

Breaking the 3-Way Tie

Sermon Title: **Breaking the 3-Way Tie**

Sermon Number: **5140**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Hawthorne Bronner, Jr.**

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

Windows Media Version <http://www.theonlineword.com/s/5140.wma>

MP3 Version <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5140.mp3>

TheOnlineWord.com

and

AirJesus.com

TheOnlineWord.com

AirJesus.com

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Amen, amen and amen. You may be seated.

I'm glad to see so many of you here tonight. Many of you come because of the announcement on television on the subject that I will be preaching from tonight. Tonight is a special night. Tonight is the night of deliverance. Tonight is a night of deliverance for many of you that have carried a burden of being bound for so long, and you didn't know how to get deliverance. God wants his people free.

But, you know, for deliverance, there's always a cost in one form or another. And even before this message begins, God told me, "Before this message, before you even lay hands on the people and before you even instruct the people, I want you to go on a fast." And He told me to fast for three days and three nights. So I stand before you here tonight and haven't a morsel of food for three days nor a drop of water. And, you know, the Bible tells and Jesus tells you even when you fast to do it in secret, not tell men; but, you see, out of this, God instructed me on something even in the fast.

I was here at the church last night in the middle of the fast and, frankly, I was getting both hungry and weak. As I left the church, my stomach was like it was on fire, because sometimes those first few days of a fast are rough ones. And God began to instruct me on some things. And when I got home last night, it was about 12:30 before I was able to get into the bed; and normally I'll get up at 5:00 o'clock every morning for my prayer and meditation, but I was tired, I was weak, and I was hungry. So I took my alarm clock and pushed it to Off. And I told God, I said, "Look, God, if You want me up at 5:00 in the morning, You'll just have to wake me, because I need some sleep!" And as I lay there, I went to sleep. And all of a sudden I awoke, I was full of energy, and my stomach was full. And I looked over at the clock, and it was 3:30 in the morning. I said, "Whoa!" You see, when you challenge God to do something, God will not only do it, but He'll go beyond that which you even expected.

See, I'd had some experience before. I knew God would wake me on time. What I wasn't figuring was that He would wake me even before time. And as I arose, went into prayer and meditation and talking with God, God began to share something with me. I wrote it down, so I wouldn't misquote anything. God told me as I sat there with my stomach full -- I hadn't had a thing to eat or a drop of anything to drink, and my stomach was full! -- and God told me, "As you are filled, so shall I fill My people, for you came to me in hunger; but you shall leave filled." As the woman of the well came not seeking Me but out of thirst, many of you tonight have come not seeking me, but seeking to quench hunger and thirst.

And then He told me some other stuff to tell you tonight. He said, "If you simply seek a stirring sermon and a quick fix, it will be like food on the belly. It will pass

in, stay for a season and pass out. And your hunger and thirst will cycle like the wind. But partake of Me and living water will pour forth out of what was hunger, and you will have more than you can contain.”

You see, God many times works when we're hungry. Even when He created the world, He said He looked out and saw that the world was void. That means it was empty; there was nothing there. He saw that it was void and without form. And many of the times God can work the greatest miracles and speak to us the clearest in our lives when we are hungry. You know, sometimes when we are full, we don't listen to God very well. When our stomachs are full and when our bank accounts are full, Lord knows, don't let us get one car note ahead; a full tank of gas; two house payments already in the bank; we can write a check, and for once we are not worried about having to flip over our checkbook and count to see how much is there to make sure it's not going to bounce -- Lord knows, sometimes when we get full, God can't even speak to us. But when we get hungry, when our bank accounts go running, when our relationships go running, when our flesh goes running, when that happens, we start calling on the name of Jesus. Sometimes in the midst of hunger comes the Voice of God in the midst of a void.

Even this program and this subject tonight were born out of hunger. It came when a congregation member came to me and said, “Pastor Bronner, I've been having a problem lately. I broke up with my girlfriend. And, Pastor, I can't eat. I can't sleep. My stomach is all tied up in knots.” And he went on to tell me some more. He said, “I just need you to lay hands on me. I need a counseling session with you. I need some kind of deliverance from this, Pastor!” I told him, “Look, if you get here on Sunday at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, we'll have time before service and I'll sit down and renounce the wicked and tell you what to do to get out of that situation.”

Come Sunday morning at 10:15, we both got together and, before I went into the office for the counseling session, God spoke to me. He said, “Record this.” And I said to myself, “I don't have a tape recorder. You know, I don't have a little bitty tape recorder to take with me. If You had told me that while I was at home, I'd have it. But I don't have a tape recorder, and there's no way for me to record it here at the church. We have recording equipment; but all that's big stuff, and I can't record that without it going all over the whole sanctuary. So I don't have a way to record it!” And He kept telling me, “Record it, for the people will need this.”

As I went into the counseling session and he revealed things to me and I responded with what God had placed into my spirit, then I knew that I had to deliver that same message to the people that God had told me to record, and then I didn't have it recorded.

I called the pastor's wife and asked, “Look, do you have the telephone number of a particular member?” And she said, “Yeah, I've got it.”

I called him and I said, "Look, the session that we had on Sunday, God told me to record it, and I don't have it recorded. Do you remember what I said?"

He said, "Pastor, I have got nearly a photographic memory. I remember everything you said. As a matter of fact, not only do I remember it; but I've been going out ministering to other folks in my same situation, and I even got some them delivered!" I asked him, "Well, can you write it down for me, because I don't remember everything that I've said?"

You see, many times what God will tell you unfolds into a different meaning. I thought He was talking about recording on a tape recorder, but it was recorded in someone's mind, and all he had to do was play it back and put down on paper.

He brought it me. He wrote, he typed, and he printed on his computer every single word that I said. And God told me to tell the people that, because many people here and those watching on television are bound with ties from the past. We are bound with soul ties; we are bound with sex ties; and we are bound with spirit ties.

Tonight's sermon is entitled "Breaking Soul, Sex and Spirit Ties". I am not going to go into tonight what each of them is, because that takes a whole sermon all by itself. God told me to deliver that which was recorded, and that wasn't what was recorded. See, when you don't do what God said, you always run into trouble. So I'm going to deliver exactly what was recorded, not from some of the other stuff that I know, not trying to define what they are; maybe I'll do that next week, but this week I am going to deliver what God told me to deliver. And, you know, even the dates -- and I knew I had to preach this right away -- even the date has significance, because today is the 6th day of the 6th month, and this is the 6th day of the week. Now, you say, "Wait a minute, Pastor. That's six, a six, six! That doesn't sound too good. That's the mark of the beast, the mark of the antichrist!" You see, that's by man's figuring, and one of the things I want you to do tonight is forget about man's figuring. God has a different time schedule. Yes. And He even began to unfold for me the significant even of the date. Yes, it is the 6th month. Yes, it is the 6th day of the month. But it is not the 6th day of the week. You see, by God's calendar and by divine timing, the evening of Friday is the beginning of the 7th day. And, you see, 6 represents the things of flesh and the things of man and the things that are carnal. And the ties that we have had have been between two fleshes that have bound us in the flesh and in the spirit realm, so we have those first two figures. But when you get to the seventh day, it's a day of rest! It's a day of divine completion! It's a day of releasing! It's a day of God coming into a situation in which we in our flesh have become bound. So, yeah, by man's calendar, it's 6-6-6; but by God's timing, it's 6-6-7. We have had our two figures, and we need God to come in on that seventh day and deliver and break us free from the things that have us bound.

What I discussed two Sundays ago, I gave the gentleman three things to do that God had placed into my spirit. Even before I preached this message, even before I left the counseling session, I knew I needed to preach a sermon on this; but I asked him and said, "Look, do you mind me sharing publicly what we have privately discussed?" because the counseling between a minister and a congregation member is a private thing. So I asked him, "Do you mind me sharing this openly?" And he said, "Look, Pastor, whatever you want to say about what has been discussed in here, you tell the whole story. If it will release somebody else, you tell it all!" So he gave me his permission to tell you that which occurred. And, you see, whenever we get wrapped up and whenever we get involved -- I'll just call them "soul ties, so I won't have to repeat "soul, sex and spirit ties" each time -- whenever we become bound in soul ties, it's something that put's a rope around our gut. Anybody that has been in love and has been with the person and has broken up with that person, you know the feeling of being in a soul tie. And when it breaks, there's something about it that if it isn't fully broken, you still remain tied. You've separated in the physical, but there's something that's still bound in the spirit. You have gone your own separate ways; but even though you're laying there at night without 'em, you can't get to sleep because they are constantly on your mind. Even though you have gone your separate ways physically, you are still bound.

There are three earthly keys to the breaking of soul ties. The first key is time ... time. Do you know most of the things in the Bible, God did not work instantly? Even the Chosen People, when they cried unto God in bondage and in slavery and in all kinds of turmoil and toil, heavy-laden and burdened, and they cried unto God, do you know how long it took God to deliver them? Time is oftentimes the first thing that is required in the breaking of soul ties. God can work instantaneously. He can take any situation, and with the snap of a finger separate it in two, split it asunder, divide it and make it where it exists no more. He can do that! But, you see, that is generally the exception; that's not the rule. In virtually everything that you'll read in the Bible, even those that were instant deliverances, the people had carried this stuff for a long time. They had sought Jesus, and they had prayed to God for a long time before their deliverance came. The first thing that's required in the breaking of a soul tie is time.

Do you know that every seven years, you get an entirely new body? I'm not talking about a spiritual body; I'm talking about a physical body. From the standpoint of biology, every single cell within your body is renewed every seven years. You are physically not the same person that you were seven years ago. And, you know, sometimes it may take up to seven years for you to break some things.

Now, you may say, "That sounds like an awful long, long time." But when you read in the Bible, some folks went through some things for a long time before they were delivered from them. But, you see, in order for you to be delivered from it, no matter whether it takes you seven minutes, seven seconds, seven weeks, seven months or

seven years, if you are not doing the right thing in that time, you'll still never break it. And you better get on the road to doing the right thing, even though you must understand as a general rule it takes some time.

Tonight, there will come an anointing that some of you have already had those ties starting to become loose. There will come an anointing for a supernatural breaking. But even after the supernatural breaking, your flesh will still have a craving for that same thing. After a person has given their life to Jesus and has had a newborn spirit, do you know their flesh is still the same? They still crave oftentimes for the same thing. It takes time for most of that stuff to disappear. After you walk in His way for a certain period of time, even the old fleshly craving will disappear. But it takes time. It takes oftentimes even those seven years.

You see, I even went through a soul tie. That's how I can speak so well on it. I've had several people come to me who have been in that same situation. And for some strange reason, everyone that has approached me, they've all been men. Ladies, you sometimes think that men don't go through stuff. Oh, yes, they do. It affects them just as much -- not "just as much"; I think it affects men even more. So I have been through it before, and that's how I can relate and tell them the symptoms of what it is when you've gotten bound in a soul tie. But I understand. You know, I went and prayed over them and laid hands on them. I hope I can tell all about what soul, sex and spirit ties are.

I was instantly delivered. And though I was instantly delivered from that, the fleshly craving remained. And it took seven years. I didn't see that woman again for seven years. And when I saw her seven years later, not only was there no attraction, there was an actual repulsion.

You see, that's the way God will do. When you are in something that you have no business being in and you know you're supposed to get out, God will take you from that. And when He first pulls you from it, there's still something. Even when the spirit is broken, there's still something in the flesh that wants to go back. There's still a lowdown dog, there's still a lust demon, there's still something in it that just wants to go back to it. There's still a little bit of Lot's wife in all of us! And there's something that will strain in our necks to just look back at what used to be.

It's hard sometimes for us to get over looking back at what used to be. And when God broke me from that, He kept my head straight without looking back, and seven years later when I saw her, there was not only no attraction, there was actual repulsion.

See, when God pulls you out of something, you want to go back. But if you stay out of it long enough, you'll look back and say, "How in the world could I have ever done that? How in the world could I have ever been that drunk? How could I drink liquor

to that level? How could I have snorted that cocaine? How could I have ever even done that?" You'll look back and you'll see what you used to be with, and it will repulse you, because after a period of time even your fleshly body will no longer be the same. After a period of time, you will not have a single cell of your body that would have even touched the unclean thing. But you have to walk in a straight path. And you have to not look back. And you have to not turn around.

In Galatians 6:9 -- and we've heard it so many times -- "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not." Many times God will break you from something; but because we faint -- and you know what faint means? It means get weak. That's all that it means. It means you get weak. Oh, your knees get weaker. You run across somebody, or you've tried and you've set your life straight and you stopped drinking; but you'll go somewhere and you smell the liquor, and you get weak. Your legs start buckling. You faint! And when you faint, you fall, and you go back. And sometimes, when you go back, that which was cleaned and garnished seven more demons come in even worse than before. That's why when Lot's wife turned around, her punishment was worse, because she looked back. So when God breaks you from something, when God delivers you from something, don't turn around and look back. Time is the first thing that is generally required for the breaking of soul ties.

The second thing that is required for the breaking of soul ties is separation. You see, whenever you want to get away from something and get it out of your world, you have to separate from it. That's a problem that many people have, and that's why they can't get rid of stuff: because they won't let it go. You see, they want to break free from it, and they want to get it rid of it; but they don't want to let all of it go. "Well, I'm not going to sleep with him. I'm just going to talk to him on the telephone." "Well, I'm not going to do that with her anymore! All I'm going to do is just go by her job every now and then and we'll go out to lunch; but I'm going to keep it clean."

You see, we don't want to separate. And whenever you have a soul tie, it is absolutely, completely imperative that if you want to break that soul tie, you separate from everything involved with that person.

As I sat there in the counseling session and he was relaying some things to me, he said, "Sometimes even when I'm on my way home from work, I know where she lives and it feel like something just grabs my steering wheel, and I just drive by her house just to see if I can see her sitting on the porch." Do you know sometimes when we've been involved in soul ties, we won't consciously and meticulously make a plan to see 'em. But, see, we know the places that they go to. And somehow we know that every Saturday they go out to the mall, and somehow we find ourselves strolling through the mall. "I'm just coming out here to get a pair of tennis shoes." But in your heart, you're strolling through the mall looking at every single shape and every

shadow that just might be her. And when you're in that frame of mind, even if you don't see her, you start looking and you'll see folks that just remind you of her. "Oh, I just saw a woman that wears her hair just like my baby used to wear it," because she is still on your mind. "Oh, I just saw a man who's got this bowlegged walk just like my baby used to walk." You will find all kinds of things that remind you of the person you used to be with, because you refuse to separate!

He was telling me, "She even gave me a wallet, Pastor." I said, "Look, you need to take that wallet, take all your money out of that wallet, take all your credit cards out of that wallet, take all your ID out of that wallet and make sure nothing is left, then take that wallet and toss it as far away from you as you can," because, you see, many times even spirits will linger around objects and memories. When you've got something that somebody has given you, every time you pull out your wallet, you're going to think about your baby. Every time you look at the object that is tied to the person, you will think about the person. You have to separate from everything involved with the person!

I even told him the story of a woman that used to have fixation on me, a woman I had never dated, not even one time. But this woman had such a fixation on me that she swore that she loved me and she was going to marry me. I mean, this woman was what you call close to a fatal attraction. The woman would send me gifts, and I'd give the gifts away. She'd just buy stuff and send it to me. One day she sent me a picture, and on the picture was a prince. It was an African prince, and it was framed in mahogany. Whoo, the picture was just awesome. I said, "Now, I've thrown all this other stuff away; but I've got to keep this," because it was the sharpest picture that I had ever seen!

I put that picture up in my den. And one day, the pastor of a little Pentecostal church that I used to attend came to my house. And we were just sitting there in the den, and he said, "What a fine picture. Where did you get that picture?" I went to telling him the story of how I got the picture. Then he turned into a somber mood and he looked at me with all seriousness, and he said, "Nathaniel, you better get that picture and get that picture as far away from you and your house as you can, because this woman with this picture has laid claim on your house! And you have the certificate of her claim hanging in your den." And I took that picture down and gave it away.

See, many times we have things that are nice, pictures that we'll pull out every now and then and just look at it and smile about the way things used to be. If you're trying to break a soul tie, you have to separate from everything. I hate even to say it, but some of you even have underwear. You know I'm telling the truth. Now, a lot of people would say, "Nathaniel Bronner, look, I've got to say one thing about you: you tell it like it is!" (laughing). Yep, so some of you even have underwear that you've kept from old relationships. Whatever it is, you need to get it out of your house and

get it off of your person; if you're wearing some jewelry, whatever it is, I don't care how fine it is, and I don't care how much you like it. It's a tie, and you must break ties.

That's why when God would sometimes send His people in to conquer a city -- and I didn't understand this for so long -- God would tell the people, "Destroy everything." He would tell them to kill all the animals; don't fool with any of the gold or silver. He would tell them to destroy everything. I said, "Now, Lord, it looks like they could have kept the animals. They could have kept the gold and silver. What does that have to do with the people?" But God understood that all of those things were spirits attached, because those people had been in all kinds of demonic, pagan worship. And God understood that it wasn't just a thing, but it was a thing that the thing had been involved in. And there were things that had become attached to it, and God was trying to tell His people, "When you go in and take the land, clean everything out. Destroy it all! Burn it up! Separate those yourself from everything that is unclean!"

If you've been a relationship and you're trying to break that relationship, some of you still have stuff from the relationship in a material, physical form. Take every bit of it, get it out of your world and destroy it! Go through your scrapbook, remove those pictures and burn them.

You must separate. Even with Abram, He said over in Genesis, "And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abraham's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle. And the Canaanite and the Perizzites dwelled in the land, and Abram said unto Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen, for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee?" And this is what Abram said: "Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou will take the left hand, then I will go to the right. Or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."

That's what you have to say to those old relationships: "Separate yourself from me. Look, Baby, if you go that way, I'm going this way. If you go this way, I'm going that way." Whatever way your baby goes, you go the other way. Don't find yourself somehow finding a way to get to where your baby is or where you think they may be. You're going to the restaurant where you know they eat, you're going to the grocery store where you know they shop, hoping that you can see your baby. You see, when you have that, you're still tied! You have to separate yourself.

In addition to time and in addition to separation, the third thing that you have to do to break a soul tie is, you must refocus. You must refocus. Now, understand something even about the laws of nature and about the laws of science and the way God divinely orchestrated things. Anytime something is broken away from something, it leaves a void. It leaves emptiness. And that's why many times we'll

find ourselves breaking free from one relationship that's bad, and you'll find the same people getting into the same kind of relationship all over again. Sometimes when women are in abusive relationships where the man is beating them all upside the head and they leave that man, they go right to another man that beats them even worse, and they leave that man. And then they go right to another man that beats them even worse. You see the pattern, and you say, "Why is it that these folks keep getting the same kind of people over and over and over again?" Because whenever you break away, it leaves an emptiness. And there's just something about it. There's a rule of physics that says nature abhors a vacuum. Nature hates a vacuum! If it is empty, the natural world will seek to put something in it. If you ever break away from somebody that you'd truly loved, that you'd been bounded to, when you break away -- make no mistake about it -- you are going to have an emptiness. There's going to be something that will be down in your gut. There will be a hole there that you will longer to be filled. And, see, sharks and predators of the world can recognize when you are walking around empty. They can recognize, and they have sense of almost being able to smell the bloodshed, to smell that your heart is bleeding, to smell that your tears are flowing, to smell that you have a void in your life. And they come, and they prey on you like sharks. And they are able to get into the emptiness of your heart, because you have not filled it.

Whenever you break away, you always must refocus. And you will understand even things of the world, people that indulge in drugs and become alcoholics, do you know a person does not drink to get full? They drink because they are empty, because there is a void within. And they seek the spirit of the wine to fill the void, because it is empty. And if you don't refocus, something else will come.

Do you know where Satan is? You know, every time Satan went up to God and God asked Satan where he had been, do you know what Satan told him? "Back and forth. To and fro." Every angle, Satan had covered on the earth: back and forth, to and fro. If you go back, he is there; if you go forward, he is there; if you go right and left, back and forth, to and fro, Satan is there. So when you are walking around and you have a void, there are demonic forces all around you trying to fill that void. You'll see the demonic forces coming through the television. You'll see a commercial for Schlitz 45 malt liquor, and the commercial will say, "Take things back to the way things used to be, to the good ol' days." And you'll try to fill your void. I don't know why the liquor cans have gotten bigger these days. You know, back in my younger years, you had an 8-ounce can of beer; now, they've got a 45 -- they've got a quart-and-a-half. The beer has gotten humongous! So the world will tell you, "Come and get this 45 ounces of Schlitz malt liquor's bull, and come and get it and let it fill the emptiness that you have within."

If you don't put something in, Satan, who is walking back and forth and to and fro, is waiting on the opportunity to fill your void. But understand, even though Satan is waiting on the opportunity to fill your void, so is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is

there, waiting to fill the emptiness that you have. That's why He even had me on the fast, so that I would understand the emptiness, but I would also understand the supernatural filling. And, you see, even though I stand here now, I'm not hungry! And I'm not weak! And I was weak! Now, before I came into this service tonight, I wasn't hungry, He filled the hunger; but I was a little tired, and I was a little weak. I bowed my head and I prayed a prayer that many of you have prayed so many times. I said, "Lord, give me strength." Do you know that?

Yeah, sometimes, in some situations where you have been and you are between a rock and a hard place ... I even saw my wife tonight with our little baby, and he just was in one of his moods and didn't want to be put down. All day long, he wanted to be held. So here my wife was and we're packing, getting ready to go away for a trip, and she couldn't even pack because she had to hold the baby. He didn't want to walk; he didn't want to be put in the crib; he didn't want to laid down. He wanted to be held all day long. She said he woke up this morning really early before the sun came up, and he's been up ever since. And he hadn't wanted to be put down a single minute of that time. You see, I imagine in some instances like that, when something has been on your back all week long, when something has gotten on your last nerve, when folks just seem to be going haywire, when your car is just breaking down, when things are just happening, sometimes life is seasonal. And the seasons of life come, and sometimes it's blizzard season. Blizzard season comes, and it hits everybody sooner or later. Sometimes when blizzard season comes, all you can do is just stop and say, "Lord, Jesus, give me strength!"

I understood that so much, and that's what I said as I was standing outside of the door: "Lord, give me strength!" But, sometimes God answers me in an unexpected way, with an unexpected statement. I was expecting God to say, "My son, you have followed that which I told you to do. Therefore, I will give you strength."

That isn't what he said. Do you know what God told me? Listen to this very carefully, because when you get in your blizzard situation, you need to remember this. God spoke to me standing right outside that door. He said, "Anyone that is in Me already has strength." You know, whenever you're in Christ Jesus, you already have strength! You've been born again. You already have strength to stand up against anything the devil can send your way! So I had to just turn around and say, "Thank You, God, for the strength!" And, you see, when I started praising and thanking God for the strength that He said He'd already put in my strength, and I haven't been weak a minute since.

You know, oftentimes, the stuff you have is enough and too much? Jesus has sometimes poured most stuff into you. God has more blessings stored in you. It's enough and sometimes even too much. But oftentimes, if we don't know who our Father is, we go around starving and empty, because we don't know the inheritance that we have. He said, "Anybody that's in Me already has strength." You don't have

to pray for it; you've already got it. You know, when you were born again, there were promises that came with being a Child of God. It's just like a pastor preached a long series on healing, and he made so clear: Jesus said it's already done! You just don't know how to claim it! Many of the things in our lives are already done! "You already have the strength if you're in Me."

So I had to turn around. And when you begin to praise, that's why the praise releases things. When you just start thanking God for the stuff you already have, there's a release! And as the praises go up, the blessings start coming down.

Refocus. Refocus. Refocus. And on what do you refocus? You must focus on the truth. You must focus on the truth. Many of you have heard the statement, "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That's a lie. I saw a sharp look go over some of your faces right now. That's a lie. I hear you saying, "Wait a minute, Pastor. I'm know Jesus said that." That's a lie.

I want you to see this, now. I want you to turn to John 8:31. That's a lie. "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" is not a true statement. Now, like I told you, I am going to tell you stuff like it is! As the Word of God said, I don't believe in deviating or adulterating a thing that God, Jesus and the Bible have spoken. "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" is not a true statement! It is not a Biblical statement! And Jesus never said it!

Well, let me tell you what Jesus did say. In John, Chapter 8, beginning with Verse 31: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That's what the Bible said.

You see, we have taken the last part of that verse and chopped it off and, you see, a half-truth is a whole lie. We have taken a half-truth and made it a whole lie. That's why you always need to read the Word for yourself. Don't just take what the preacher says; read the Word for yourself, and you'll see some things that will start unfolding to you. Jesus never said, "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That was just the last half, and that wasn't even the important half!

Let me show you what Jesus said. You see, Jesus said, "If ye continue in My word ..." Now, whenever there is a preposition that precedes a statement, whenever the prepositional phrase of "if" appears before anything, it always means that there's a possibility of two different ways. That's what "if" means, "if you do this ..." Whenever somebody says "if you do this", it means there's a possibility that you may not do it. Jesus said, "If ye continue in My word"; in other words, Jesus said, "If you do what I've been saying, if you do what I've been telling you, if you do what I've been preaching about all these time, if you follow all this stuff that I have written

and all of the things and the Commandments that God has set, if you follow all these" -- "If ye continue in My word, then ... "

You see, even in mathematics, that is what's called an if/then statement. And what that means is, if you don't do the "if", you don't get the "then". "If ... then ... " "If you continue in My word, then ..." "if you continue in My word, then ..." "if you do what I say, then ..." Now, see, we have taken the last half of that, and we have forgotten about the "if". We've taken the last half, "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That's a whole lie, because Jesus never said that.

"If ye continue in My word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and," you see, that's just typical of the way God always speaks. God will tell you: if you do something, then this is what will happen. "If you do this, I'll bless you. If you do this, I'll increase you. If you do this, I'll heal you. If you do this, I'll give you peace. If you do this, I'll give you prosperity. If you do this, I'll keep your relationship together. If you do this, I'll make your enemies even at peace with you. If you do this, then..." But oftentimes, all we want to look at is just the "then"; we don't want to hear the "if". No, you can't take half of it! It doesn't work that way. You cannot take half of it, because if you take half of it, all you're doing is running with a big disguised lie. Jesus said, "If ...then..." "If ...then..." "If ...then ..." "...and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

You see, even knowing the truth by itself will not make you free! Everybody in America knows the truth that cigarettes kill you. There's not a person smoking that doesn't know the truth of that statement, I don't care what they try to rationalize it with! There's not a single person with a cigarette in their mouth that does not know that cigarettes are bad for their health. They may rationalize it and say, "Well, look, I've got to die of something." But they know the truth. As a matter of fact, the truth is even printed on every carton. It's printed on every advertisement. There's a big ol' saying on every side of every carton that says, "Caution: The Surgeon General has determined that cigarette smoke may cause heart disease, emphysema, lung cancer" -- they've got about ten different statements. The truth is right there on the package. And they know it's true. They know the truth. But has the truth set them free? No!

You see, that's why that statement is a lie! "Know the truth, and" -- no! There are many of you that are involved in bad relationships. You know the truth every time I say "no good". Don't tell me you don't know the truth. You know it. You know good and well when a man slaps you upside your head, beats you and leaves you bruised and battered, don't tell me you don't know the truth. But it hasn't set you free! That's why "Know the truth and the truth will set you free" is a lie! Jesus never said it! But "if ye continue in My word ..." "if ye continue in My word ..." If you read what God's Word says, it'll get you out of that messy stuff. It will keep you out of

that messy stuff. And when you continue in the Word, then you will be His disciple indeed; and ye will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

You see, Jesus gave one command and three blessings. He gave one command and three blessings. If you just continue in His word, you'll be His disciple; you will know the truth; and it will set you free. That's the way God works it: you do His will, and He just multiplies His stuff. You do one thing, He gives you three. He gave you one command and three blessings that went along with the command; but you cannot separate the command from the blessing.

Let me give you a good worldly example. Let's just say that you were newly hired on a job, and your boss came to you and said, "If you follow all of my rules, then you will be a good employee, and you will make management and earn a lot of money." That's the same equivalent thing of what Jesus said; yet, we take the last half of it and just say, "You'll make management and earn a lot of money." Not if you don't follow all of the boss' rules, you won't. You see, that's the same principle; so we've taken half of it. That's why you must refocus on truth. But there's a part of that even when you refocus on truth. You've got to do more than just know the truth; you must follow His word, and you will become His disciple. And you'll know the truth, and you will be set free.

Now, that's just one of the ways that we refocus. Another way that I told him to refocus was just to help somebody. And you know, that's what he said he went right out and did. He went out and shared his testimony and the things that I had told him to some people who were going through the same thing. Do you know, when you help somebody, there's something about helping somebody that heals your own situation? I can't fully scientifically explain it. But when you go out and when you unselfishly help somebody else, first of all, you forget about all your problems. See, most of your stuff is still running by when you're thinking about your problems. When you help someone else, first of all, you stop being so selfish and so self centered about all your stuff. Even though as bad as you may think your situation is, there's a whole lot of people right now looking at you, just wishing they were in your shoes. You're sitting there complaining about your stuff, and even though your stuff to you may be rough, there's a lot of folks in worse situations.

I sat there and talked with the fellow, he was telling me some things and he was saying that his self-esteem had gotten so low. He said, "Pastor, you don't understand. You see, I've been just sleeping with all these different women." And I said, "Look, you've understood now." The reason he broke up with his girlfriend was because of what one of the pastors here, *54:22 (inaudible) Hester, told him. Because he was living with his girlfriend, the pastor said, "That was not in God's will, and you need to separate." So he took God's advice. Do you know sometimes when you take God's advice, it is not an easy way? Do you know that? When you do the right thing, sometimes that thing is rough! Do you know, even those that

followed Jesus and were His disciples, that was not an easy road? That was rough! Jesus even told them that. He said, "You that follow after Me, you are going to get the same thing. You are going to get persecution. They are going to talk about you. They are going to slander you. They are going to try to kill you. They are going to do all these things." Just because you decide to walk in God's will and to walk in God's way does not mean it's going to be instantly easy, because many of the times it's rough.

When you first make that change and you start walking in God's way, it's a mountain that you have to climb. And you have to understand some things about climbing a mountain. Going up is always more difficult than coming down. I don't care what you're doing, going up is always more difficult than coming down. And whenever you go and climb a mountain, sometimes you climb for a while and you sit and rest. We live life in stages, and we'll move from one stage to another.

But yet as I sat and counseled with him, he was telling me how his self-esteem was just so low. And I said, "Now, look, yeah, your sleeping with all those women was wrong." I said, "But don't let your past mess up your future."

You know, all of us have messed up. Now, if there's anybody in here that has not messed up, I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand. If I asked anybody in here that had not messed up to raise a hand, the hand that you saw would be the hand of a liar. Everybody has messed up! I don't care who you are; the only difference is, some folks know about your mess-up, and some folks have messed up but just nobody has quite found out about it. That's the only difference. It's not that you haven't messed up; it's just that folks haven't found out about your mess-up. Folks haven't seen what you've sometimes done over in the dark when nobody was looking at you. Folks have not seen your tax returns and known all of the stuff on it that wasn't quite true. You know, that's all. Folks just haven't seen some of your mess-ups, some of your ways that you have gone against the command of God. The only difference is that some people's are public and some people's are private. That's the only difference. All of us have messed up.

But, you see, the God that I serve is a Master of mess-ups. He can take the most messed-up situation and make a masterpiece out of it. He can take the most rundown, the most pathetic, the most sin-filled situation in the world, and when Jesus' anointing comes and the Holy Spirit comes, when the breath of God blows on it, it ceases to become a mess, and it becomes a masterpiece. And, you know, all the word "masterpiece" means is that it is a piece of a master. And whenever you get a piece of the Master, you move from becoming a mess to becoming a masterpiece.

So don't let the past things that you have done condemn you and make you feel that you are not worthy. Do you know what the man that wrote most of the New Testament was doing before he became a masterpiece? Do you understand what his

full-time occupation and what his passion was? His whole focus was on stopping the Gospel and murdering Christians. Now, you can't get much worse than that. And I don't think there's anybody listening to the sound of my voice that has done anything that was worse than what he did. And yet when he got a piece of the Master, he changed from being a mess to a Masterpiece and turned around and, in the New Testament, became the most influential voice, second only to Jesus. That was a mess that said that! You see, one was perfect, but the other one was a mess! The other one was like us. He was a mess, and the Master came and touched his hand and he became a Masterpiece. But understand what happened to him first. He was blinded. He got hungry; he asked to see again. Sometimes God will have to take something and, you see, there's not much more precious to us than our sight. I mean, I don't care. You may treasure your car; you may be proud of your house; you may like your fancy clothes. But if you had to name all your possessions and somebody put your eyes on it, nothing you own is going to come in front of that. When his sight was gone, the most precious thing he owned was taken away from him.

God sometimes has to make us hungry; and Paul became hungry! He became hungry to see, and God not only restored his natural vision, he gave him a supernatural vision. He gave him more than he could even contain.

What God can do, taking a mess and turning it into a Masterpiece. And even after I told him that, he said, "Well, Pastor, you just don't understand. You see, even the women I've been with, I'm just going to tell you about it." He said, "I've been out, and I buy sex. I buy sex, Pastor." He said, "I buy it from women, and I've been buying sex; that's what I've been doing, and I just feel so bad about it. I've been buying it." And I said, "Look, Man, let me tell you something. Many of the things in our society, yeah, are wrong; but, you see, society will condemn you."

I told him a story. There was a millionaire who owned several big companies. And the millionaire walked in, and there was this beautiful secretary there at the company where he was attending a meeting. He looked at the secretary, and he wanted that woman. He approached the secretary and said, "Look, you know who I am, don't you?" She said, "Oh, yeah, I know exactly who you are." He said, "Look, would you sleep with me for a million dollars?" It caught her off guard. But she knew how much money this man was worth. She knew this man was worth a few hundred million dollars. She knew he could afford a million dollars. And then her mind went to working. She thought, "A million dollars, just for sleeping with this man one time? Whoa! A million dollars? Lord have mercy, I could quit my job. I could move into a brand-new apartment -- I could get a house, I don't even need an apartment! Well, I can get a new car. Lord, I can start shopping at Saks Fifth Avenue. Oh, I can get a maid and wouldn't have to clean my house." All kinds of stuff start running through her mind. And then she started looking at the man, and even though the man was a little out of shape and a little baldheaded, the more she

thought about that million dollars, the better that man looked. And she started looking at that man and she said, "Well, yeah, I'll sleep with you for a million dollars." And then he asked her, "Well, would you sleep with me for twenty dollars?" Then she stood and got all indignant. She said, "Twenty dollars? Twenty dollars!? What kind of girl do you think I am?" And he looked at her, and he said, "We have already established what you are; we are just haggling over price."

So, you see, I told him, "Look, many of the dating games that men and women go through is nothing but sophisticated prostitution." You listen to a lot of women talk and they'll tell you. "Child, I'm not going to sleep with him. He'll take me out three or more times and buy me dinner." But that's the same thing, I don't care how you dress it up! It is nothing but sophisticated prostitution. And, see, a sin is a sin. I don't care whether it starts on the corner or whether it starts in the club. It doesn't matter! A sin is a sin. And we want to take some sins and dress some things up. But in the sight of God, He said all sins ... all sins. So if we went into that "all" -- and "all" is a big category -- we don't have the right to judge and say one sin is above another. Yeah, it's wrong; but most of the dating that goes on right now is nothing but sophisticated prostitution. And I told you, I'll tell you stuff like it is. And one thing about it, some people will look shocked when I tell stuff like it is. And they may be shocked, but they know it's the truth. I've never had a person come up to me, ever -- and I'll preach some controversial messages. I've never had anybody even call me and ever said, "Pastor, what you said was wrong and against the Word of God." Huh-huh. I'm going to tell it like it is, and even though it may be a little rough around the edges, it's truth and you know it. And I'm just telling you like it is out there.

We oftentimes will place one sin above another. So I told him, I said, "Look, don't let that come over your head, and don't let that make your self-esteem go down. Change it! Don't do it again. But, look, the devil focuses on providing you with a rearview mirror; God focuses on providing you with a windshield. And, you see, when you keep your eyes on the rearview mirror on all the mess, you'll miss the Masterpiece."

All of us have some mess in our past. Throw it away. That's why He said, "You are born again." You are a new creature. That's why God oftentimes in the Old Testament, when a new creature was born, He would change his name. And that's what He did with me. See, I'm Nathaniel now. I used to be Nate. Many of you will remember, we had three record albums. We had posters and billboards all over town, ads in all the magazines. It was Nate and Bernard. And when God came into my life and started to stir my spirit, He made me change all of the old ways, and He said, "You shall no longer be called Nate, because that man is dead."

But, see you have to sometimes maybe not even change your name, but you change what you've been called. "Child, I can't get a good man." That's what you're calling

yourself. "I," you are calling yourself, "just can't get no good man." Every time you go to the mirror and comb your hair, you're looking at "just can't get a good man". Every time you go to bed and sleep at night, "just can't get a good man" is putting her head down on the pillow. Every time you walk into the shower, "just can't get a good man" is walking into the shower. You have to change what you call yourself! And when you change what you call yourself, then what you call yourself -- that's why Jesus said God will tell you the cause of things that are not going to work. Call yourself something different. Don't let yourself call yourself "just can't get a good man" or "just can't get a good woman".

He told me finally, he said, "Pastor, I want you to pray for me to get a nice soulmate. Because everything else that you've prayed for me has become to past, I want you to just pray for me in a nice soulmate." And then there was something he was meant to tell me. He said, "Four years ago, I was on crack. I've come away from that; but when I came away from the crack, I went to women. But the crack had messed me up, so much my women standards had gone way down. I used to have only pretty women and only fine women. And now, I'm dealing with all these other kinds of women." He said, "Pastor, I just want you to pray for me to get a nice, good woman, a good soulmate for me."

As I looked back into the past of his addiction, many times we have been addicted to things and we never break the addiction; we just switch what we are addicted to. We give up cigarettes, and we go to eating too heavy. We give up drinking or we give up drugs, and we go to having promiscuous sex. We give up one addiction for another, and all you are doing is just playing Russian roulette with a different addiction. You've got to break away from all those addictions of the flesh. And when you do that, then you will truly be set free.

As God administered to my spirit and I saw some things, I said, "Look, now. When you ask God for a mate, you have to be willing to accept who He sends you, because oftentimes God will send you somebody who is not what you wanted. It'll just be set out, they just aren't what you wanted! You know, all women kind of want the same kind of man. They want a tall, good-looking man that's muscular. Then he's got to have the right behind on him, all that kind of stuff. You know, they have all these criteria about what they want in a man. They want him dressing sharp. They want him in an executive job. They want him with a sharp car and with plenty of money. somebody who can set them on Easy Street. They want all these things!

You see, the man that God has for you may be totally different. He may be short. He may be rotund. He may need some financial help from you. You know, you don't know what kind of situation he is in. But you have to have -- and that's what C. Elijah has been preaching on for the past few weeks is trying to train you how to get your spiritual discernment, because all that glitters is not gold. You have to have a spiritual discernment to know that this is what God has sent you. And sometimes

there'll be an instance where God will send you somebody, and it will not look like what your friends think you ought to have. But that's why you have to be in tune with the spirit of God so that when situations come, you have the ability to spiritually discern them, or else you don't know what to do.

Let me tell you something. These good-looking folks will break your heart. Some of you right now that are listening to me, what you need is not somebody good-looking; you need somebody ugly as homemade sin, because some of these good-looking folks will break your heart! Some of you just may not need all of that stuff. But you have to have the spiritual discernment to know and to understand, because if you are not in tune with God's will, then when God sends a person, because of tradition, you'll say, "Huh-huh, I don't want that." You will miss your blessing. Be in tune with God's will.

Time, separation and refocus; time, separation and refocus, those are the three keys to breaking soul ties. But there are also three other keys to make it work. Those are, number one, you have to recognize the truth. Some of you may leave here right now, and you'll say, "Well, what he said was all right, but I don't know. I don't know where I really need to separate from it. I don't know about that." First of all, before you can even hear the truth, you've got to recognize the truth. That's number one. So even though time, separation and refocus are three keys, there are three other mechanisms, and the first one is truth: you must recognize that which has been imparted to you is true.

Second thing is decision. You've got to decide whether you are going to what's true. And truth is the Word of God. You have to make a decision, like the people looking at the cigarette pack. They know what's true, but they decide they are going to ignore it. You have to first recognize truth; accept truth; then you have to make a decision that you will do that which is true.

And the third thing is, you have to have a starting time. "Well, yeah, I'm going to separate from them next month." And "next month" never comes! You have to have a starting time, because sometimes you will say that you know it's true and you say you're going to do it; but you never have a deadline. You know, sometimes people are like that. Do you know, when Moses came to Pharaoh after he put the plague that frogs on the people, Moses asked Pharaoh, "Pharaoh, when did you want me to get rid of these frogs?" Do you know what Pharaoh told him? "Come back in the morning. Let me sleep with these frogs one more night."

Some of you want to sleep with your frog one more night. God will bring a deliverance to you right now, but you turn Him away and say, "No. Let me sleep with this frog one more night." You have got to have a starting time. And the closer the starting time is to the decision, the more likely that you will succeed at it.

There was a survey that came out that talked about when people make decisions to do something. And they followed people. They said, "If they did not get started and start making changes on that decision, if it went beyond 21 days, they never did it."

You've got to start when the truth is brought to you. You can't sleep with those frogs one more night. Pharaoh had an attitude that got his whole army destroyed. When the truth comes, you have to let the frog go.

And tonight, God told me of the anointing and the laying on of hands, that even through the touch, many of the ties and the bonds will be broken. But He told me to do it in a little bit of an unusual way. First of all, He said, "Pray over the people five words and five words only." So in the name of Jesus, I shall pray those five words. Those five words are, "Be loosed, and be filled." Be loosed, and be filled. We have to be loosed from that which is binding us, and we have to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you get loosed and don't get fill, you walk out with a void, and Satan is waiting to put something there. Be loose, and be filled.

On the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." He told me to pray, "Be loosed, and be filled" over the people. And He said, "And you shall touch their bellies, not their heads." You shall touch their bellies. You see, many times, you have to touch where the problem is. And when you have a soul tie, you feel the problem in your gut. You know, your stomach churns. That's why it's called a "gut feeling": you feel it in your belly! And it's sometimes where your emotions pile, and your stomach knots in all sorts of ways, and all kinds of things happen. He said, "Touch their bellies, not their heads, and pray, 'Be loosed, and be filled.'"

Even though I'm going to play some special music that I've brought, because you won't have to sing tonight. I'm just led to do that. And God told me with that music, He said, "Don't listen to it. Don't listen to it. Feel it." See, oftentimes a soul tie is a feeling. He said, "Don't listen to the music, feel the music! Let it get down in your soul. Let the words sink down. Don't try to analyze. Sometimes we feel we have to try to analyze: "Who is that?" And we'll say, "Who is that singing background?" and we lose all the anointing, because we are trying to scientifically analyze it and we are trying to listen to it. He said, "Don't listen to it, just feel it."

So for all of you tonight that have soul ties and you want to break into those ties, I just want you to stand now and to come down front. Don't be ashamed, don't worry about it. Look. He said, "If My people will humble themselves" -- that's another one of those "ifs" -- "If My people will humble themselves," and then He talks about "then" is what He will do for you if you have soul ties. Don't worry about what I'm saying, because I'm only going to say the same thing over and over.

Feel the music! Let it get into you. I'm going to cut my microphone now. Feel the music ...

[Music]

PASTOR JAMES: We thank the Lord above. Praise the Lord Jesus. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. Give Him praise. Glory to God! Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord. Thank You for Your peace. Onto your feet; give Him praise. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You. It is the anointing that eases the yoke and removes the burden. Glory to God. Praise God. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Praise God for His anointing. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. Amen, amen, amen.

Everybody repeat after me, "I am free in Jesus' name! The burden is removed and the yolk is destroyed because of the anointing in this place tonight!" Praise God. Give God another round of applause. Amen, amen. Rejoice! You are free! You are free! Glory to God, you are free! Glory to God, you are free! Praise God. Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! Glory to God! Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. The Bible says, "Whom the Son sets free is free indeed"! Glory to God, there's no question about it. Praise God. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

We've had a wonderful time tonight. Reverend Nathaniel, give him a round of applause. Praise God, amen. Amen, praise God. Amen, amen. Amen. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God.

He availed himself to God and to the power of God, and God showed him stuff strong in this place here tonight and in each of your lives. The power of God and the Word of God and the message that was delivered here, a word from Heaven, and the anointing to set us free.