

# Jesus At A Preacher's House

Sermon Title: **Jesus At A Preacher's House**

Sermon Number: **5015**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Amen. Amen and Amen. Bow your heads. Dear, Heavenly Father, upon this day, again, anoint my mind and spirit that I may deliver unto your people that which You shall have them to hear and open their eyes and their ears, that they may receive and that the Seed of Your Word just shall go into the fertile soil of their mind and spirit and shall grow and spring forth fruit, that all men shall see and shall be able to partake thereof and say, "This is good." Upon this day, dear Father, bring forth your Word to your people and Thy Son, Jesus's name. Amen.

First of all, I would like to thank Minister Calvin for delivering the message upon last Sunday. Both myself and C. Elijah, we were laying up on the beach side of Mexico and cruising last Sunday. We went on a marriage retreat. That was a cruise to Florida and to Mexico. And is simply a time just of renewal of just between man and woman and a time to just get away. And sometimes, people, you just need to do that. Did you know even Jesus had to get away? As powerful and as knowledgeable and as close to God as Jesus was, there were times when Jesus had to get away.

And He had to get away from it all and He had to go off times by Himself. But when you're in a relationship, there are times when you need to get off even away from the children. So, that you can renew the fire. And we even saw a manifestation of that on this past Friday and C. Elijah brought a powerful message. He has been renewed. And to see, if one thing that go off and be renewed with God, we all need that, but he and his wife has been renewed and we saw C. Elijah come, you all need to get the tapes that he preached on Friday.

And that was one of the most powerful and one of the most awesome messages that I ever heard him preached, called, A Candle Well Lit. You need to get that message and indeed. And how many of you were over here on Friday, and just heard that message, tell them all what it was like. I mean, it was powerful. So, you need to get a copy of, A Well-Lit Candle. It was awesome. But he had been off and then renewed in his spirit and his relationship and you could even hear it come through in his message.

And God gave me for today, and open your Bibles to the Book of Luke to the 14th Chapter. And even a couple of weeks ago, it's been a couple of weeks since I've been here in this pulpit, and two

weeks ago, even in prayer, he said, you will speak next, from the 14th Chapter of the Book of Luke. And I'll be reading from you Luke 14, the first six verses of that Chapter, the King James Version. Luke Chapter 14, beginning with the first verse.

“And it came to pass, as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath Day, that they watched Him. And, behold, there was a certain man before Him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spoke unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath Day?” And they held their peace. And He took him, and healed him, and let him go; And answered him, saying, “Which of you shall have an ass, or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath Day?” And they could not answer Him again to these things.

The first verse of that 14th Chapter of Luke says, “And it came to pass, as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath Day.”

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Jesus was in the house of one of the chief Pharisees. Now, in this modern day and age, we don't have a title called, Pharisees. We don't even have a title called, Sadducee, nor do we have a title called, Scribes. And the Bible in the New Testament speak a lot of the Pharisees and the Sadducees and the Scribes and the lawyers. We don't have those actual religious titles today. We have a lot of different titles, but just not notes. Today, we have equivalent titles. The Pharisee and the Sadducee and the lawyers, those were the ones who interpreted the laws. Those were the ones who administered the messages unto the people of God.

Those were the ones who can and did the temple. Those were the ones who stood in the pulpit. Those were the preachers. And just like they had many different names for them in that day, so do we today. Reverend, minister, pastor, doctor, bishop, apostle. We even have the good reverend. And sometimes, we'll have the right reverend. And then, we'll have the right good reverend, doctor, apostle. Sometimes, we've got a lot of different titles, but it really all boils down to the same thing, those who deliver and interpret the Word of God.

Today, we would fit in and lump them all in a general category called, preachers. And that's fundamentally what they were in the old days. So that first verse of the 14th Chapter of Luke says, "And it came to pass, as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath Day." And I simply titled this message today, Jesus At A Preacher's House. And what it really boiled down, so Jesus was eating bread at a preacher's house.

And you're checking yourself, "What's so strange about that? Like 'em, all of the houses that Jesus should have eaten bread, He shouldn't eat at a preacher's house." You know in the old days, down in the country, it was a tradition as a preacher never have to go out to pay for dinner. Because universally, that would be a sister in the church and then we'd all we've had the preacher over for dinner. And you can rest assured that, when they have a preacher over for dinner, they had their best stuff on the table, because the preacher was coming for dinner. And you haven't been out of the country. You see in the modern days, right now, no one invites a preacher over to dinner.

And to be honest about it, most preachers don't want to go to dinner. So, it's kind of almost a mutual thing, most of the preachers in the pulpit today, even if you invited them over to dinner, they wouldn't come and the members don't even invite them. But back in the old days, it was traditional. And my grandmother who's now by 91 years old, she told me that, "In the old days, they would always have the preacher over and you see nowadays, we speak as the preacher's favorite meal is, fried chicken.

And we had a baptismal service today and with the Baptist ministers were special. There was something about the best ministers that look like, there was nothing that would satisfy a Baptist member like a, piece of fried chicken. And that was even the story of once we were back in the country, the Baptist preacher had gone out to his house to draw water out of the well and he was looking over the well, getting his water and he was opening his mouth and all of the sudden, his false teeth fell into the well. And the well was deep and the water was deep, but no one knew how to get those false teeth out of the well.

And when the preacher got to church on Sunday, he was preaching gummy like this, because his false teeth and the sister

who had the wisdom went over to the pastor's house that evening? And she went out to the well and she had a basket and she took them fried chicken and put them on a hook and dropped them down in the well--

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and those teeth, clamped on them fried chicken.

So, back in the old days, it was traditional that the preacher would come to house of the members to eat dinner. And, yes, this verse deals with Jesus, who is the Greatest of Ministers actually eat at a preacher's house. But he asked when Jesus went to this preacher's house, it was not the same, as it was in the old days in the country.

You see? They had really invited Jesus there, not to feed Him, but to trap Him. Not to minister nourishment onto Him, but to degrade Him, not to administer sustenance to Him but to see what they could do to destroy Him. And as Jesus was at a preacher's house, says that a to change of path as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath Day that they watched Him. They were watching Jesus. And you see? Often times, we can watch, but we're watching with different motivations.

Some people, they come in church on Sunday watching, but they are not watching the preacher. Sometimes, when folks come in church on Sunday, they are watching to see who is just there. Some men will come to church on Sunday watching to see that women come in church. Some women will come to church on Sunday watching to see if there is an available man, that's unattached, with you watching. You see? The Pharisee says, "When Jesus cameth and watched Him." And you see, you can watch and you can be looking at a situation.

So, a whole lot of people right now, they're watching Reverend Calvin when he got up to speak last Sunday. And Reverend Calvin, I can tell you, there may have been a person in the audience that wouldn't even listen to what he was saying. And you could've been on fire for the Lord. You could've been, but boy, they were all saying, "This man is single." He's not married, he's good-looking, he's a good (00:12:59), he's worshiping the Lord and Lord have mercy. Whoa! He's got big strong shoulders and he was up here talking about the Holy Ghost and we were watching

him.” And he thought, and he was delivering the message about the Holy Ghost and made it to the majority of the audience. He was dealing with it, administering about the Holy Ghost when he asks and there was someone in the audience and they were watching him and it had nothing to do with the Holy Ghost.

So, often, even in church, just as those preachers did at that house, they were watching Jesus. But they were watching Him with the wrong motivation. Jesus at a preacher’s house.

The second verse of that 14th Chapter of Luke says, “And, behold, there was a certain man before Him, which had the dropsy.” Now, the Bible does not say this, but I put this to you. Here was a house that had one of the chief preachers as the owner. He would’ve been, in modern day termed, a bishop, high up in the hierarchical church organization. He was a big shot in the church. Probably, head of several synagogues and the people who were there, as it says, “They were also pharisees.”

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And Jesus and the Bible says, “And, behold, there was a certain man before Him, which had the dropsy.” I submit to you that certain man who was before Him was also a preacher. It was the house of the chief of preachers. And it talks about they watching Him talking about the pharisees. Then, if it was the house of the chief preacher and it was, they that was watching Him. And there was a man before Him that had the dropsy. I submit to you, since this was a social gathering, sister, chief preacher only invited his friends and his cohorts and those who were in good with Him, I submit to you everyone in the house, they also were pharisees, and the man who was before Jesus was a certain man, but that was certain man was a preacher and he had dropsy.

This is the only verse in the Bible that even the disease and the condition of dropsy is mentioned. Most of you, don’t even know what dropsy is. To be perfectly honest, I didn’t know what dropsy was. I had read it, but I had never taken time to exactly see what dropsy was. For everyone, there’s something that you hear. You don’t know what it is, but you do know one thing, you don’t want it. So, I didn’t know what dropsy was, but I was absolutely certain of one thing. I didn’t want any part of dropsy. I knew, I didn’t want it. So, as God had led me to these verses and I had to research to see exactly what was dropsy. Dropsy is an old fashion

medical term that simply means, edema. Now, I knew what edema was, but I didn't know what dropsy was. So, you all know what edema is, but you don't what dropsy is. Some of you don't know what edema is.

Dropsy, is simply the accumulation of fluid, or water in the body. And specifically, in this case, it has to do with the accumulation of fluid in the man's arms and legs. The new living translation translates Luke 14:2 this way, "Because there was a man there whose arms and legs were swollen." Here was a man before Jesus, who I speculate and theorize was a pharisee. And he was there before Jesus with his arms and his legs swollen, swollen with water, and the man was in a precarious situation.

You see? He was there swollen, swollen water, but the condition of dropsy, that the physicians of that day could not cure and yet here was a man walking in the door that have the reputation of being in a miracle worker. That have the reputation of being able to lay hands on people, open blinded eyes and stop their fears, He was a miracle worker walking in the door, but there's one problem, the man was probably a pharisee and the pharisees were out to get Jesus. And yet, here was a man walking in the door that could heal him, but the only problem, he was a member of the group that was trying to destroy Him. So, he was beaten up, sitting up every drop with his arms and his legs all swollen and here comes his answer walking in the door. But he could not partake of the answer, because he belongs in a group that was trying to kill Him.

Have you ever been on a mess like that before? I mean, someone got what you need, but because they are in a different group, because there's something about them that doesn't quite agree with your particular socioeconomic status, that you feel that you cannot socialize, or mingle with them, yet they've got what you need. Jesus had what the man needed and the pharisees, they knew of all of the reports of the miracles that this man had done. But he was in a mess, because he was a member of the group that was trying to destroy Jesus and yet he knew.

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You know people, there are so many people are like that today. They don't believe in the Bible. They don't believe in Jesus and it's the only thing that will save them. And there are members of

group, and sometimes, they don't recognize down in their spirit that Jesus is what I need. I'd even devote myself and I'm still sick. I'm still swollen. I still can barely move. I still have the dropsy and the physicians can't heal me.

All of the Pharisees that I'm around, they can't heal me but yet I've heard a rumor that this man, Jesus, can heal me. But I've got a problem. I'm with these other folks. I got a problem. And sometimes, the group that we are with, they'll keep us from us from Jesus because it will plenty with a group and we're ashamed and we're afraid to go because I'm with this other group and this other group does believe in. This other group said he's a charlatan. And this other group is trying to find stuff that say he never even existed. This other group is trying to stuff that said he never, ever rose. And this other group is trying to find stuff that he's not the Son of God. I'm with this group and he's got what I need. So, I'm thinking they can't heal me. He was in a mess, but he was there in the middle of the Pharisees and I speculate that he was a Pharisee himself, mess, sick and a mess. What did he do when Jesus was there at a preacher's house?

See, Jesus had healed other people in the presence of the Pharisees, but it was always at the synagogue and if it was there at the synagogue, there were many people there at synagogue who were not Pharisees and Sadducees and Scribes and the interpreters of the law. There are many at the synagogue, but at the chief bishop's house. It was more than likely only other Pharisees there and this man has the dropsy and didn't know what to do about it. That's a tough situation to be in. People, they're sometimes — when you're going to have to make a choice between the group and God.

Because the group then recognize God. And the group said God didn't even exist, Jesus is just a fraud and you have to make a decision between the group and God, else you stay with dropsy or whatever you've got for the rest of your days. And dropsy even brought on or characterized by congestive heart failure. Whenever the heart fails and if you know anyone that has a heart attack, soon it will start accumulating in the arms and in the legs and it's symbolic that the Pharisees have heart failure.

Your heart had stop working. They had lost compassion. They had lost mercy. They had lost justice. They had heart failure. Then, Jesus walks into the house of the chief of the Pharisees and

right before him was one of them who had the dropsy. And this man was in a mess because he did not know what to do. You see, peer pressure, people, is powerful. Peer pressure is power. Perhaps, 90% of the things that even most Christians do are the result of peer pressure.

Peer pressure is simply the pressure or the influence that the crowd or the group or the people that are around you exerts and influence you to do. That's peer pressure. Now, that tells you something people, if peer pressure is that powerful and it is. I don't care who you are. There's rule about peer pressure that you need to understand very good because peer pressure is real. You need to make sure you are around the kind of peers that's going to put the kind of pressure to take you where you want to go.

Peer pressure is powerful. So, you need to make sure that you are around the kind of peers that's going to exert the kind of pressure to take you where you want to go.

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We just came back from a marriage, look if you want a silent marriage, don't hang around someone that's cheating all the time. Now that's peer pressure and do you know, even though you are as faithful, they're lying. He could be just as faithful as he wants to be, but if he's around another man in a group, he's running around with. If all them are cheating on their wives and the tendency of lying everyday, "Coming, man, you're missing man. And then after, man, you're missing out already." And C. Elijah said, "No, I'm happy. I'm praising the Lord." Man, and after and he will hold up for a long time, but after that thing, is over and over and (00:25:44) finally I tell him, "Man, I got somebody who want to meet you."

I got somebody who wants to meet you and the way Satan will work in, C. Elijah will tell, "I don't want to meet anybody, but maybe I can witness to." And the way Satan will work things out when you hang around the wrong crowd, he may go to have good intentions to witness and he sees a woman and she's a knock out. Peer pressure and the crowd and the group that you hang around can exert influence on your good or bad and you see, the same thing can happen, but he would never get in that situation because he understands the value of even though you hang around.

The same things work in reverse if you hang around someone that's going somewhere, the living of God. They will start influencing you and they'll never even have to say anything to you about it. You can just — you'll start watching and you'll see it and it will start moving through your mind and your spirit just by our motive. You know there are some things that carry through and the people never have to say a word. Do you know if I sit here and yawn, do you know there's something about and you watch a person yawn even though you have just got 12 hours of sleep? There's something about it. You're just watching another person yawning and you're watching over and over and all of the sudden, so you may have plenty of sleep and somebody yawning at it and though you may have plenty of sleep, you yawn. And you'll find yourself just yawning. That's what happened. That's what peer pressure is all about.

Same thing is true with the (00:27:50). You can't look at anybody (00:27:50) you know they're just the greatest of the greatest. You can be sad and depressed, but if you look at someone just a grin and there's something about it, it'll cause a grin on even without words. Peer pressure good or bad can affect you. So here was this man that I speculate was a Pharisee, sitting at the midst of all the other Pharisees, with an illness that the physicians could do nothing about it. And here was his answer walking in the door, but the peer pressure was too great for him to get up and go to Jesus.

And often times, I will read many different translations of the Bible. More often than not, the NIV version is more accurate but there's sometimes that there is nothing that replaces that Old King James and in verse number 4 of that 14th Chapter of Luke and that's why I had to set the stage for you to understand what Jesus walk into and you got to understand, I can understand why the Pharisees, first of all didn't like Jesus. You wouldn't like anyone to talk real bad about you. Jesus gave the Pharisees or he gave the preachers a rough time. Just in the Book of Matthew. You don't have to turn them. I'm going to read through you quick. Just in the Book of Matthew Chapter 3 Verse 7.

“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism” just as he had a baptismal service this morning. When Jesus was baptized and he saw the preachers come to his

baptism. “He said unto him, O generation of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

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He called them a whole generation of vipers. It’s no wonder that the Pharisees and the preachers, they didn’t like Jesus. He called them snake.

Matthew 23, first verse. “Then spake Jesus for the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, the Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye works: for they say and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.

In other words, they dress really sharp. “And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.”

Then again in Matthew 23:13, “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows’ houses, for a pretense make long prayer: therefore, ye shall receive the greatest damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte or one convert and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”

Matthew 23:23, Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. He said you’re focused on so much on tithe that forgotten all the main stuff.

In 23:33 he said, “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” It was one – that the Pharisee

didn't like Jesus. Was there anyone that's why you have to understand the background, this is what Jesus had said about the preachers.

So, Jesus at a preacher's house. So, when he walked in, he walked in with a background from his varied baptism having called them snake and he walks into the house of one of the chief snakes. But can you blame the Pharisees? Because if anyone has talked about us in that way, unless we were highly, spiritually evolved. First reaction we'd have is to get mad at them. First reaction we'd have is we want to shut them up. First reaction we'd have is to want to do harm. So, the Pharisees were simply acting out of a human fleshly reaction. Jesus at a preacher's house.

So here was this man that I speculate was a Pharisees, filled with dropsy and his answer walking in the door, but there after had called them all snakes. He had a problem. How did Jesus handle it? How did Jesus handle it? In Luke 14:4, "And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go." The Bible says that Jesus took him, he was sitting there in front of Jesus on a dropsy, more than likely a Pharisee afraid to come forward because Jesus had went in his roof that Jesus had called snakes. So, Jesus took him and when you look through all the other verses of where Jesus heals people, he never took anyone else.

Hey may have -- say he took him by the hand, but he didn't say he took this man by the hand. He took the whole man; he was just sitting there and I could understand him not wanting to come forward. So, Jesus just took him.

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People sometimes -- God has just think of that situation. Because we don't move at our -- sometimes, we don't understand the moving of God -- God has been coming to take it. Sometimes, it's kind of rough.

And we don't understand how God removed -- we're in situations and we would never come out of them on our own. God has to put his finger in and start stirring up your situation. He'll start things just to make things around look like it start to fall into pieces. He'll breath on it, and all of a sudden, a whirlwind will come in our lives. And it will blow all kind of stuff all that, the

pockets-- and then we are in the middle of the tornado. Do you remember was in the pocket of death and he saw the whirlwind, the thunder and the lightning and earthquake. And all of that was God -- sometimes God will have to come with all he's got, will have to take us. Because we won't come on our own power because we we're with the boys or with the girls. God will come in and so the child has dropsy, has congested heart failure and is causing stuff to backup and swell up and puke to find their lives. And that they are going to be made whole. I've got to take them.

And sometimes, we'll run even when we know and when we're called of God. Jonah decide to run -- Jonah went down to Joppa and he got on the ship and went down in the ship and went out on the ocean. He went way out and to see, we just got back from the cruise and who would (00:37:02) in the hands of God can reach out on your way out in the middle of the ocean, but you can't see land. It look like we're soldiers couldn't, you can't run from God.

When God has a call on your life and when he asks something for you to do, he'll take you wherever you are. And Jonah went to a storm and things went rocking. And the sailor said, "We are lost (00:37:28)." Jonah said, "Just throw me overboard because I know -- God has to take." Just as he had to take the man that I fear of is a Pharisee.

He took him. He healed him and let him go. Anyone in the manner of which the Bible states the order of things, you wouldn't have to let somebody go unless you had them. He took him because he was in the midst of a bunch of vipers, healed him, got his heart right and once his heart got right, all of the swelling left. People that (00:38:27) so much even with many of our illnesses. Doctors even say that 90% of all of our physical illnesses are psychosomatic. Meaning they are caused by the mind which is nothing but the heart.

If we got our heart right, most of the illness that we have in our body would disappear. If we just get our heart right. Jesus took him, healed him, and let him go. But yet, where did he let him go to? Because there is nothing else that we hear of this man or is it? And I'm going to put forth to you today another speculation. This is not the Bible. Because the Bible does not chronicle what happen to that one man that I fear of was a Pharisee when he was healed by Jesus. But you know, the Bible also has virtually only one case of a Pharisee who followed Jesus. Only one. And I want

you to turn, listen to me, to John 3, with them Matthew, Mark, Luke John.

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To John, Chapter 3, Jesus healed one preacher, one Pharisee and of all the accounts in the Bible, only one Pharisee really came to Jesus, to follow Jesus. And in John 3, first verse, "There was a name of the Pharisee, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, 'Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God.'" I submit to you that the man, Nicodemus, was the man who had the dropsy. Now I don't know for sure because the Bible didn't specify who he was. But it was one Pharisee healed and one Pharisee that came to Jesus.

You see, when you have been touched, that's why God took him. God took him, heal him and let him go. There's a whole piece of prose that said, "If you love someone, let them go. If they come back to you, they're yours. If they don't, they never were." Jesus let him go and he came back. Only one and even Nicodemus had to come to him by night, because you see, he has to come under the cover of darkness because all and the other Pharisees were still trying to kill, even they're mad at him. So, Nicodemus had to come by night, but Nicodemus was the same man that was healed by dropsy. Nicodemus knew from the other Pharisees, didn't.

And you see, the other Pharisees saw the man get healed because they were watching. They saw him get healed because the Bible says they were watching. But it lets you know, people, you can see a miracle. And if your heart is not right, the miracle will pass you by and make no change. They saw, whether he was Nicodemus or not. They saw the man get healed and still, it made no difference because their hearts had failed. But the man who got healed that I submit to you, is Nicodemus, they're different than him.

And you see, I can relate to that full well. Long before I got in ministry, I will see people come up and have hands laid on him. I see them get slain in the spirit. My scientific, analytical mind would say, "I don't know about that." I see folks pushing folks. I said, "Those folks' kind of just falling because you're pushing." I was just in now, "Really?" But I really can know from martial arts if you have a fulcrum here and if you put sufficient amount

of pressure, it causes a lever action. It magnifies the force. That's all, if you push it like that, and once you push it through, your balance -- and so you're falling.

I said when you got mass psychology, you see, one man fall, then another man fall and then the time to get to the third man, "I got a problem with that." So, you have people, just time to get in the groove of things and I said, "Lord, I see these people fall," I said, "I don't really know about that because I just don't know about all this slain in the spirit." So, one morning, early, God woke me up one morning, I was in Los Angeles, California. He says, "Something wonderful is going to happen to you today." And I went to the church service of the condition where I was and there was an evangelist ministry and supporting me out. I said, "God called me and you are to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the speaking of tongues on this day." And they get all in the suit, all sophisticated, "What in the world?" I knew they come -- he's going to knock me out. I said, "Not highly."

That was what ran through my mind and yet as I get out there, he laid hands on me and a few minutes later, I felt the power just rising in my body and after about 30 seconds, I was shaking and I couldn't stand up and fell on the floor. I just didn't fall for minutes. It was 15 minutes before I could even shut my mouth. And once I got up, I had to go -- I drank about five or six glasses of water because my throat had dried out because I couldn't shut my mouth after the experience. You see before, when I had seen other people fall, I was watching.

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The Pharisees, they were watching when the man was healed of dropsy. And people, I tell you, there's a whole, there's a bit difference when you watch it versus when healed. It's a big difference. After that experienced and no one should tell me about being explained in the spirit because I had experienced it and after the man was healed of dropsy, no one could tell him that Jesus was a fake. You see, he had been and then see when your joints are swollen and especially at night, he laid awake so many nights aching and groaning with the dropsy, with his legs thorn or with his arms. He is just shuffling around, dealing with the agony of it all. He had gone through it, and now, he was whole and he was healed, and he had known it was by man touch and he had known something especial was about it, when none of his

fellow preachers could get him straight, when none of the doctors could get him straight. All the other Pharisees may have been watching, but it was him, they went through it and when you go through it, people see the difference.

But sometimes, God knows that for some of us, even seeing it is not enough, he's got to take some of us through some things. And I was one of them myself, I just be straight out honest about. There's some things that I just didn't believe until it happened to me. But after it happened to me, I'm the strongest believer in the world. You can't convince me, "No, it happened to me." And I believe that just was this was Nicodemus who had been healed and think, "I will go find this man. I may not be able to let my fellow preachers see, but I'm going to him in the night." Because I know they may not know, but see, they didn't have the dropsy, they were just looking. I went through it, and now there's a big, big difference.

We have a member here and over the week, and last couple of weeks where he had little motorcycle accident. I've been through it. See, if you've never fallen off of a motorcycle, you don't understand it. You can look at it and you can watch and it's a (00:47:28), and said, "Man, I know, does it hurt a little bit." See, because you've never been through it. You don't fully understand it, but I've been through it. So, when I saw the scars and when I saw space, I could understand it because I'm a same body as going through it and it's like a woman trying to tell a man about Hallberg. And the man said, "Baby, why don't you just (00:47:51)." But unless you have gone through it, you'll never understand it.

Nicodemus or whoever that man was that Jesus healed of that dropsy, had been through it and understood. The same came to Jesus by night and said unto him, "Rabbi, we know thou art a teacher come from God for no man can do these miracles that thou do it except God be with you." Look, nobody is doing this stuff, that's God (00:48:34). Nobody, he knew, he was speculating or theorizing. He wasn't listening to rumors. He knew. That's why even in our salvation, he said, "Do you accept Jesus as your personal savior?" You got to know what he didn't do for you. And see, all of us, we got our own right to get we're dealing with. Swallow it up with all this stuff of the world, it's own us and we're trying to get it off of us and it's got us in agony, you need a personal savior. Your mama saved you, won't do it. Your daddy

saved you, won't do it. Your brother saved you, won't do it. Even your preachers saved you, won't do it. You've got to have a personal relationship and once that preacher had that relationship, that I believe was Nicodemus, he went and found Jesus in the night and said, "Look, I know no one can do what you did. Blessed be our God."

Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except the man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said unto him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can enter into the second time, into his mother's womb and be born?"

00:50:08

Jesus answered, and this again is why I believe that that creature he healed of that dropsy was the same Nicodemus. Jesus answered, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

You see, Nicodemus or whoever that preacher was, he had a water problem, because that's what the dropsy was. And when Jesus healed that man by taking him and healed him, he got rid of all this excess water that you had to see, he can relate to water. The water was the thing that convinced that preacher. And you see, sometimes and that's why even with that — the water has no power. But with each and every one of us, sometimes the thing that will make God real in our lives is our own water that we have, that we have to deal with.

Sometimes, some people will be able to see the Lord in the deliverance of a miraculous man and you know without a shadow of a doubt, is God. I've seen some stuff that I know without a shadow of a doubt and sometimes my water could be in something that does not even relating to water whatsoever, but it's the thing that I saw God move in my life in. Sometimes, God will deliver you out of a situation, he'll just keep your car running if you knew it was broken.

We were in a situation — I remember we were coming from Florida, had a big boat on our back and we were in van. C. Elijah was driving. It was pitch black. We were over in the middle of Alabama and we pulled on the side of the road for something, and then C. Elijah said, "You know we don't have any gas in the van."

And I said, “What?” You know we don’t have any gas in the van and I looked over at the gas needle and the thing -- you know got several levels and everyone that has a car, you know when your car is about to run out. So you always, you got a gauge, you’d be (00:52:42) it could be a sixteenth of an inch below that E before it run out. You know exactly where your car will go before it run out of gas. And I looked over at the gauge and the thing was below E, and I said, “Oh my Lord!” Because I knew that that van was about to run out of gas because I had run out of gas and once before, and it wasn’t even that low when I ran out.

And here it was exactly, the next gas station was about 25 or 30 miles and I said to myself, “Oh Lord, have mercy.” And I told C. Elijah, so look, let me get under the wheel because we got this big boat on the back and we when we ran out of gas, at least I want to be driving because I have more experience driving the van with a boat on the back. And we had with us three ladies from the Pentecostal church. And I told that and I was there, C. Elijah was there and youngest brother James. And I told the three ladies, I said, “Look, we’re at out of gas. The gas station is at least 25 or 30 miles down the road. We’re back here in the middle of Alabama, you all need to pray.” And I stepped on the gas and little (00:54:22) went praying and they went to praying and the gas needle got lower and lower and lower and I was just waiting to hear the motor just feels — I saw it jerking.

I was just waiting there, stayed in the right lane because I knew (00:54:36) one lane because of the (00:54:38) one, but two lanes. So, I was just waiting on the thing to run out of gas. It never did, it never did. When we finally made it 30 miles away to the gas station and pulled in, and I pulled up the pump, at least back and this thing got to cut off now, it still didn’t cut off.

00:55:03

See, it was simple. You see, sometimes that preacher made you seem God come in the form of the deliverance of the removal of water. I saw it that night just in gas. Sometimes you could see the pipe when you know with your scientific mind and all of your logic. I said, “There’s no way in the world, for this van should have been out of gas.” And C. Elijah just come out, “We’re low on gas.” We should have been out then, it was divine. It was miraculous and I saw a van propel 30 miles with a 5,000-pound boat behind, we need to pray and sometimes, you have to go

through that to understand it. And once you go through it and you see God, deliverance after deliverance after deliverance, you learn to (00:55:54) to yourself, but God.

Jesus at a preacher's house, and though many of them even though they watched and they saw the miracle, they never rested on their hearts. And there also came Nicodemus which he first came to Jesus by night. And sometimes, people that is symbolic of that, because we did with the group and the group has not accepted Jesus. So, we come to Jesus by night. You don't go back to (00:56:40) because they wouldn't understand it. We come to Jesus by night. We sneak off the church and we do our little praying in quiet and we don't really let them know what we're doing because they are on a group. We come to Jesus by night, but there will come a time and if the only way you can get to Jesus by night and you come in the middle of the night.

Nicodemus had to come in the middle of the night. However, you got to get to Jesus, you get to him and if you got come by night, come by night because many of the times, our great is deliverance just come in the middle of the night. They're not in the bright day when the sun come. They're in a midnight out. When we're down on our knees praying and crying and weakened before God, our deliverances will come in the middle of the night. Jesus at a preacher's house.

And I hope the preachers of today are better than the ones the days of Jesus, but I know the human spirit hasn't much changed. And I know even as a minister of God, I have to constantly deal and wrestle with the same thing the Pharisees has to deal with. It's a tough job and I don't want to get to that last day and stand before God and look at Jesus — and Jesus said, "Many will come and say, Lord, lord, give me, do wonders, give me miracles." Who did you think those spoke of? I'm preacher because generally, the only folks working wonders and miracles, they're out in front of the public and majority of that group will be the man in the pulpit. And they'll come before Jesus and say, "Lord, lord, did we work miracles in your name? Did I built this, didn't I build this great thing, didn't I have this glory of ministry in Jesus?" Well, look at many and say, "Get away from me. You wore clothes of inequity, I never knew you." And you said you did it for the love of money. You did it for the love of prestige. You did it so you could sit upfront and be admired of all men. You did it for things of the

flesh, just as the Pharisees of the old did. Get away from me. I never knew you.

If Jesus were to come and preach that same message today and simply substitute the word preacher for Pharisee, you'd have a lot of preachers mad at him today. And I am not positive that he couldn't preach the exact same message. And that's why I have to work it at constantly to stay out of the trap, the same temptation that the Pharisees faced. And when Jesus comes again, into my house, what do I want in saying about this preacher? I don't want him saying they did it for the love of money.

01:00:01

I don't want him saying, you did it — for you could stand in front the preachers of people and look good. I don't want him saying you did so you can get out television. I don't want him saying that you did for any of those reasons, but you did it for the glory of God. And yet I understood how the Pharisees felt and what they lived through because they are us. Jesus at a preacher's house.

One preacher of that group was healed, one came to Jesus, though it be in the middle of the night. And today we have had of baptism that washes the outward body, that is symbolic of the washing of the inward body. We ask people to be baptized upon this day, a divine number of completion.

This story was about a preacher, at least I theorize was a preacher that was touched and was healed by Jesus. Very few times have I even had public anointings within this church. Probably in five years, only three or four times. But I'm glad to do that today because there may be someone here today that has dropsy, that has things in their lives that have them swollen, in pain, and in agony.

Jesus wants to work a personal miracle for you. It's nice to hear to testimonies of others. But he wants to work a personal miracle for you. Jesus took him, healed him and let him go. He wants to take you today. He wants to heal you and then he wants to let you go, where he wants to let you go to do something, just as Nicodemus came to Jesus to learn (01:02:49). And so this time, if in your life right now, you feel the pain and the agony of dropsy and you see your arms and legs swollen. The arms represent that

which you do the legs represent the places that you go. And sometimes we are hindered, we're blocked, we're chained up from doing things and from going places because of dropsy.

God wants to heal you heart. And see, whenever the heart is broken — whenever the heart is congested, whenever you don't have a freedom and your heart will hinder that which you can do and the places which you can go. You got to get the heart first. At this point, at this time, everybody just value his, just value his. And if you know that it's you and there may only be one out of this entire because there is only one in that whole house of preachers. But if it is you, if you feel that you need a touch on the divine from this, I want you to just stand up right now in your seats and walk down in front. And I want to pray with you and lay hands upon you for that you can experience for yourself personal miracle. But you have to let Jesus take hold of you, not the world, not money, not pride and prestige.

01:05:03

You must let Jesus take hold of you and understand that when anointing comes, you blow some things out of your world and it may not be pleasant. Sometimes, things will happen and sometimes to remove things from you — it's a painful process. So it may not be pleasant, but birth itself, to be reborn. Birth is a painful process but it's the only way to get the new life. God wants to bring a personal miracle, a personal miracle, a personal miracle in your life upon this day.

Amen. Amen, and amen. For many of you, God will move in your life just from this moment. But God gave me word and visions with many of you — some he did not, but many of you today — and that's why the microphone was off, it's not on tape. It's strictly for you and you alone. You have been given the word. What you do with it? It's your decision. What you do with it is your decision. But God wants to take hold on you and heal you and let you go from this day forward as Jesus went to the preacher's house. He shall come into your house and heal (01:07:18).

Bow your heads and read, prepare to dismiss. I know we had not call to salvation, nor for membership in the church. But that will be your net week's, because if you change your mind between now

and next week, it wouldn't have held anyway. But he wants you to leave this place from the position of where you are now.

Join hands with the person sitting next to you and join hands with the person standing next to you as we pray. Dear father, let your power be felt in the lives of these (01:08:09) and let there be a quickening in their spirit that will set up a change and set up something that they will feel and there will be a spiritual rebirth and renewing and they'll be stripped as where there was none. And for others, there'll be an action to go and to help where they had none before. It will hit every person different. Dear father, I beseech you, to let them be sensitive to the touch and to the direction that you want to carry them this day. Let them, be sent or you will not shout it to them. You will whisper it in the still small voice that they must be still in order to hear it and the touch was just a touch, that as a spark, but the flames had to burn within each and every one of you. Your direction, the change of destiny.

Dear father, let them see and let them know that. Let them know that. Let them be like Nicodemus. Let them know. Let them not just watch. Let them know. Let them know. Let them know. And when you know, you will go. When you know, you will go. When you know, you will go. And the took him and healed him and them go, in thy son Jesus' name, we worship. Amen.

01:10:06