

# Be Not Afraid

## (It Is I)

Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada  
May 17, 1961

1 . . . little prayer for me, will you do that? Do you promise me to do that? Thank you, thank you. I'll always remember you. Every time coming through I'll try to stop and see you, if coming back and forth. And if I do not see you again until we cross the river, I'll see you on the other side over there where. . . . And remember, the same gospel that I teach about tonight, I'll be standing there with it in my hand, saying it was true. And I'm sure our Lord will vindicate that, that it's true. Not only does He do it then, but He does it now. He does it now. That is true.

2 I certainly appreciate you and love you with warm Christian love. If any time I can be a favor to you, call me or write me. I'll do anything that lays within my power to help you, make life a little easier for you, and the rough places a little smoother. Any time I can pray for you, do anything for you, let me know.

3 Shall we bow our heads just a moment as we speak to the author of this Word. Lord, the God of creation, of the heavens and earth, who made all things by Christ our Lord, who sent Him to be the propitiation of our sins, given us his Word, which is the water of separation. . . . Washed by the water through the Word of separation, that through faith, believing it, we are separated from our sins—called out, set apart, ordained to the gospel of the Lord Jesus, the good news. Goes all the way from the pulpit, Lord, to the little housewife that could testify and tell of the goodness, of our blessed Saviour.

4 We just humbly bow our heads in humiliation, Lord, and thank You, to know that we were once alienated from God—without hope, without Christ, without God; and while we were yet sinners Christ died in our stead to reconcile us back to the great family of God. So we could not be able, Lord, by human speech to ever express the adoration of our hearts for thy goodness and mercy to us. But, Father,

in our simple, humble, childlike way, receive our thanksgiving, Lord God.

5 Now I pray, Father, first for your ministers here, my brethren. O God, I'm so glad to have fellowship with them. It said once in the Bible that how sweet it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It's like the anointing oil that was on Aaron's beard that run to the hems of his skirt. How we thank You for that, Lord, for brethren of like precious faith that believes on God. We thank You for their churches, and I pray, God, that You'll bless their efforts wherever they are; and may the congregations grow, and the grace of God be with them, Lord. May signs and wonders accompany their ministry, Lord, that'll shake this nation with the power of God. Grant it, Lord. Send us men out of this wilderness like John the Baptist, who came forth burly and blasting, that prophet speaking of a Messiah was coming with his fan in his hand that would thoroughly purge his floors, and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

6 Now, Father God, bless this audience tonight. Here sits mothers with their little babies, see dads and mothers sitting together, and sick people and needy. I pray, God, that the angel of mercy will sweep over here tonight. May there not be a feeble person in our midst when this service is closed. May we go to our homes tonight rejoicing, saying, "Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked to us along the way?" Grant it, Lord, for we know You remain the same yesterday, today, and forever. Bless this people, Father. And if it happens to come to pass that some of us crosses over the river before we see each other again, God, grant that we'll all meet again somewhere yonder in the great beyond, and there we will fellowship together forever.

7 How I would like to go home with each one of these men and women, visit their homes. Be a blessing to me, Lord, to sit down and read a scripture, and kneel down at their table and pray. How gracious it would be. But, Father, the day is way spent, the sun is going down, eternity is coming in. Oh, we must battle as long as we can. God, if I never get to do it in this world, may I be able to do it in the world that is to come.

8 Give us of thy grace. May the Holy Spirit speak to us tonight through the written Word. Close our mouths to anything that would be wrong, and open our hearts wide to receive it. May the seed fall in

good ground that'll bring forth a hundredfold for the glory of God. We ask it in the name of his beloved child, Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

9 I wish to refer to just a scripture tonight, and I was so sorry I kept you late last evening. I was talking . . . I just talk too much. So I . . . Thank you, sir. That's awful nice. A lot of grace, brother. I thank you for that, that's very nice. Makes me feel good, to know that you put an effort forth and it's appreciated. You know what I mean.

10 Now, what's my cause here? To try to help you, try to make life a little smoother for you. And what good would it do me to come here as an imposter or a hypocrite? I'm not paid to come. I do not ask money. It's not popularity—I shun that. A man who tries to be popular cannot be right with God. So, it's not that. It's because in my heart I love you. I'm tired and wore out. I'm fixing to go for a little rest for a week or two before I enter the services again. But my love was that I just couldn't pass you by without stopping in, saying, "How are you?" and having a little meeting and associating with you a little while.

11 So, remember, what I'm telling you is this: that your Lord and my Lord is not dead. He's risen from the dead, and He's with us. We are his children. Now, in healing, if you'll just appropriate the faith, and say, "Now, if He's here, then his attitude towards one is his attitude towards all." Now, maybe someone will have just a little high faith that can reach in above yours and touch Him, and bring down a vision over them. That doesn't mean that that person is the only one can be healed. No, you have . . . God's attitude's just the same to you.

12 But you just can't stand it; it just tears you to pieces. How many understands that? Just raise up your hand. Jesus said (pardon me), Jesus said, when one woman touched his garment, He said, "I perceive that I have gotten weak. Virtue's gone from me." So you can realize. Listen, my brother, sister, may be our last time meeting. No one, there's no one in this world will ever know what I've went through. That's right. You can't explain it. You can't explain God. And you sit in a meeting . . . not in here, but many times you talk a few minutes to find: here's critics over here, here's a doubter, here's one superstitious, here's one, a devil-possessed, sitting there. And all that, you feel that coming against you like a breath. And then you've got to. . . .

13 See, there's a godly saint sitting there, trying to find God; here's another one is wondering and doubting. Here's a little baby dying, here's one that's cross-eyed, here's a daddy sitting here with cancer. And then all that by the thousands meeting you at one time. You don't realize how it tears you to pieces, see.

14 And there . . . and just think, Satan's waiting for one little crooked word somewhere. That's all, see. And knowing that you're human, you have to completely rely upon Jesus Christ, just completely throw your life to Him.

15 Now, in the scriptures of St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter and the twenty-seventh verse, we read this:

*But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of a good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*

16 Now, I wish to take that for a text: "It is I." "It is I," three words. And now, I want us tonight, so we can hurry, to attend a testimony meeting. You like testimonies? We all do. And would you not like to have lived in the days of the apostles, and sit down somewhere on a log out by the lakeside, and heard those apostles testify? How many would like to have heard that? Just have heard them together, those who walked with Jesus. And surely if they walked with Him and knew Him, they would know how to testify about Him. Don't you believe that? Sure. They would know his life. They knowed just what He was.

17 And remember, they were not angels, now. They were men that had their ups and downs just like we do. Many times people think when a ministry becomes supernatural, they think that person ought to wear a robe, clothes, and "touch me not" and . . . you know. When a person acts like that, they're trying to be something that they're not. God uses men, just ordinary men. When you see a person like that, to me it's a stuffed shirt, see, somebody trying to be something they're not. "Holier than thou art . . . not touch me." Oh, God can't use that. You know that. So we're. . . .

18 God . . . I'll say this one thing: some of the finest old hearts that I ever shook a hand, beat under an old blue-patched shirt. That's right. Real pair of steel-grey eyes, look you in the face, and say, "Preacher, I believe it." Brother, you can depend on that. Mark it down. Callused from plow handles, or something. That's right. You

don't have to have on a tuxedo coat, your collar turned around, to be a Christ-fearing Christian. No, it's not what you wear; it's what you are inside, what makes you. Not how smart you are; but how much you are on the inside. To us, there's none of us any good. If there's any goodness about us. . . . There's only one good and that's God, Christ said.

19 But I'd like to go to a testimony meeting, and just sit down, and get me a seat, and hear the apostles testify. Oh, I've always thought I'd love to do that. And I always thought I'd like to hear Jesus when He said . . . stretched forth his loving arms, and said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

20 Oh, you know, they got so they claim if a voice is ever spoke (you know it more than I do), a voice, it never dies. It lives on, like radium. Goes on and on and on, like a pebble dropping in the water. The little waves carry on and on for miles, vibrations till you cannot see them with your natural eye, but they're carrying on and on and on. And your air . . . when you speak, that's where you get on electronics in the radio. That air wave, it goes on. It never dies. I thought I'd like to live till science maybe could pick up that voice of his. They claim that some day, if they keep going on, they'll be able to do it—pick up his literal voice when He said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I'll give you rest."

21 Well, I may not live to that day. Frankly, I don't think the world will stand that long; we're so close to the end time. But I would like to be with you to preach to you awhile on those things. But I've tried to make our little messages just simple, and drama—because I'm tired—and then you'd understand it better.

22 But, I may not live to hear that, but there's one thing I do want to hear, and I believe I'll hear it: "It was well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of the Lord." That's what I'm expecting to hear some day. I'm sure He won't disappoint me. And if He does turn me down at the end of the road, I'll still love Him. If He sends me to hell, and I can still love in hell, I'll love Him anyhow, see. Because I deserve to be turned down at the beginning, see. And if I had ten thousand lives to live, and there's nothing after the end of them, if there's no God, no Christ, I'd still take this Christian way to

live anyhow. To have men and women that I can associate with, it makes life so much different, see, if you just be a Christian.

23 Now, let's break in upon this testimony meeting and listen at the apostles testify. It must have been about sundown, about this time in the evening, when the big, brawny-backed fisherman began to push the boat off of the shore. I can just see him as he takes the little ship, and his big brawny back pushing, shoving the boat, and as it gets off the shore, gets it off into the water into the blue Galilee. And then he climbs up over the seats and takes his position by the side of his brother Andrew. And the little oars begin to dip into the water, and then make a dip, and then wave bye-bye to those on the shore—because they'd had a great meeting that afternoon and they were leaving, and the people loved them.

24 There's something about the love of God in our hearts that it just kills us to part from one another. A real Christian group, when they come together, when they have to leave one another at church, I've seen them just stand and hug one another and cry, see. I think of Paul kneeling down on the shore and praying, saying, "You won't see my face no more," and how it is to separate from one another. We used to sing a song down in the old Baptist church in the South:

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.  
When we asunder part  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.

25 There must have been that feeling as the little ship moved out into the waters, and waving good-bye, and all saying, "Come back, be with us again, brethren"; seeing the men on the bank, and them wiping the tears from their eyes and waving to them, "Come back and be with us again," as the little ship moved on out into the waters. And after a while it come out of sight. They couldn't see no more, the dark was settling down. And they had been pulling . . . in those days they pulled by oar, two men in one seat. And they'd take these oars and

keep time as they pulled the little boats. And then if the wind was blowing, they'd hoist a little sail and helped them along. And they were crossing over the Galilee.

26 And after it got . . . for a little rest period, we'll believe that it must have been young John. He was the youngest among them and rather an enthusiastic little apostle. And so when they pulled their oars out of the water, and someone must have said, "Brethren, let us take a little break and rest for a few minutes, and let's have a little testimony meeting." And that's the one we want to break in on.

27 Young John must have said, "Well, today has been the day that settled it forever for me. I have been a believer since I was a baby. I can remember my precious old mother reading the Bible stories to me, and how she told me that when our people come across out of the lands of Egypt, was brought up into this country that we inherited by God. She used to tell me stories of how great Jehovah was, and how He cared for his people. And how I used to lay and look up into her pretty face, and she'd say to me, 'John, oh, beyond the stars yonder there's a great God that loves his people. Don't forget it, my son.'

28 "And then she told me that when God Jehovah had called his children up out of Egypt, that He provides for those who take a step to walk in his commandments. And they were following Jehovah out of Egypt and they got out into the desert and they run out of bread. They didn't have no bread to eat, and Jehovah brought bread down out of the skies and laid it on the ground. And the next morning the only thing they had to do was go pick it up and eat the bread.

29 "And I used to say to my mommy," he might have said, "Mommy, perhaps God's got a great bunch of ovens up there in heaven, and a whole lot of angels that work overtime, and they would bake all this bread. And then the angels would get big baskets and run down and lay it all around the camp.'

30 "She said, 'No, son, you're too young to understand, but you see, son, Jehovah is a creator. He just created that bread. He don't have to have ovens to bake it. He just created that bread and it fell upon the ground.' "

31 And, oh, John might have said, "That always stayed with my heart, how that Jehovah could create bread and send it down on the

earth already cooked. Brethren, I want to make my confession in this testimony tonight here on this boat, that I know that we're not following some false prophet. We're not following some imposter, for when I saw Him today take those little loaves—five loaves and two little fishes—and break that bread and feed five thousand people, I knowed that was God. That settled it for me, because He did the works of God. Do you remember, brethren, He said once before to us, "If I do not the works of my Father, then believe me not."?"

32 But what did He do, brethren? I want to ask this congregation, what kind of an atom did He turn loose? Took those little biscuits and broke five of those and fed five thousand people. Not grow wheat and . . . He does it all, sure, but He bypassed all the routines of nature. Not only did He grow wheat there, He growed bread; not only bread, but baked bread, already seasoned and ready to eat. That's our God.

33 Fishes, why, He put every fish in the water. But He took these fishes and broke them. Not just raised up another fish out of the water, but broke a fish, and went back and took . . . another piece growed on while He was breaking that one. A fried fish, already seasoned, rolled in corn meal and fried, ready to eat. How did He do it? What kind of an atom would the science say today that He turned loose there?

34 I can hear John say, "Brethren, it was so astounding to me till I climbed up behind the rock, and looked, and seen where He was . . . I could find where He was getting it from. But He just took the bread and held it up, and broke a piece and laid it on Andrew's basket; and reached back, and there was another piece ready when He reached his hand for it. So, that proves it to me that He's God, He's Jehovah. Only Jehovah of the Old Testament could create bread here to feed hungry people. And here that Jehovah is manifested, and I know that that is the Son of God—could only be. He's associated with God somewhere, because He done the same things God did."

35 It must have been Simon Peter about that time said, "That's a good testimony, John. May I give my testimony now? You know, brethren, that I was a fisherman. My father before me was a fisherman. My father was a godly old Pharisee. And do you remember, he stayed in the church a great deal of the time? And we fished on the river, here on the lake. And my mother and . . . how I



would see her and dad take Andrew and I of a morning when we went to get the fish, and kneel down around the side of the table; and how I'd see Dad look up and say, 'Jehovah, I need fish today for the market to feed my little children. Will You help me catch a good catch today?' How that when we'd catch the fish and come into the shore, how that Andrew and I and Dad would kneel down by the side of the boat and thank God for the fishes before we took them to the market." Oh, we need more fathers and mothers like that. Bring up a child in the way it should go.

36 "One day I remember," he might have said this way, "that we'd had a great catch that day—oh, a tremendous catch. And we pulled our little boat into the shore, and I jumped ashore and tied up the boat, and was helping the fish out into the baskets. And after we had prayed, I can see my dad brush back the grey hairs from his face, put his arm around me, and set me up on the boat. Said, 'Simon, my little boy, I've raised you to serve God the best of my knowledge.' And he said, 'Simon, I, like all true believers have looked forward for the day that when the Messiah would come. I thought I would see Him in my day. But, Simon, I'm getting old now, and my days are numbered, and my steps are getting shorter. I perhaps won't see Him. But, Simon, my son, you are the younger, so perhaps you will see the Messiah that we've looked for for all these years, the hope of Israel.'

37 "'Simon, before He comes there'll be. . . . Many things has raised up down through the ages, saying they are messiahs, and all these things. And by the time of his coming there'll be all kinds of things raise up. But, Simon, the churches has got off on many tantrums. But I want to tell you, my son, you remember to believe what Moses said, our prophet, that when this Messiah comes . . . Moses told us, that the Lord our God should raise up a prophet liken unto Moses, and he would be the one that we were to go to.'

38 "'And, Simon, whatever you do, always remember, no matter how anything looks, remember, the Messiah will be a prophet, for it's according to the Scriptures. Don't be carried away, Simon, with foolish things and strange doctrines, but stay with the Scripture, my son. Because Moses, our leader . . . that we know God sent Moses, and Moses said the Messiah will be a prophet. And the sign of the Messiah now. . . . We haven't had a prophet for hundreds of years, but

one day there will be one raise on the scene that will be a prophet. And that will be the Messiah, because we're waiting for that day.' "

39 And he might have said, "And brethren [put his arms around Andrew and said], Andrew, you remember when you went to hear John preach, speaking of a messiah. Well, I thought it was one of these errors that they all had. There's this and that, and I never paid much attention to you, Andrew. But one day when you finally persuaded me to go see this fellow that was . . . been introduced as the Messiah, and when I went to see Him, brethren, when I walked up into the face of this man. . . . And Andrew, going up along the hill, said, 'That's Him. You see the one?'

" 'Why, he don't look no different than any other man,' I said to Andrew.

40 "But he said, 'Just a minute, let's move through the crowds. He's fixing to speak just in a moment, and everybody will be breathless while He's speaking.' And we moved through the crowd. And Andrew had seen John introduce Him.

41 "And so, then, I moved up close. And I thought, 'I'm going to get a good look at Him and I'm going to hear what He says, see if He's with the Scriptures.' So, I moved up close that day. When He got ready to speak, I thought, 'Now I'll just see what Andrew's been talking about.'

42 "And before He opened his mouth to say anything, his eyes fastened upon me. And He looked at me and said, 'Your name is Simon, and you are the son of Jonas.' Oh, brethren, that fixed it for me. Not only did He know who I was, He knowed that godly old daddy of mine that had warned me and told me what the Messiah would be. Therefore, I knowed that that was God's prophet, the Messiah that was raised up. That finished the testimony for me."

43 It must have been Philip about that time that raised up and said, "Now, brother Nathanael, I'm going to tell this on us now, in the testimony meeting here out on the ocean." (Wouldn't you've loved to've been standing listening at it? Sitting up on the brail of the boat listening at them?) And Philip might have said, "Well, I was standing there, Simon, when I saw Him do that [or heard Him], and I seen the expression on your face. You just fell right at his feet, and I thought, 'Surely that big burly man, Simon, would just droop his shoulders

down.' And He told you your name would be *a little stone* after this. And I knowed that would be a good fitting name for you because you were solid—when you believed anything, you believed it. And then I thought, 'How would He ever know that?' So, I'd read the Scriptures too.

44 "So, I knew my good friend, sitting up here at the end of the boat, which is Nathanael, so I took around the mountain to find him. And I found him under a tree praying. And when he finished his prayer and had gotten up, I said, 'Come see who we have found—Jesus, the son of Joseph. That's the Messiah.'

45 " 'Oh, now,' he said, 'could there be anything good come out of Nazareth?'

46 "And I told him, 'Come see.' And you remember along the road, our conversation.

47 "And as soon as I brought Nathanael into the presence of our Lord, He said, 'Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile.' And I'll tell you, I'm going to stop my testimony now; now, Nathanael, you finish it."

48 "Well," said Nathanael, "all the doubt was taken out of me. But I was astonished, as soon as I seen the man—the first time I'd ever seen Him—that He'd tell me that I was an Israelite and no guile. How would the man ever know me, when I never laid eyes on him in my life until I come to his meeting? And I thought I would question. . . . I was so enthused, to think could the news be true? or was I just dreaming a dream? So I said, 'Rabbi [or reverend, teacher, whatever you wish to call it], when did you ever know me? Why, you have never seen me in your life, and how would you know that I was an honest, just man, no guile?'

49 "He said, 'Why, before Philip called you, I saw you when you were under the tree.' Brethren, I knowed then that was the prophet that we've been looking for all these years. And I confessed Him publicly before my priest and all the rest of them, knowing that I'd be excommunicated from the church for saying such a thing, or taking a

stand. But it made no difference to me. I knewed the Scripture said that's the kind of a man it would be, so I stayed with what the Scripture said, because Moses. . . . We were taught to believe Moses and the prophets; and they said that this Messiah would be a prophet. And we haven't seen anything of it for hundreds of years, and here it was right with us. And I know the man did not know me, so it settled it for me."

50 And about that time Andrew must have raised up and said, "Brethren, I would like to say another thing. Do you remember the day that He said He was going down to Jericho?"

"Yes."

51 "And He had need go by Samaria, and we all wondered, 'Why is He going up around Samaria instead of going down to Jericho?' But He had need to go by the Samaritans, and you know we didn't have any dealing with them at all. But He stopped, and we thought maybe He didn't want to show his face in Samaria. So, He sat at the well, and He sent us in to get some food. And when we come back, do you remember what we seen? We were embarrassed. Our Lord was talking to a woman of ill fame—a beautiful young woman, but she was a bad woman. She was standing out there, with the marking of a bad woman, coming to the well at that time of day, and He was talking to her.

52 "Do you remember what He said? He said. . . . We hid behind the bush to listen to see what He was saying, see what our Lord would say to this ill-famed woman. He said, 'Woman, bring me a drink.'

53 "She said, 'It's not customary for you Jews to ask us Samaritans such things. We have no dealings with each other.'

54 "He said, 'But if you knew who you were talking to, you'd ask me for a drink.'

55 "And she said, 'You have nothing to draw with.'

56 "And our Lord said, 'Go get your husband and come here.'

57 "She said, 'I do not have a husband.'

58 "Do you remember, brethren, how we felt? Oh, oh, now He's slipped up. He's made a mistake. 'I do not have a husband.'

59 "Then we heard his words. 'Thou has said well, for you've had five husbands, and the one you live with now is not your husband.'

60 "And then do you remember that Samaritan woman of the city of Sychar there, what she said? 'Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Now, we Samaritans know that there is coming the anointed one called the Christ, the Messiah. And we know what his sign will be. That will be his sign; he'll be a prophet. When he comes, he'll show us these things. But who art thou? You must be one of his servants.'

61 "He said, 'I am he.'

62 "Oh, how we seen the expression on that woman's face when she set down her water bucket and ran into the city and began to scream, 'Come, see a man that's told me all the things in my life!' Now, He never told her all the things. He just. . . . She was just so happy. He just told her the one thing, but if He knowed that one thing, He knowed all things. 'Come, see a man who's told me the things that's in my life. Isn't this the very sign of the Messiah? And He's sitting right out there on the well.' And they brought the men out. And the Bible says that the whole city believed on Jesus because that He told that woman that thing."

63 It must have been Matthew, the scribe, taking down this testimony so I could read it to you tonight. He said, "Could I speak next, brethren?"

"Oh, yes, Matthew, go ahead, speak."

64 "Do you remember the morning that we were going into Jericho? And Rebekah, our sister down there in Jericho, she was the wife of Zacchaeus. And he was a businessman, a tax collector in the city, and he was a rich man. And you know Rebekah believed on our

Lord. And she had prayed and she had prayed for her husband to become a Christian.

65 "But, of course, he was one of the big payers in the church, and he played golf with the priest [you know, understand what I mean]. He had his social affairs, and they all went out together, and they had their big times together, so it was hard for him to pull away from his membership. And therefore . . . you know anybody that follows our Lord is excommunicated from the churches right now. See, they have nothing to do with them. And so, we was asked by our sister Rebekah to pray for Zacchaeus, her husband, that he would receive our Lord.

66 "And you remember when we stood on the corner and told Zacchaeus, 'Zacchaeus, you are a Bible reader. What seekest thou? What sayest thou of Messiah?' Rebecca's testimony is true. He is the prophet that the Lord our God was going to raise up in these days.'

67 "'Oh, but Rabbi Levinsky tells me that he's a false prophet. He's a Beelzebul; he's possessed with a fortune-telling spirit. I won't believe it.' Walks away.

68 "And you remember Rebecca's testimony that day, how she said when Zacchaeus got up early that morning. . . . And she'd prayed all night long that Zacchaeus would get to see Jesus when He came into the city. [Now, women, that's the way to get your husband won to God. It takes some praying, holding on.] All night she prayed. And the next morning. . . . She knew that Jesus was going to visit the city that day; so, all night she had prayed that Zacchaeus would see some kind of a miracle that Jesus would perform that would change her husband's heart." And you know we're taught this, friends, the prayer of faith will do great things. All things are possible to them that believe.

69 And then Matthew might have said, "And, brethren, you remember that morning when we met Rebekah, she said, 'I've prayed all night. And this morning about daylight . . . well, Zacchaeus got up early, put on his best robe, and groomed his beard [you know, because he was an important man], so put on his best clothes, you know. And I said, "Where are you going darling?"'

70 "'Oh, just for a morning stroll.' That was unusual, you know, because he didn't get up that early. So, Rebekah got down in the floor and said, 'Thank You, Lord; I know You're dealing with him, see,

because he's been so grouchy the last few days. [That's usually when he's on the road.] Oh, he's cut me off to everything. But I know that You'll lead him somehow right around to where Jesus is.' Well, now, you remember we took a . . . And she stayed home to pray.

71 "So you remember what Zacchaeus told us after the story. He said down in his heart all night long he had dreamed of seeing God dealing with him. And the next morning when he got up, he went out and went down to the corner of the gate of the south side of the city, to which He was to appear. And when he got there by daylight, the Galileans had piled all over the gates to wait for Him. Well, he was a little man, so . . . he was small in stature, and he said, 'I'm too little to ever get in a bunch like that. I'd never see him. But I'm going to give him a piece of my mind when I see him. I'll tell him He's a false prophet. He's no seer.' So, he happened to think, 'You know, if he comes in here, I won't see him; but I know he's going over to Levinsky's over there for dinner, my competitor. So, I'll tell you what, I'll go up here, and I know he'll pass by Hallelujah Avenue, where it goes down Glory Street. [And He usually passes that way, you know.] So, I'll go up there and stand up there, and when he passes by, I'll see him.'

72 "Well, he got up there. He was groomed all up. Said, 'I'll stand right here, and when he comes up, I'm going to say, "Rabbi, I've slapped my wife out of the bed many nights because of you. I want you to leave her alone. I want her back in church [with the ladies' sewing circles and all that, see]. Why, I'm a disgraced business man in this city because she's been hanging after a bunch of fanatics, bunch of holy [or, you know, people like you, see]. . . . So, I want you to get out of the country!" I'll tell him. Boy, everybody will know I'm some fellow, I've got some brains, see.'

73 "He was standing on the corner. Happened to think, 'Well, you know what? That crowd will follow him. That's right. They will. Wherever he goes, they'll go too. You know what, I'm so little, when they get up here they just might trample over the top of me.' So, he was only . . . 'I don't know how to do it.' So, he looked and there was a sycamore tree standing there. Thought, 'Well, you know what? I believe I'll get up in that, and when I get up there. . . . Now, what am I doing all this for? But if I get up there, I'll see him when he comes by, and I'll preach him a sermon from the top of this tree.'

74 "So, he looked around, and he was too short to reach the limbs, you know. But he was determined he was going to see him. [If you're determined, God will fix a way for you to see Him, all right, see. You just be determined, see.] And so he looked around. He happened to think, 'Well, the garbage collector hasn't come by yet this morning,' and the garbage pail was sitting over there. So, he goes over to get the garbage pail, and it was too heavy. Well, nothing else around, but 'I want to see him. [Oh, you'll do strange things if you want to see Him. You'll do things you don't think you'd do, embarrassing things.] So he puts his arm around the garbage pail, here he comes now.

75 "And just about that time, here come two or three businessmen around the corner, his competitors. Hah! Then he's caught in a trap. [Maybe some of you in the same shape tonight, you're caught amongst these holy rollers. So, there you are, might as well just take it, see.] So, there they was. He had the pail in his arms. His little face got red. He didn't care; he was going to see him anyhow. [That's the way! Now, Zacchaeus, now you're getting right.]

76 "Takes it over and sets it down by the tree and shinnies up. . . . [I don't mean to say that. We call it in America *shinny* up the tree. You know, it's get up on the tree and climb up it.] He got up there, got him sat down where two limbs come together like this. Sat down across those limbs."

77 That's a good place to sit down awhile, where two ways meet, yours and God's, think it over a little bit. You're going to die one of these days. You've got to meet the God who wrote this Word. You've got to give it an answer one of these days. So, I hope that there's many Zacchaeuses here tonight will sit on that crossplace tonight, make up your mind.

78 "What a pitiful looking sight he was, sitting up there, picking the splinters out of him, garbage all over his new suit. But he was determined to see Jesus. He wanted to see Him. So, he began to think, 'You know, what's making me do this? You know Rebekah told me that that guy was a prophet, that he could see. Now, I don't believe that. There's no such a thing in this day. My priest told me there's no prophets of this day. Prophets was hundreds of years ago, way back in Moses' time. But there's no prophets today. So, you know what I believe? Before I give him a piece of my mind, I believe I'll just cover myself up so he can't see me.'



79 "So, he got all the limbs and pulled them all around him, and camouflaged himself so nobody could see him. So, he left him one big leaf, like this, like a door he could raise it down and look out. And he sat there wondering. 'Now, he'll never know I'm up here, because he can't see me up this tree. And I'll just see how much prophet he is.'

80 "And every once in a while he'd hear some noise. [You know, usually where Jesus is, there's a lot of noise. I don't know why, but it's usually that way.] And so he pulled the leaf down, looked out over the leaf, nobody coming. After awhile he heard a noise. He looked down, and the streets was beginning to crowd full of people. He peeped under the leaf, you know, watching, looking around to see.

81 "After a while a great big strong man come around the corner of the street, standing full. . . . 'I'm very sorry this morning, friends; would you step back and give our Master room? He is very weary and tired. He's been up much through the night. He's been healing the sick yesterday, and things has been done. Would you please step back?'

" 'That must be who Rebekah said was Simon Peter. He looks like a big brawny-looking fellow.'

" 'Would you stand. . . ?'

"Here come some more men by. 'We're very sorry, but give our Master room, will you, because He's very tired this morning.'

82 "Well," I thought, "now, he'll never see me sitting here. And so, after a while I looked over on the corner, and there stood a friend of mine with a sick baby that. . . . I'd just been down there and talked to him. And the doctor, that eats at my same restaurant that I and the priest eats at, told that man that baby would die at any time, and its fever was so high. And here they are, wrapped up in a blanket, standing out there to see this fanatic come around."

83 "After a while the little father run out in front of Him, and fell down and said, 'Would you have mercy on my baby?' And He just touched the blanket. The little girl got to jumping and running, going away. And when he looked down, there was something about this man Jesus that when he saw Him, he changed his mind. He didn't feel like giving Him a bawling out. [If you ever look straight into the Scriptures and see Jesus, what He is, you won't criticize Him no more.] He didn't want to bawl Him out, but he pulled a little leaf

down and began to watch Him come on. He had his head down, walking steady. [The Bible said there's no beauty we should desire Him, so He was probably a little stooped-shouldered fellow, walking along the street.]

84 "And when He got right under where he was at, He stopped. And here he was, looking over this leaf. He looked up, said, 'Zacchaeus, come down, I'm going home with you for dinner today.' Not only knew he was in the tree but knew who he was. 'Zacchaeus, come down, make haste, come down right away. Rebekah's waiting for us.' You remember how. . . ?"

85 "Oh, yes. All of us remember that. Yes, sir. We remember that testimony, what Zacchaeus said up there that day at dinner, how he was ashamed. And he said, 'Lord, if I've done anything wrong, I'll make it right. I know that Thou art the Messiah. Sure, I'm satisfied. When You called my name, me sitting up there in that tree. . . . Oh, yes.'

86 "And say, when we went out of the gate, you remember that old blind Bartimaeus was out there on the other side there? You remember his testimony, brethren?"

87 "Yes, I remember it. He was sitting there dreaming of the days that when he could see, when he used to be able to run around, and pick little flowers along on the Judaeen hills." (Break in tape)

88 He said, "I do nothing till the Father . . . till what I see the Father doing, that doeth the Son likewise." How many knows that scripture? St. John, the fifth chapter. When Jesus passed through the pool of Bethesda, He healed one man, left the multitude, thousands laying there—lame, blind, halt, withered. He went to a man that maybe had a prostate trouble, maybe he had T.B. It was retarded; he'd had it thirty-eight years. Why didn't He heal those that was crippled and blind? Right. Passed among every one of them; then went over to this fellow. Now, remember, the Bible said Jesus knew that he had been in this condition. And he said, "Will thou be made well?"

89 Said, "I have no one to put me in the water."

90 Said, "Take up your bed."

91 Said, "Somebody can beat me." He could walk. Said somebody outruns him, gets down there first, get in the water when the angel troubles the water.

92 Said, "Take up your bed and go into your house."

93 And He was questioned. If He did that in this city tonight, He'd be questioned. Watch the devil say, "We got a man selling pencils down here on the street is blind. Let these divine healers heal him." See that devil? The same one that said, "If thou be the son of God, perform a miracle before me. Turn this bread in . . . this rocks into bread, I'll believe you." The same devil, when he had Him in the courts, put a rag around his head and a bunch of drunken soldiers hit Him on the head with a stick, said, "If you're a prophet, tell us who hit you. We'll believe you," see.

94 God don't clown. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing in himself, but what he sees the Father doing, that doeth the Son likewise." There you are. There's the real servant of God. "I can do nothing in myself but what I see." Not hear; see. Then Jesus never done one thing until God showed Him by a vision what to do, or He told something wrong in St. John 5:19. "Verily, verily [that's absolutely, absolutely], I say unto you, the Son can do nothing in himself [that was the Son, the body that God dwelt in], the Son can do nothing in himself, but what I see [see] the Father doing: that doeth the Son likewise." "The Father worketh and I work hitherto." In other words, "The Father shows Me what to do and I just act it out as a drama."

95 Now, blind Bartimaeus said, "Who's passing by?"

96 "Oh," they said, "shut up." Shoved him over. And there, finally, a kind little woman, a servant of Christ. . . . All servants of Christ are kind. Do you believe that? They like to show courtesy to those who are needy, help the blind across the street, bring them to the meeting,

do things kind. When the neighbor's sick, go help them. Never expect money, do good to others. All Christ's servants are like that. They like to help those who are run down and tramped over.

97 This poor old blind man, pushed over there, and all of them hollering: One saying, "Hail, hail, the king, the prophet, the Galilean prophet! Hail to Him!"; the other saying, "Away with that imposter"; the other one say, "Come raise the dead, you hypocrite—plenty of them laying up here on the hill. Come up here and raise one of our men. We had a godly priest to die last week; come raise him, if you're the Son of God."

98 Jesus never opened his mouth, just kept walking on. All . . . He was going to Calvary right then, going up to Jerusalem. The burden of the world was upon Him. Every man that ever died, every sin that was ever committed, was laid upon Him. And He knowed He was going to death. I can hear Bartimaeus say, "Who passes by?" Nobody would tell him.

Directly this kind little woman said, "Sir, let me help you up, kind sir."

"Oh, you're a nice lady. Who are you?"

She told, "I am the servant of the Christ."

"The what?"

"The Christ. You are a Jew?"

"Yes."

"Have you not read in the Scriptures where the Messiah was coming?"

"Oh, the son of David?"

"Yes. "What kind of a man will he be?"

"Oh, He'll be a prophet," said blind Bartimaeus. "He'll be a prophet."

"That's Him that just passed by."

99 "Oh, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!"

100 Some of them said, "Shut up!"

101 How could He hear that? Go to Jericho one time and see where he was sitting and where Jesus was at. About three hundred yards. Thousands of people saying: "Hail to the prophet;" other one saying, "Away with the hypocrite!" Overripe food thrown at Him, and everything like that. "Out of our town!" see. And others blessing Him, and some cursing Him. Same thing today, same thing. Some say, "It's true, it's of God;" the other say, "It's a devil." There you are, see.

102 God takes his man, but never his Spirit. The devil takes his man, but never the spirit. Just kind of lives on in somebody else. Just keeps coming back, like the Holy Spirit. Now, they both live today. They both live in Grande Prairie. You know that. Sure, they are, both spirits. Wherever men are gathered together, you find both spirits. Here they was.

103 And now, there . . . Jesus could not have heard him literally, too much noise. But blind Bartimaeus must have said this, "I know then that that's that Messiah that I knowed would come. And I know that He's a prophet." So, he must have fell on his knees and said, "Jehovah, Jehovah!" [See, it compares with the rest of the Scripture—the woman that touched his garment.] He's a high priest tonight, that you can touch his garment. "Jehovah, I'm blind. I have no money for an operation, and it couldn't do me no good anyhow. Jehovah, that's the Son of David and He's passing me by. Have mercy!"

104 His faith stopped Him—the faith of a blind beggar, an insignificant person. Not his cry, He couldn't have heard it. Too much one saying this, and the other one saying something else. But his faith stopped him, because Jesus said so. And remember, with the sins of the world on Him, going to Jerusalem, the faith of one beggar stopped Him in his tracks.

105 Wish I had a few days. I'd like to preach to you one night, just on preaching, "And Jesus Stood Still." The sun stood still. One of these days, time will stand still. But Jesus stood still, said, "Thy faith has saved thee."

106 "You remember what blind Bartimaeus said? He said, 'If that was the Son of God, that man was a prophet; my faith was strong enough to stop Him. And I asked Him for my sight, and He said, "Thy faith hath saved thee." I stood looking. The crowds went on down the road. I said, 'It has to be so. It has to be so. I know it's so.' And after while I began to see a shadow. I began to notice and there was my hands. And I'm running down the road rejoicing.' "

107 Oh, sure. Oh, what a testimony meeting they were having. No doubt they were weeping and shouting and jumping up and down in the boat, hollering, "Glory to God, praise God, brethren! We know we're right. We know that He is the Messiah." So is it today. You take all your dead theology you want to; I'll take the living Christ. For me and my house, we'll serve God. Oh, I like an experience, a Urim and Thummin, a Word of God made flesh and dwelt among us.

108 At the meeting, that testimony meeting, about that time they began to notice. . . . The devil must have looked up across the Galilean hill, and said, "Oh, there they are. Out there having a testimony meeting, but they've gone off without Him. He's not with them now. So, if He's not with them now, now is my time to get them." My precious brother, that's what he could say again. The churches are going off without Him. They're going off on a great denominational spree. Our Pentecostal brethren are, trying to get more members in this one, or more members in that one, having great programs going on, great things, trying to compare with the other churches. We're not to do that. Let's stay with Jesus.

109 The devil says, "Now I'll sink them. I've got them—gone off without Him." And that's just what he's trying to do now. So he began to blow his poison breath. "Whe-e-ew!" The old sea went into a nervous prostration. Here the waves began to jump and to flip, and he said, "I'll sink them now!" Standing, glittering eyes on every wave, and the lightning aflashing, the thunders aroaring. Said, "We'll get 'em now because we've got 'em out here without Him."

110 That's what the devil's done to the church today: gone off without Jesus on a great big denominational spree, and the first thing you know, other kind of things of the world and trying to compare with the world. We can't compare with the world. Don't go over on the world's ground to get the people in. We've got something they haven't got. Hallelujah! We've got Jesus. They got glamour. How

can we compare with them with glamour? The gospel is not a glare; it's a glow. Sure. And you can't glow it; it gets in you and glows itself. Amen.

111 Yes, it's what we're trying to do—get on some kind of a tantrum to get more than the Baptist, or more than the Methodist, and make our churches look like theirs, and our denomination to equal theirs. Oh, nonsense! Let's go back to Christ. Let's get back to the old-fashioned prayer meetings, back to the godly nights, and tears, and crying before God, until we see the living God moving among us. Prayer meetings breaking out, and people coming under conviction—back to that. He's caught us off on a tantrum, too.

112 Now, what happened? All hopes was gone, the oars broke, the sail went down. But, you know, I don't want to leave you sitting out there. We don't want to stay there. But you know, it's just like Jesus. The Frenchman calls Him *Jesu*. It's just like *Jesu*—He won't leave you. You know what He done? He knowed they was going to get in trouble. He knew something was going to happen out there, and He knowed something's going to happen to us. He's God. He knowed the end from the beginning.

113 You know what He done? He climbed the highest hill there was in Palestine. Farther up you go, the farther you can see. So, He climbed up to the top of the highest hill so He could watch them. When they got in trouble and needed Him, He could be a very present help in the time of trouble. And, brother, when they crucified Him at Calvary, the world thought they had Him. Death thought they had Him, hell thought it had Him, the devil thought he had Him—but He broke every seal. Not only climbed to Calvary, but beyond every moon and star, and sits at the right hand of the majesty tonight.

114 And his eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. Don't you? He sees our trouble, our flusterations. Everything whirling this-a-way, and some of them kind of say, "Well, I just don't believe it;" another one saying this-a-way. Sickness, cancer, diseases, all kinds of things setting in amongst Christians, getting off, acting worldly and everything. Just let the whip come in, that's all. But remember, He's sitting up high watching you, seeing what you're going to do. Right at the darkest of the hour, when all hope was gone for a revival, here He come walking on the sea. Here He come walking, down along there on the sea.

115 You know what? Those disciples was just about like a lot of people today. That was the only help they could ever get, the only thing that could help them, and they were afraid of it. They said He looked like a spook. "He must be a fortune-teller. It must be a telepathy." They were afraid of it.

116 That's what it is today. People don't know what to do about it. He's walking right among us again. Amen. Walking among us, the troubles, when atomic bombs and everything's hanging everywhere; but right in this dark hour when the churches is all confused, and tore apart, and denominational differences, Jesus comes walking right among us. And the people say, "I don't know. I don't know, now. It didn't come to our organization. We have to watch, see."

117 But what was the words? "It is I, be not afraid."

118 So tonight, Grande Prairie, I'm your brother, He is your Lord. But that's Him moving among you. You Pentecostal people, does not the Bible say, did not Paul say, "If you all speak with tongues, and there come in one among you who is unlearned, there's no interpretation to it, would he not say you're mad? But if one is a prophet and reveals the secret of the heart, then they'll all fall down, say truly God is among you." I'm not an outcast; I'm your brother. If Jesus could speak with an audible voice tonight, you would hear Him say the same thing. "Don't be afraid. It is I, be not afraid." It's the same God, same Spirit. "A little while and the world won't see me no more, yet you'll see me [the believer], for I'll be with you, even in you to the end of the world. The works that I do shall you also."

119 He prophesied in this last days, in the evening time, that same thing would take place, that we've been through it this week. "As it was in the days of Sodom. . . ." What was? Not Noah now. Remember now, He explained that by Sodom. This is the time of Sodom, when the world's going to be burned. Not drowned; burned. It's going to be burned. And this time was to return, not an ark, but God dwelling in the flesh of his people, in his church. Jesus said, "At that day you'll know that I'm in the Father, the Father in me, and I in you and you in me."



