The Million Dollar Cell Phone

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Speaker: Nathaniel Hawthorne Bronner, Jr.

Links to audio sermon – Windows Media Version is best, MP3 is 2nd best:

TheOnLineWord.com
and
AirJesus.com
PASTOR NATHANIEL: Amen, amen and amen. Upon this truly auspicious day that we celebrate motherhood all across this country, where would we be were it not for mothers? What would we have turned out to be? How many times, and even in this world even now among big and strong men, do we still feel so much better if we can just talk to mom?

There is the old statement that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world, because within the power of motherhood lies the shaping of destiny for nations and for generations to come. It is a great task, and I know for my own wife that motherhood gets tiring. Children are a real responsibility. Believe me, when I watch my two sons for just two hours -- I mean just two hours -- that thing is more tiring by the time you keep up with the fellows and keep an eye on them, I mean just two hours; so I can understand what it is like for a 24/7 job and the trials and the tribulations of motherhood. Yet through it all, when psychologists do the surveys and they check all of the great accomplishments of the big and the powerful corporate women, there is one thing that stands supreme in a woman’s life, and that is children. No matter what a woman has achieved, when there is a void of children, there is something missing in her life that no amount of worldly success can replace. Yet when you have children, they are something that is given in terms of a treasure and in terms of a feeling that no amount of worldly success, again, can replace. There is something about coming home and seeing those two little boys that nothing else in the world can take the place of. Upon this day I give tribute to all that, through pain of labor and delivery and through pain of staying up in the middle of the night, there is something about even a child that a mother is still inherently and intrinsically closer to them than the father. A child can be out in the middle of the night, and daddy will fall dead asleep; only mama will stay up worrying and wonder where the child is. There is something that is attached between mother and child that even through biological connection of the umbilical cord, even when it is cut still it is attached. There is something that a mother can feel that whenever something ails her child, even if the child in another city, another state, even another country, the umbilical cord is still there, and mama can still feel it.

So upon this day, we give tribute to the awesome responsibility, yet privilege, of motherhood. And sometimes though children may appear to be such a chore and appear to be such a burden, they are a blessing and a treasure that is beyond price. Even in the Bible, when women could not have children, it put more distress upon them than anything else. They may be a lot of work, but they are the greatest treasure in this material world.

My message upon this day is a message that I had a great amount of toil and tribulation with. God had told me to preach this message on the third of this month as I was there at a prayer breakfast for pastors, and He instructed me upon that
day that two Sundays from then I was to deliver a particular message. It was only upon last Sunday that I was standing here after church and someone mentioned that next Sunday was Mother's Day that the thing hit me. I said, “Wait a minute. God has told me to preach that sermon, and next Sunday is Mother's Day!” I said, “That is not a Mother's Day sermon.” The thing bothered me and the thing troubled and the thing really kept me up. I said, “Lord, “You want me to deliver that sermon? That it is Mother’s Day and that is not a Mother's Day sermon!” And I had to seek God over and over and over and ask, “God, are You sure this is the sermon that You want me to deliver on Mother’s Day?” and I kept getting confirmation after confirmation after confirmation.

I even had to talk to my own mother about it. And she asked me, “Do you have your sermon for Mother’s Day?” I said, “Yeah, I’ve got my sermon; but it is not a Mother’s Day sermon!” And she asked me, “What is it?” and I told her. And I was expecting my mother to say, “Well, Son, you may need to just ask God about that one more time, because you need to preach a Mother's Day sermon on Mother's Day.”

But yet, my mother did not say that. My mother said, “I understand that.” And I had to ask. I said, “Why?” She said, “Because what God wants you to tell the people upon this day has to do with wisdom, and it is something that the mothers should have already told their children.” And she said, “Even in Proverbs, many of the verses in that book of wisdom begin with ‘my son.’” There are things that mothers and fathers need to impart and instill into their children, and today’s message is not so much a Mother’s Day message as it is a message of wisdom. And whether or not my mother had approved of it, I still was going to preach it, because I am more afraid of God than I am my mother, to be honest about it. I am more afraid of God that what folks think, because folks cannot do anything to me; but God can do a whole lot, and I know what happens when you get out of the will of God.

I began to see as some sermons that I preached weeks ago began to unfold. Do you remember when I preached the sermon called “The Prophetic”? And the next Sunday, I preached the sermon called “Troubled Waters”, and upon that Sunday God told me not to even make “Troubled Waters” available to the people upon that day. “Tell them to go back and to get the tape of “The Prophetic.” And do you remember even on “Prophetic”, I even talked about how I’d given away my Jeep and how I had prophesied to the prophet, and I told the prophet, “If you turn left, you will not go God where God wants you to go; you have got to turn right.”

Since that time, since I preached “The Prophetic” and I talked about that Jeep, do you know a few days ago that Jeep was completely totaled? And when you go back and listen to the message, you will hear it in the message. So “The Prophetic” and that message was having more and more revelations coming forth from it, and I began to understand why God had me tell people to go back and for two Sundays that was the only message available to the people with the message called “The
Prophetic”, and if you have not heard it you need to go back and listen to it, because there will be some things coming from it that still are yet to come.

But upon this day, He wants me to speak on another subject. And even upon last Sunday, we had an awesomely powerful message, “The Bitter Root”. If you did not get a tape last Sunday or even if you did, I will advise you to get another one, because we re-edited it so that everything got on one tape. If you bought a tape last Sunday, many of the ending portions would not have been on the tape; but they are there, so you’ve got a complete tape of the entire service from last Sunday of “The Bitter Root”.

Open your Bibles to the Book of Proverbs in the 13th chapter and the 7th verse; Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse No. 7. As you arrive at our Scriptural destination for the day, I just want to take a minute and just bow our heads as I pray for this message upon this Mother’s Day.

Dear Heavenly Father, upon this day I pray that You anoint my mind, spirit and words; and that the people be able to receive it and that they are able to see why You had me bring this message on a Mother’s Day, for some will not see; but for some it will make a change in life that shall make a difference for the rest of their lives. I pray that You prepare the soil, that You water it and that You allow the seed to go in and to bring forth fruit upon this day. In Thy Son Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

The Scripture for today is Proverbs 13:7, which reads:  “There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.” The NIV Version of that same 13:7 of Proverbs reads:  “One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.”

This message originated as I was attending a pastoral breakfast, and the breakfast dealt with pastors and financially empowering pastors, because what was happening, pastors were ending up at the end of their pastoral careers broke with nothing. The seminar was about how to gear a pastor’s mind to how at the end as they finished preaching they ought to have something to take them on through the rest of their lives, because often they would have lived from week to week dependent upon the churches, and when they retired there was nothing for the pastors. It was financial seminar dealing with that, and as the lady got up and began to speak, she said it hit her about preparation in the verse where the Bible says, “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children.”

And oftentimes, mothers, many of you here are single-parent mothers; there is no father. So it is incumbent upon you to the job of a man, just as the Bible says a good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children; when you are a single parent,
you take on the role of both. You can also splice into that, “A good woman leaves an inheritance for her children’s children.”

Not only are we not leaving an inheritance for our children’s children, most folks today are not even leaving an inheritance for their children, much less their children’s children! At the financial seminar, they began by asking one question. It was a simple question; but most of the people in the audience could not answer it, including me. They asked this simple question: “Do you know the name of your great-grandfather?” It was a simple question. As I sat there and thought about it, I did not know my great-grandfather’s name! Here I am sitting there with all of his heritage, and I did not know my great-granddaddy’s name. Of course, I know my father’s name. I knew my father’s father’s name. But I did not know my father’s father’s father’s name. I did not know my great-grandfather’s name, not on my father’s side; but I knew my great-grandfather’s name on my mother’s side. His name was Papa.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Now, I do not know his real name! All I know is that his name was Papa. The reason that we do not know our great-grandfather’s name is because generally our great-grandfather has left us no inheritance. The only reason that I knew Papa’s name is because Papa left his daddy, which in turn passed down to my mother, a house, and right across the street from my grandparents’ house is Papa’s house. The only reason I knew about Papa was because as a child, I could see Papa in the house. He left an inheritance.

The seminar went on to show and to tell how we are not leaving and we’re not preparing inheritance, and it said if your great-granddaddy had left you a million dollars you would know his name; but because he left you nothing, you do not even know who he was! Now, I do not know how many of you in here know your great-granddaddy’s name, but I did not know mine on my daddy’s side. I had been down to the old family house and talked with my father all throughout the years of our family history; I never knew my great-granddaddy’s name … or at least if I did know it I sure couldn’t remember it!

But if he had left me a hundred acres I would have known his name; and because I did not have the inheritance, I did not have the memory.

What are you going to leave your children? “A good woman will leave an inheritance for her children’s children.”

They went into the financial seminar showing the pastors -- now, these are all pastors in the room, about 75 or 80 of them. These are all pastors -- showing the pastors how if they just began saving and putting away a little bit each week, if
they start young enough, by the time they reach retirement age they will have a
sufficient amount of money set aside for themselves, and they will have enough
where they can leave an inheritance for their children.

God spoke to me at that time with an illustration. Antonio -- he’s the fellow that’s
running the video camera -- I want you to stand right here; so just come right down
here for just a second. I will not move, so you do not have to worry about moving the
camera. This happened about two weeks ago after The Weekend Word. I drove
Antonio home, and as I drove him home he just began talking about some things. I
told Antonio, “That is the very subject I have to preach about in two weeks,” and I
asked him would he mind just sharing a little something with you. I am just going
to ask him two simple questions.

First of all, Antonio, I want to ask you how old are you?

ANTONIO: I am 19 years old.

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You are 19 years old. How much did you tell me that you
were paying every month for your cell phone?

ANTONIO: $120.

PASTOR NATHANIEL: That’s it.

My subject for this day, which appears to have nothing to do with Mother’s Day, is
“The Million Dollar Cell Phone”. Now, you do not remember what was preached on
last Mother’s Day, I can bet you that. You do not remember what was preached on
the Mother’s Day before that or the Mother’s Day before that or the Mother’s Day
before that. But this message is “The Million Dollar Cell Phone”.

You see, people, I appreciate Antonio coming down and sharing that. He is 19 years
old, $120 every month for a cell phone. That cell phone, by the time he reaches my
age, is going to cost him over a million dollars. See, people, when we begin to
understand, you see, this is not your typical Mother’s Day message; but hopefully, it
will impart some wisdom into you that will allow you to impart some wisdom into
your children.

There are two things that you are going to need to do to leave an inheritance for
your children’s children: number one, you are going to have to start planting seed;
and, number two, you are going to have to plant the seed in real good ground. If you
can do two things, if you can put away every month what Antonio is putting away in
his cell phone in solid good ground -- and good ground has to be something that is
fertile, something that reproduces -- you are going to have to find a vehicle that will
yield you 25% a month.
Now, James is a heavy-duty financial man. He studied it heavily. James, can you find mutual funds that will yield you 25% a year consistently? Absolutely. You have got to find good ground.

If Antonio starts at his age, which is 19 years old, by the time he reaches my age, which is 45 years old, if he just takes his cell phone money, $120 -- see, that's the first rule. You cannot say you do not have it. Anybody that has a cell phone can say you do not have the money. You see, if I told Antonio to save $120 a month, he'd say, “Man, that is a lot of money.” But I am going to put it like this. When you understand some things and when you can break it down in parables where people can see it, that cell phone, if you take that $120 a month beginning at the age of 19, by the time you reach my age, which is 45, and you put it in a good mutual fund yielding an average of 25% a year, by the time you reach my age, you will have $1.25 million, just off of your cell-phone money. It is a million dollar cell phone.

There are some things that we need to understand about some things. You as parents and as mothers, you need to leave your children an inheritance! I am beginning to see now why God wanted me to preach this message. He did not want me to just preach something that is just going to have you feeling all warm and feeling good and feeling all buttery when you walk out, and then come next week, comes next month, by the time your child reaches 20 years old, you have nothing to leave your child but a hard-luck story.

A good parent will leave their children’s children an inheritance, and God is speaking this to you today. If you have a cell phone, you can afford to do it. If you have a cell phone, you can afford to do it. And the reason I came from this verse in Proverbs, which says, “One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth”, do you know, among the minority community we have a much greater use of cell phones than among the general population, yet we can afford it least? We’ve got less business to be talking on the cell phone about, but yet we’ve got more cell phones. It is a real statistical fact! We’ve got more cell phones than anybody else with less business and less money!

So you have to ask, “What in the world are we doing with all these cell phones? Why do we have them?” We have them because of Proverbs 13:7: “One man who is rich pretends to be poor; another who is poor pretends to be rich.” We have got them, because it is a status symbol! We don’t have any business. All the folks of our complexion that we see going around talking on them, they are not talking about business 95% of the time. So it is not for the purpose of business. It is for the purpose of looking cool, of sounding cool!

I still even had trepidations about this message. Even at The Weekend Word on Friday, I was still sitting there wondering, “Lord, are You sure You want me to
preach the message entitled ‘The Million Dollar Cell Phone’ on Mother’s Day?” And God kept speaking to me and telling me, “The people need that message more than they need the message about traditional marriage, about married life. They need a message where they can learn to leave an inheritance for their children. And,” God said, “they can do it if they just get rid of the million dollar cell phone.” It’s as simple as that.

The oddest thing happened in The Weekend Word Friday. I normally sit up front; but I sat back in the back, because I had kept the children downstairs to let my wife enjoy the service because it was Mother’s Day weekend. As I was sitting there in the back, halfway through the service, C. Elijah, do you remember hearing something in the back? What was it? A cell phone went off.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: In the six-and-a-half years that the Ark has been here, never have we had a cell phone ring in service before. But I was sitting in the back, and the lady sitting two rows in front me, her cell phone just went to ringing. She grabbed her pocketbook and she was digging in it; she could not find it, and it was just a’ ringing and just a’ ringing; and C. Elijah was up there just a’ preaching, and it was just a’ ringing and just a’ ringing. Even we got to the end of the service and we call for the visitors, first-time visitors, and said stand up, she stood up. As she introduced herself, she went to apologizing. She said, “I am so sorry that my cell phone just went to ringing. I am so sorry that I interrupted the service. I apologize.” And I told the lady, “Ma’am, do not worry; that was God calling.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: He was sending a message to me. That confirmed it through a sign that that was what I was supposed to speak on. So I said, “Do not feel bad that your cell phone went off in the middle of service, because God was sending me a confirming message, ‘The Million Dollar Cell Phone.’”

We’ve got to learn some sense, folks, and we’ve got to understand some things. Even within the church, Mother’s Day is a great day; it is an awesome celebration. It is something that we should do. It is one of the three big days in the traditional Christian church -- Christmas, Mother’s Day and Easter -- none of them in the Bible. There is one thing about all three of them: at the end of all three of them, we are broke and somebody else has got our money ... all three of them. After Christmas, we are just as broke as we can be, and the very people who don’t even believe in Christ have all our money! After Easter, we did not put a bit more money in the collection; but we’ve gone out and bought all kinds of new suits for us, bought all kinds of new suits for our children, just spent all our money, credit cards run up to the limit.
Mother’s Day is a great day; but you’ve got to understand and know the truth behind stuff. They have started all these days. They started Secretary’s Day. Who do you think started Secretary’s Day? The greeting-card companies in the department stores!

(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** When you understand the origin of things, you will understand that ceremonies and all that stuff is economic in meaning and in origin, and it is economic to get your money and transfer it to someone else who doesn’t even believe in the Bible. And you end up broke, wondering why you cannot get out of your situation, calling your friend on your cell phone, moaning about your bills.

(Applause.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** So this is a practical message designed so you can leave your children’s children an inheritance. You’ve got the money, you are just wasting it!

Sometimes, people, we have gotten so attached to things that we think we cannot make it without them. I’ve had situations where people have told me, “I cannot make it without my cell phone. Suppose I am driving somewhere and suppose I have an emergency? I need my cell phone for emergencies.” “You didn’t have a cell phone.”

(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** “You have been driving everywhere without one long before now without worrying about having an emergency. The car is more dependable now than ever!”

You see, modern marketing and societal pressure has got us where we think we cannot even go anywhere without a cell phone. Well, people, if that is your excuse and if that is your reason as to why you think you cannot give up your cell phone, then let me tell you this. I am not talking to everybody with this message. This message is hitting a particular few.

Let me tell you if you are in that particular few. Number one, you are in that particular few if you are complaining about you do not have any money and you have a cell phone. I am talking to you.

(Laughter and applause.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: If you are complaining about you cannot meet your bills and you have a cell phone, I am talking to you. If you have not started saving and putting away something so you will have something down the road and you've got a nest egg for emergencies and you are going to have something that you leave your children, if you have not done any of that and you have a cell phone, I am talking to you! So if you do not fit in any of those categories, if you've got all your bills paid, if you’ve got your finances in order, if you have plenty of money, if you are not worried about the future and you’ve got your retirement, again, I am not speaking to you! I am talking to you if you fit those first three categories and you’ve got a million dollar cell phone. You do not need to give BellSouth that money. You do not need to give Verizon that money. You need to put that money where it becomes an inheritance for your children’s children.

Yet, if you are using the reason that it makes you feel safe and secure, and especially women will say this -- men won’t say this; but women will say, “I have to have a cell phone. Suppose I have an emergency.” Let me tell you people a little secret about an FCC rule. The Federal Communications Commission passed a rule that most people do not know. All cell phones, whether they are connected with service or not, must be able to dial 9-1-1! All cell phones, whether they are connected to service or not, must be able to dial 9-1-1! What that means is this: you can call up BellSouth, you can call up Verizon, you can call up Cingular or PowerTel or Sprint or whoever you’ve got. You can call them up and you can tell them, “Look, disconnect my phone. This thing is costing me a million dollars. My pastor enlightened me to that. Disconnect my phone as of right now.”

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Once they disconnect your phone, now, you cannot call your girlfriend, because you are going to get a “This is phone is not in service.” You cannot call mama. You cannot your daughter. You cannot call anybody once your service is disconnected. But if you have an emergency, even with your phone disconnected, you can dial 9-1-1, and it will work.

So if you’ve got a situation where you are afraid to drive anywhere without a cell phone and you are in one of those three categories that I talked about, call up that company, tell them to disconnect your phone, put your phone in the trunk with the cigarette-lighter adapter, because, see, if the battery goes dead, which it will if you are not talking on it, put it in the trunk with cigarette-lighter adapter. If you have an emergency, get out of your car, open your trunk, get your cell phone, plug it into the cigarette-lighter adapter, dial 9-1-1. It will work. The main thing about it is, it will not cost you a dime.
So there are some things that God just wants you to know this morning about the million dollar cell phone, because He wants you to be able to be good parents; He wants you to be able to leave your children’s children an inheritance.

Oddly enough, when I went to that prayer breakfast with 75 or 80 different pastors there, they had a powerful bishop from another city that came and delivered an awesome message, and then they came over to me. I am sitting there, and they said, “Pastor Bronner, would you mind making remarks and closing us out?” I said, “What in the world are you coming over here and asking me that for? You’ve got all these ministers out here and all this. What are you coming and asking me?” They said, “Would you please just come up and speak to the group?” I could not figure out why in the world they were asking me to come up and speak. There were a whole lot of other well-known pastors out there. What did they come pick on me?

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: But when I got up to speak, the Holy Spirit just came on me and I just spoke straight. I told the folks straight. I told them, “Look, they are here presenting financial information for pastors. Half of the pastors that I know are in horrible financial shape, and they’ve got bad credit.” I do not mean slow credit, I mean bad credits. They’ve got credit so bad, they cannot even get a cell phone themselves! I mean, half of the pastors that I know, I would not trust to lend money to, because they will not pay you back; they will not pay their bills; they will not keep their word.” So I went on, “So they are telling you as pastors how to do this.” It was like the Spirit just hit me while I was up there, because it was true.

After the thing, so many people came up to me and said, “Man, you are straight; but you are sure truthful.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: “Everything you said was just as true as it could be, because I have experienced the same thing in the ministry myself. It was just as true as it could be.” You see, pastors have million dollar cell phones and often do not know how to manage their finances, and the result is that they are just spending all this stuff. People, it’s on frivolous things that the world will always lead you down a wide destructive road. God wants you to be able to have an inheritance for your children’s children.

The thing I am giving you today is not emotional. It is not going to make tears flow from your eyes like last Sunday did. It is not going to have you shouting up and down. But if you listen, it will make you a millionaire. It will make it where your children will be able to remember, “Yeah, my great-great-great grandma Eunice. Grandma Eunice, she left us good.” They will remember you!
(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** Your name will live on, because you will have left an inheritance for your seed. If you don’t have anything but hard times to leave them and hard-luck stories, your name will be faded soon, because nobody will want to remember you.

You see, what God is trying to show you with the million dollar cell phone is that it is already within the reach of what you are already doing and what you are already spending; all you have to do is just disconnect your cell phone if you fit in one of those three categories. Disconnect your cell phone, put it in the trunk. Find your good, fertile soil. That is what the Dollars and Cents Class is all about. It will teach you where to put your money where it will produce that to where when you hit my age, you’ve got $1.25 million. You won’t have a cell phone. You will have had to pull over to the side of the road and find a pay telephone; but you will be on the way to becoming a millionaire, to becoming secure and to be able to leave your seed an inheritance that will make a difference in their lives.

My wife was telling me not too long ago about a relative of hers that had gone to another big church here in the city. The minister that Sunday was talking about money, and he was saying that people criticized him so much, because he talks about prosperity so much. But he did a poll in his congregation. And one Sunday, he just looked out over his congregation and said, “I want all of you who need a spiritual deliverance right now to raise your hands.” There was a smattering of people in the crowd who needed a spiritual deliverance. He said, “I want all of you right now that really need a major healing in your body to raise your hand -- I mean if you’ve really got something major wrong, raise your hand.” And again, there was a smattering of people throughout the audience that raised their hands. He said, “I want all of you right now where your relationships are falling apart and you are about to go to pot in that, I want all of you to raise your hands.” And again, there was a smattering of people throughout the audience that raised their hands. Then he said, “And finally, I want all of you in the audience who need a major financial breakthrough, raise your hands.” He said 90% of the audience’s hands went up. They had financial difficulties virtually greater than anything else. He said, “That is why I tried to take the people and teach them about prosperity and bring them out; but even with teaching prosperity, you even have to be careful with that, because teaching increase will not take people out of situations, because if you do not change mentality all people with increase will do is increase spending. They will still be in the same boat.”

Do you realize that most bankruptcies in this country are filed by people who earn $1,000 a week and over. The bulk of bankruptcies are filed by people who make good money. Increase without wisdom will not get you out of your situations. Why
do you think all the big entertainers and athletes and all them, how do you think MC Hammer made millions of dollars, yet lost his house due to bankruptcy? How do you think that increase didn’t cut it? You’ve got to have some wisdom with the thing.

Many of right now, if you have a cell phone, you’ve got the power to become a millionaire, and that is what God is trying to tell you right now. You’ve got the power to leave your children an inheritance. You’ve got the power if you just have a cell phone.

And, you see, after this message, every time, now, some of you are not going to get rid of it. But every time you pick it up, it is going to remind you, “This thing is costing me $1 million. This is $1 million right here.” Every time you push that green button for Send, every time you do it, it is going to remind you, “This thing is going to cost me $1 dollars over my life in terms of what I have invested in it and in terms of lost opportunity of what that money could have been growing.”

You see, people, the folks who own the cell companies, it is making them billionaires. But that is the way it always has gone. Money always goes to those who are enlightened that can see truth, and it comes from those that cannot see it. That is why among our community we have more cell-phone use. That is why we are wearing more $125 tennis shoes than anybody else -- not selling them, but wearing them; do not own a single cellular company, but talking up a storm!

We have got to understand some things. This is not a traditional message; but, people, you cannot get tradition if you want to get out of what you traditionally have gotten! Now, if you are happy with everything you have gotten, if you are happy with where you are, if you are happy with everything the way it is going, you do not need anything new. But some of you need a breakthrough. You need a change in your situation! You need a change in your children’s situation. And to do that, you are going to have to change some things that you think and even some things that you hear, and God wanted you to hear this message today. He wants you to leave an inheritance for your children’s children.

I have had so many instances just dealing with a cell phone. I was taking someone to school. I had gone to help someone out in a situation, and they needed me to take their daughter to college. As I took her, she asked, “Well, I need to stop by the grocery store and get something.” I said, “That’s fine. It is on the way.” When she come back to the car, she said, “Oh, you are going to be really mad about this; but I need to go back home.” I said, “For what?” because home was another 10 miles back that way and I was halfway between the house and the school. I said, “What do you need to go back home for?” She said, “I forgot my cell phone.” I said, “What!?” She said, “I forgot my cell phone.” I said, “You want me to drive 10 miles back to your house where it’s already in financial trouble to pick up your cell phone for you to go
to class?” I said, “What do you need your cell phone for in class?” She said, “Well, when I get out of class, I need to call to come somebody to come pick me up.” I said, “There is a whole bank of pay phones right across the street from where you stand to get picked up.” She said, “Well, sometimes, folks call me while I am standing there.” I said, “My goodness!”

Now, you know I did not go back to that house to pick up that cell phone.

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: But yet I saw mentalities of what we are even getting into young, and I knew the person and I knew they were in financial straits. I knew they were having difficult financial times; but they had a cell phone with a lot of minutes being used on it, and it is going to cost them over $1 million over their lifetime, because they simply did not understand some simple things.

Even as I prayed about this theme early this morning, God spoke some things to me in the quietness of the morning, and He made two statements. When you hear them, you are going to know they are true, because it is going to hit your spirit. God told me this, and I’ll read it exactly as He said it. He said in those early, wee hours of the morning, God spoke it clearly and said: “Most in America spend more time and money communicating with a cell phone than they do with Me.” That was a deep statement. He said, “Most in America”. If you think about it, you will see it is true right off the bat. He said, “Most in America spend more time and money communicating a cell phone than they do with Me.” Do you know we spend more time on the cell phone than we spend in prayer? Do you know if you took the average American, they spend more on their cell-phone bill than they put in church? God said in America we spend more time and we spend more money on our cell phones than we do on God.

Then He told me a second statement that hit true. He said, “Also in America,” He said, “the people spend more time and they spend more money with their cell phone than they do with their mothers.” And I said, “Whoa!” It’s deep … but it is true. We spend more time and we spend more money with cell phones than we do with both God and mama.

You see, people, even as we think about it, sometimes even what a thing is called will be the true nature of the thing. You see, it is called a cell phone. What do they call what you put you in when you go to jail? Sometimes even the revelation of the words … even the revelation of the words will have a meaning. Now, see, I understand the technical reason as to why they call it a cell phone. But sometimes if you even break it down to the practical, everyday use, a cell is what they put you in when you go to jail! You see, people, we are bound and locked into some things that we cannot even break free of, and it has us in a financial prison. God is trying to get
you free, if you can just understand the meaning and if you can just see some things.

Then God spoke to me this morning. He spoke to me with something that again I did not want to do. He said, “Tell them about your cell phone.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And I said, “Woo!” Because, you see, the problem is, I do not have a cell phone at all; I have three cell phones! He said, “Tell them about your cell phone.” I’ve got three cell phones! And I know some of you are saying, “Pastor, what in the world do you need with three cell phones?” First of all, I’ve got a cell phone that I do my regular, everyday calling on. I pay $69 a month base rate for that phone, and I get 2,000 anytime minutes on it; I’ve got a special corporate rate on it.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Then I’ve got another cell phone that has the one rate on it so that when I travel, I can call from whatever city I am in and I do not have to pay roaming charges, or if I make long-distance calls I will use that phone. Plus, that is the only phone that fits the Mercedes’ phone system. So I had to have a special phone for the Mercedes, because my other corporate-rate phone will not work in the Mercedes phone system. The Mercedes has a phone system where you push a button on the steering wheel and call out the name, it will dial it, it will display the phone number up on the screen and all that stuff; so that was my second phone. Then I got a third phone, because I had to recently get my wife another phone because her bill was too high.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Puddin’ was talking up a storm, and I kept saying, “Puddin’, look at this phone bill! Who in the world are you talking to?” I don’t know who Puddin’ was talking to, but I had bought Puddin’ a phone with a certain number of minutes, and Puddin’ was using all those minutes and some more.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I had talked to Puddin’ about it two or three months to see if I could get Puddin’ to lower the bill, and it went up!

(Laughter and applause.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: So I said, “I have to get another plan.” So I went down to get Puddin’ another plan with some more minutes so I could lower the bill by just getting another plan. When I went to get Puddin’s plan, that had a nice phone and then you could get a companion phone and it was only $15 a month to buy that phone and tap into those minutes, and you could make calls any time after 8:00 o’clock … anyway, they sold me another phone for myself. So I ended up getting Puddin’ another phone and I got myself another phone, so I ended up with three cell phones.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And then as God began to minister, I was wondering, “Now, which one of those cell phones can I get rid off to cut my cell-phone use down?” Then I began to see the problem, and I began to see why the cell is equivalent to a jail cell, because it hooks you. Any time you get used to something, you feel like you cannot make it without that. I said, “Well, I need my Mercedes phone. I need my phone for going out of town.” Then I had to rephrase it: “No, I don’t need it, I want it.” I began to see some things, even as God asked me, “Tell the folks about your cell phone.” I began to see some things that, even without usage, even now they are coming out with the scientific stuff that all the heavy cell-phone users, it is starting to cause brain tumors and cancer in the body just from the RF radiation coming off the phones. So I began to see it, even in my own life.

It is not easy to untangle yourself from something that you have gotten used to. But, people, I tell you, if you fit into those first three categories -- and as I looked at mine I said, “I am going to cut off one of these phones.” So I said the most logical phone to cut off would be the one that I got with Puddin’ ...

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: … because at the rate it is going, she may use all the extra minutes, and I don’t have any extra minutes left on there anyway!”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So I said, “The most logical thing to do would be to cut off the phone with Puddin’.” But then I looked back on it, I signed a contract to get the phone cheap, and it is a two-year contract and it is going to cause me $240 to break the contract, where it will cost me $15.00 a month to keep the phone. See, sometimes, people, when you put your name on stuff and you get locked into stuff, you are locked in it and you cannot even get out of the thing easy. That is why they lock you in it! That is the brilliance of the marketing of the corporate structure. If they can get you to sign on the dotted line, they’ve got you for a while!
So He said, “Tell the folks even about your cell phone” and I saw how I could not even get out of mine easy; but I am going to make a determination that I am going to get out of one of them and cut it down, because, really, I am not in those first three categories. I’ve got my stuff still where I can pay all of my phone bills; I don’t have to worry about it. I am saving and building. So I do not fit in those first three categories, but some of you do. And some of you have got a million dollar cell phone.

It is an unusual Mother’s Day message. I don’t deny that. It is an unusual Mother’s Day message. But, people, God wants some of you in here to hear this thing, not just to hear it, but to heed it, because some of you are on a path where you are leaving no inheritance for your children. He is telling you just by the elimination of one unnecessary thing, if you take the seed of that every month and plant it in fertile soil, how blessed your offspring. You will leave them an inheritance through your obedience, and this will make it where you can leave and your name will be remembered for generation upon generation upon generation.

What greater thing is there as a parent than to leave your children an inheritance?

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Is that a cell phone? That is all right. Actually, is that a cell phone? It is. Thank You, Lord. You know what (laughing)?

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You see, actually, to be honest about it, people, I prayed for that. I said, “Lord, let there be another sign, so the people will know this thing is from You.” I prayed for that! Have we ever had a cell phone go off in the six-and-a-half years we have been here? We had one go off Friday and today! People, you ought to be able to see!

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: It is confirmation. So if you do not believe what I am telling you, at least listen to the signs. God is trying to speak to you right now. In the six- and-a-half years that we have been here, we have never had a cell phone go off in any of the services. This Sunday and this last past Friday, a cell phone went off in both services. As I sat here this morning, I said, “Lord, send the folks a sign and let them know upon this day that what I am saying is from You.” You heard it go off.

Listen and heed the word, people. God is trying to deliver. And, see, if you are obedient with some things, you do not need it. You don’t need it! I don’t even need them. It makes it appear that you do, but you really do not, because we get caught
in this stuff. You do not need $125 tennis shoes! You do not need all of this stuff. God is just trying to speak to you just in terms of your cell phone. You will find when you start controlling it and doing one thing in proper order, most of the time with this stuff, even our kids have got it; and then taking on the Spirit, and then before you know it, they are walking around and it is going to cost them $1 million, and they do not even realize it.

Heed the words. You have seen today signs and warnings. It was no accident that that cell phone went off. It was an answer to a prayer, but a confirmation of a message.

God is speaking to you, Mothers. It is Mother’s Day. He wants you to leave something for your children, but how are you going to do it? He has given you the message: if you’ve got a cell phone, turn it off because you do not need it. Get the cigarette-lighter adapter and put it in the trunk, so if you have an emergency, plug it in and dial 9-1-1; it won’t cost you a dime. If you hear the words, your life is going to change.

People, there is another thing. Do you know your whole spirit changes when you are building an inheritance? When you take the money that you are spending every month -- whether it is $120 a month, some of you $200 a month, some of you $50, whatever it is -- when you take that money and start putting it away, do you know after about three or four years as you look back and you start to see that money, do you know, you feel different when you have a few thousand dollars in the bank? You feel different! Look, I am a spiritual man; but let me tell you something, people, I feel different. I just feel different when I do not have to worry about how my bills are being paid when stuff gets tight. I am just telling you the truth: you feel different! There is something about it. I do not put my faith in money; but I am going to tell you the truth, people: I am not a miracle man. “What do you mean, Pastor, you are not a miracle man?” You see, miracles are always temporary, and I do not want to live by miracles; I want to live by blessings, blessings are permanent.

When you leave an inheritance for your children, you leave a blessing. When you have to pray and plead to get your month’s rent and it will show up all of a sudden, that is a miracle! But I do not want to live by miracles; I want to live by blessings. There is a big difference. Now, miracles are great, and I want a miracle when I need one; but I do not want to live by miracles. I do not want to have to have a miracle every month. I want to go to sleep at night, being able to know I got this stuff paid for. I do not want a miracle every month!

When you start building your inheritance, it builds a foundation, and God has always been like that; He has always had His people provided for. Now, remember, when He sent out the disciples, He told them to take nothing. They were to live by a miracle every day. It takes a whole lot of faith to do that, but you better know God
is telling you to do that. He told them to leave all that stuff and to go out without so much as a wallet or a change in underwear. You’ve got to have faith and you’ve got to have Godly direction and be doing the will of God, and He will provide you with a miracle every day. But we need blessings, and your children need inheritances. Everything that I have been able to do in business, when I really boil that thing down, it was because of the inheritance that my father gave me, both in wisdom and in resources. That was inheritance, and the children have done more than the daddy did; but the children did it because of the daddy, because of the inheritance.

God is trying to speak to you today, people, but if you can hear it. It is not a Mother’s Day message. Actually, it is a Great-Grandmother’s Day message.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: If you leave your children that inheritance, they will know who their great-grandmother was. They will know your name, because you will have been a good parent, as you will have left an inheritance for your children’s children’s children.

Bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You this day for answering my prayers, of even sending the sign that You were calling. Dear Father, I pray today that the people hear, and from this day, from this message, there will be some calls made to some wireless carriers, saying, “Discontinue my service. I have decided to be in communication with the Higher Authority, and I have heard a message come that is telling me that I need to do this for my children’s children. And from this day forward, I am going to plant a seed every month, and that that I was giving you, this gold, shall now be preserved; and not only be preserved, but shall grow, and no longer will it be devoured every month and all I’ve got to show for it is a bill! I am going to change this bill into an inheritance for my children and my children’s children.”

Dear Father, thank You. And I pray that You let the mothers save. In Jesus’ name, amen.