to be humble and meek and may be men and women, that though they're handsome and beautiful, may they use every bit of their life and their talent and their brains and their gifts to help people, may they be like Ruth that says, I know I'm going to give up everything to follow you, but wherever you go, that's where I want to go and may be people of character.

[00:54:19.680] When they're entering a world where their Oval Office is a cesspool, they need to have character that is so sterling that there is no doubt just looking into their eyes that they're pure people and honest people and good people. And may you give them strength to make it through for their degree. And then you give them courage to not fall to peer pressure, but to stand for righteousness. May you honor them.

[00:54:43.650] And those that are dating, may you keep them wholly and pure before you. And may you take my sisters and let them realize if this guy isn't willing to pray before the date and after the date, then she doesn't need to go out with him. And may the guys realize tonight that God has a heavy call on their heart and they may be a jock and they may be an administrator or something, but Jesus is Number one. God, you're number one. Without you these beautiful people are going to fall by the wayside. But we're asking you to do a miracle here. As R.A. Torrey said, you need to be filled with that Holy Spirit to have the love of God go through you. May you bring a revival to the campus and made these students right here may be some of the greatest Bible teachers, preachers, evangelists, may they start orphanages, hospitals, schools, may they be chiefs of police, will they be senators, Congress people, may they be leaders and captains of industry and may they be rooted and grounded in the holy word of God in Jesus Christ. And they may you prosper them and then you give them hope before they hit the pillow tonight, may they know that you're madly in love with them. Lord, in Jesus name we pray amen.

[00:55:56.720] [Applause]

Ron Hafer:

[00:56:09.700] At about quarter after, we'll have the wrap time over in the sub -[recording breaks] –

Mike MacIntosh:

[00:56:18.650] - crusades, and I'm glad to be here this morning, Greg Lory and I have been friends for a minute, you all know who Greg Lory is, harvest crusades nobody knows, you know, who he is. Greg was like 17 or 18 when I was 17 when I first met him. We've been friends for a long, long time. And I was an assistant pastor at Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa. And Greg used to hang around and I got a call from mental hospital. They wanted a minister to come over. So I said, Hey, Greg, go over here to this mental hospital with me here in Orange County and and just hang out and show you how to witness the people minister to him.

[00:56:50.180] And we went into this this rec room, there's about ten or 12 patients in there. And a couple of them were playing pool and four or five were sitting around listening to music. And so I sat in the corner with this man that had called. I had a lot of trouble. Well, Greg went out on the porch with another guy in about 20 minutes later, he came back in and he said, tell Mike. And the guy said, I've got a problem.

[00:57:10.430] I said, what is it? And says, Well, Greg, you're just led me to Jesus Christ. I said, that's not a problem. That's a blessing. He said, No, I'm Jewish and I'm in big trouble. My mom and dad, if they find out I'm a Christian, plus I'm in a drug rehab center here, so I'm in really bad trouble. And I said, well, no, I don't think you are. That's great. So it's a great that's great. You're here for a half hour. You leave this guy to the Lord. What a blessing. So I said, let's just start witnessing to everybody this in the rec room here. So we let basically everybody in that rec room to the Lord. And there was this one guy, his name was Quinn, and he's about six foot four. If I big a really big man. And he wasn't all there mentally and he was standing with his chin on the pool cue.

[00:57:48.200] Greg Lory at that time had hair and it was way past his shoulders. He had a big beard. He looked like the pictures of Jesus Christ. And Quinn was standing there like this, leaning on his pulque, you looking at Greg and myself, witnessing and talking these people and holding their hands a brain with them. And we started to walk out the door and I saw Quinn. He looked like a pretty mean guy. And I thought, you know, Greg, we better go back and talk to Quinn, I think, don't you?

[00:58:10.370] I don't know. So I said, come on. So I went back and says, hi, my name is Mike. What's your name? And he said, My name is Quinn. I said, Quinn, I noticed you're watching us. We're just telling people about Jesus here and we've been praying with them to accept Jesus. Would you like to meet Jesus today? And he said, I sure would. And he grabbed Gregory's hand, says, Jesus, I'm so glad to meet you. I want to know you. For years, that's where his evangelism started in the funny farm.

[00:58:37.610] Let's turn to the Book of Ruth, where we left off last evening and continue our our story here. And Ruth, we looked at the lowriders writers of the Old Testament, Melun and Chilian. We looked at Oprah Winfrey first coming on the scene there, Oprah and Ruth. We looked at Elimelech has died. The father, Naomi, the mother, is left with two daughter in laws. There's a lot of grief and pain. We talked about suffering and life and pain last night and how God will use it in our lives.

[00:59:06.410] And then we ended up with one of the daughter in law's going back to her town and Ruth wanting to go back to Israel, to Bethlehem. And Naomi told Ruth that she couldn't go back. And so she said these beautiful words where we left off last night in verse sixteen and treat me not to leave you or to turn back from following after you. But wherever you go, I will go with

us. Whoever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God. My God, where you die, I will die. And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me and more also, if anything. But death parts you and me.

[00:59:46.340] Before we go on here into the second chapter, I'd like to remind you that these words of this beautiful woman, this mole by this woman, are basically the words that Christian marriages are formed around till death do us part. If you look at all of that statement that she made, this is what a minister basically says to somebody. Last night, I got to speak to about four different married couples here on campus. So I realized that there were married couples here and it made me stop and think last night and this morning again about this text it hundreds and hundreds of you in the next couple of years, probably one to five years, we'll be married. Some of you saying, oh, no, yuk, I'm not planning on getting married.

[01:00:22.440] But you will. It just it happens and you're going to be married. But I want to encourage you about marriage, as we talked about character last night and your role here, Biola University and you being a godly man and a godly woman from a minister's point of view, here comes the groom out of the back room. That's usually how it is anyhow. He's in the back room doing something and he comes out with the minister and he comes out with his best man and and the groomsmen come out after they've seated everybody.

[01:00:50.690] And on one side is the groom's family with mom and dad and then grandma and grandpa and uncles and aunts and cousins. And then all the way back are the friends. And then on the other side is the mother and father of the bride and the grandma and grandpa's and and got all the uncles and aunts and all the way back or all the close friends. Well, all of a sudden you're

standing there and the music starts and mother stands up and turns around and here comes her beautiful daughter with her husband and dad.

[01:01:18.250] Is walking down the aisle, holding the arm of his little girl, and when he walks up to the front here, I'm going to stand there representing God and I must say, who gives this woman to be married to this man? And usually the dad will say, her mother and I do. And so at that time, I say, you can take your bride. So the daughter kisses her dad and the groom comes up and takes her and we all Belfour prayer and then they walk up onto the platform.

[01:01:42.100] And at that time I begin talking as the minister about God's plan for marriage and a scriptural basis for Christian marriage and how to love one another. And then I ask them some really strong questions that came from the book of Ruth here. First of all, I'll say to the man, I said, Will you take Elizabeth or whoever she is as your lawfully wedded wife and honor her and look after her? And do you promise to keep yourself only under her as long as you both shall live? So fidelity right off the bat. And then he says, I do, I will. And then I ask her the same questions and I'll say, turn right and face each other and join right hands.

[01:02:14.470] She gives the flowers and the maid of honor. And then we begin what Ruth just said. I want to go wherever you go. I want to do whatever you do. I want your God to be my God and I. I want to live where you live and don't let anything but death part. So the words goes something like this. Fred, will you take Matilda as your lawfully wedded wife? And he says he will said so. He looked at her and says, Matilda, I take me as my lawfully wedded wife to have and to hold from this day forward for better, for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness or in health until death do us part.

[01:02:44.800] Then Matilda says, Pretty boy, I take you as my lawfully wedded husband this day, you know, and goes to the whole thing for better, for worse, for richer, for sickness and health till death do us part. And so then I say, does anybody have a ring and you want exchange of rings? So the best man, the maid of honor, give me the rings. Then I explain that the ring has no end to it in the vows you just made have no in their eternal vows.

[01:03:05.770] And the seriousness comes in right at this point that you have made a commitment. But what happens in our society is that commitments aren't real anymore and people just break commitments. And here's one of the most beautiful commitments that is an eternal commitment that you make until death do us part, as Ruth said. And so I always like to encourage them that when you look at this wedding ring, remember the day that the three of us look each other in the eye.

[01:03:27.310] I was representing God and before God and your mother and fathers and your grandparents and your best friends and every role you walk by for the bride, all your old boyfriends are back there crying right now. You have you have made a vow before God and his representative, your best friend standing on the stage and mother and father, there's no room for divorce, murder maybe, but no divorce. Can't have that. And so they make an eternal commitment.

[01:03:50.590] And this is where it came from right here was this commitment of till death do us part. And I want to encourage you that you want to make sure that you marry the right person, you want to marry the wrong person and work it out five years and marry the next person whose marriage is too precious and and too beautiful for that. And, you know, ladies, you have a lot of pressure on you with the goofiness of society today, with a lot of these guys that you date.

[01:04:14.140] Right. You agree. A lot of goofy guys out there. OK, one girl that she's met, several of you guys, I guess. But I found a cure of that. I told my daughters about years ago that as a Christian woman and you're dating now and they had to double date until they're thirty two years old. And that was with Sandy and I in the back seat. I mean, I really scrutinize the guys when they came in, one guy who was a little too old for my youngest daughter and I was out shooting hoops one day in the driveway and he came out as they got the ball, the shoots of this, we're shooting hoops.

[01:04:44.410] I said, you know, as a reserve police officer, I get to go down to the range and shoot. I was down there today and I was hitting bull's eyes at fifty yards, bull's eyes with my nine millimeter Smith and Wesson out of fifty feet, but at fifty yards. And he dropped the ball and says, Mr. McIntosh, I swear to God, I will never touch your daughter.

[01:05:01.990] Never. I said, Well, no. Oh, I'm sorry. I wasn't meaning anything about that. I was just happy that I said in the bulls eyes I never saw him after that. He never came back for another day. So, girls, here's the secret to success. If you want to stay pure and holy while you're single, right, you're on the date and Mr. Octopus is there, right. Hand's going everywhere. And you know that this is not right and that you don't want any sexual deals going on. You have God on your side. So simply lift your right hand up to God, then haul off and hit him as hard as I can. Keep you out of trouble all the time.

[01:05:33.370] Well, Ruth was broken hearted that she lost her husband, but she wanted to honor her mother in law. Naomi, I remember Naomi's name means pleasantness. And she was a very pleasant lady. And in verse nineteen, it says when the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem, it happened when they had come to Bethlehem that all the city was excited because

of them. And the women said, is this Naomi? She said to them, do not call me Naomi or pleasant or pleasantness. Call me Mara. For the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. Mara means bitterness or bitter.

[01:06:08.350] Now, I would like you to take a pan and underline for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me, underlined it in the Bible of the person sitting on your right side. Right in. Just reach over there and underline it on their Bible for him, because last night I ask you to underline this statement, verse 13, at the very last of that verse, it says, The hand of the Lord has gone out against me.

[01:06:29.550] That's presumption because tragedy and suffering and pain has come. She is presuming that God is against her. And as you grow up, you're going to be hit many, many times in life and you're going to want to get discouraged in the flesh and say, God doesn't love me, God doesn't care for me, God's mad at me. God's angry with me. I failed God. And that's the sin of presumption. Here she reiterates this. The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. Again, we have presumption. I went out full, she says in verse twenty one. Now, this lady and her husband were very well respected in this community because ten or 12 years later, when they come back, everybody it says is excited about her return.

[01:07:12.060] But when they see her, her face has a lot of wrinkles and she doesn't look like the same person. She's looking kind of old. You remember the lyrics on one of those songs were saying everything is let's praise him and said, I will praise you when I'm young and I'll praise you when I'm old. You remind me of these two old dudes that were in San Diego. One was ninety two years old. Now the guy is eighty nine years old. I have a ninety two year old man that

gives me jokes every week to read and he's just a happy, happy guy and some of them are pretty corny.

[01:07:42.330] But you know when you look at him, he's so sweet and he means so well he loves the Bible. And he said, did you hear about the two old men here in San Diego? They were going out for a lunch date together and talk about old times. I said, no, I didn't hear that one. He said these guys were so old that the ninety two year old was driving, you couldn't see his head above the steering wheel.

[01:08:00.240] The eighty nine year old barely reached up to the dashboard and they're driving along and there's a red light and the old dude goes right through the red light and the eighty nine year old guy thinks, Did Howard just go through a red light. Oh, I'm losing my mind slipping here. I don't think he'll ever do that. I'm going to watch the next light and sure enough, comes up to another stoplight. It's bright red right on through it.

[01:08:20.170] He says, Oh man, I'm really losing it. I think he just went through another red light. But I'm going to really focus now, get all my powers concentrating. Comes up to the third intersection, red lights on, Zoom zooms right through it and he says, I know he did. He said, Howard, you just drove through three red lights. You could have killed us. And Howard looks and says, oh, am I driving? You ever feel like that when you're going to. I'm going to school. I'm in this class. How do I get out of this situation? Well, she had changed so much that the bitterness that was in her heart because of the pain now wrinkled her face, that the people that knew her said is that you pleasantness.

[01:09:00.060] And she said, don't call me pleasant, call me bitter because God has dealt bitterly with me. That's a sin of presumption. I went out full and the Lord brought me home again.

Empty. Why do you call me Naomi? Since the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has afflicted me. So now she's pointing to God again. The Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has afflicted me. That's really not so, she said. I went out full. That's sounds good. Husband, two sons. But they went out in the middle of a famine. We learned last night they didn't have anything. They were poor. They left the country because they're so poor. There's nothing to eat. And as they went into this new country, she wasn't full. She lost her husband immediately. And then right after that, her two sons died. And this, again, this presumption I came back empty.

[01:09:48.120] As we finish this book tomorrow morning, the Lord willing you're going to see how could she say that? Because she has this daughter in law that is so gracious, so wise, so kind, so dedicated. How in the world can she say that she has come back empty? I wonder today if maybe a little bit like that, you're sitting next to people that love you. You have friends, roommates, dorm mates that love you and care for you, and yet you feel like you have nothing.

[01:10:15.930] You have family that cares for you and maybe a mother that's working a second job or a grandpa that is, you know, trading in his stocks or something so you can go to school. The two greatest assets you will have by the time you hit your grave is, number one, your family. And number two, your friends. Get to know your friends really well because when you're twenty years old or twenty two years old is going to be cool to have that same friend.

[01:10:39.270] That's forty two years old if the Lord Chatterly. But these are two of the greatest assets that you have. But it seems like the devil wants to make these two of the most negative, presumptuous relationships you have get bitter against your mother because she wouldn't get bitter against your dad because he didn't get bitter against your brothers and sisters, because

they're just little brothers and sisters. Basically, that's a good reason. Not like them. Get bitter against your roommates, get bitter against your professors, get bitter against everybody.

[01:11:05.100] And all of a sudden you're going to be a person that doesn't want anybody, doesn't want to be around you. There isn't anybody that wants to be with you because of this root of bitterness that's growing inside of you. And it changed the. This lady who everybody knew her character and personality is sweet, imagine how Ruth felt that day that she heard her tell. I went out full and I came back empty. And Ruth had just made a commitment.

[01:11:29.050] I will lay my life down for you. Can you see that picture that how so easy for us to hurt friends by talking behind their back. We can hurt friends by murmuring and complaining about him. You know, we can hurt friends that we go to school with, even just by ignoring them. We can hurt Jesus the same way we do - [possible break in tape]

[01:11:48.790] I just don't have the right car. I've got this stupid Volkswagen with a coat hanger for the antenna and string and duct tape are holding the past and -

[01:11:57.790] [End of Recording].