

Two Reservations

Sermon Title: Two Reservations

Sermon Number: 5476

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!

And today I want to talk to you for a few minutes from the subject, "Two Reservations". Now this is not a particularly a happy, joyous, good feeling subject but it is what God led me to speak to you about on this day because somebody is going to need this message before too long is over. "Two Reservations" it is a particularly – subject but sooner or later we all have to face two reservations.

One reservation is absolutely certain. Now some of you have really never made a reservation in your life. Some of you have never made a reservation at a hotel. Some of you may have never even actually stayed in a hotel. Some of you have never made a reservation at a restaurant because usually the type of restaurants that you have to make a reservation in, they are rather upscale and fancy and expensive. Most of you when you go to a restaurant, you drive in and you just pull through the drive through. Or you go in and sit down but there is a particular type of reservation that you have to call in, in advance. And put your name on the list and then you have to be dressed a certain way in jackets and shoes and there are certain reservations that require certain things and some of you have never really had to make a reservation in your life.

They even had reservations in Jesus' day. That's why in the book of Luke 2:7 says, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." They didn't have a reservation. And sometimes even now, if you go to a hotel, and it is full and there is no room for you in the in and you have not made a reservation, you cannot get a room there.

Some of you have never made even an airline reservation. And with an airline reservation, you can get a ticket and you have a confirmed reservation but sometimes even with a confirmed reservation, the last few flights that I have been on – a high percentage of them, even with a confirmed reservation, the flight has been over booked.

Airlines have a standard policy that they will always book more people on the flight than there are seats because they know that a certain percentage of the people will not show up even if they have bought a ticket and paid for it and is non-refundable. They know a certain percentage of people for whatever reason; they simply will not show up. Some of you have never even made a reservation for a car. So even though there are some things in the world, some of you within the sound of my voice may have never made a reservation for.

There is one reservation that is already made for you and you are going to check in. This reservation is absolutely guaranteed. It is unavoidable even though some of us don't want to make it, and we don't want to go there, you are going. We don't like to

talk about it. But there is one reservation that you will keep. You can't miss the flight. There is one reservation and you are going to be there. I remember my father used to tell me about as he was getting up in age and business and people would ask him, Mr. Bronner, what are you going to do about your business if you die? And my father answered them saying – what do you mean if?

He had sense enough to know there was one reservation that was absolutely guaranteed. What do you mean if? And though we don't like to think about it, though we don't like to face it – and often when we are young, we think that this is a world away, that it is eons of time in the future but there is one reservation that all of us have and we will absolutely keep.

Now I don't know about the rapture and when the rapture is coming and don't ask me about the rapture because I don't know. I don't know what the tribulation actually means, there are three major theories on the tribulation, I don't know which one is correct. I don't know what the rapture means. So for some of us, there maybe if Jesus comes, then maybe we won't have to keep that reservation but so far, throughout history there have been too many people that have missed that reservation.

So this is something that all of us, that not only will we personally face in our own lives but if you live long enough, you will see those who you know and those whom you love you will see them meeting that reservation over and over and over again. As you live you will see loved ones check out of this earthly plane.

Hebrews 9:27 says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” The Bible says, you have an appointment and it is appointed unto man once to die and there is nothing you can do about it. You are going to leave this earth; you are going to check out.

I'm a man who believes in health. I believe in keeping the body in its best shape as you possibly can but even if you do everything just right. Even if you eat only the purest of food, even if you exercise to the max and hire the best personal trainers on the planet, you move to the cleanest environment, follow all of the knowledge of everything that you can do, just absolute to the max of perfection, even if you do all of this, you still are going to make that appointment.

You can prolong it, you can delay it, you can get the maximum amount of time out of this life and out of this body that you possibly can but there is just an absolute hard coated limit of this life. Genetically, the scientists say that the body can survive for 120 years but after that, it's just not going to make it and if you study literature, there's none who is documented scientifically to have lived in the modern world beyond 120. It's an absolute hard coated limit in your DNA that once you hit 120, you are going leave here.

Now, most of us never make it to 120, most of us never even make it to 100 because we do some stuff that carries us out before the full lifetime of the body has expired. Some of us don't even make it to 70 or 60. I've had friends just barely made it to 50. But one thing is certain; you have a reservation that you absolutely without question will keep.

And the older that you get, the more you realize the closer to this reservation you get. As you age, and even my body, it's in real good shape but I can tell the difference between now and 20. I take my son to karate class every week and as we sit there in the dojo, we'll sit for a few minutes with our legs crossed and then the instructor will say, "Everybody up on your feet!" and there is a noticeable difference between the time of cross legged to full erect position between those who are five and ten versus those who are 40 and 50. There is a noticeable difference in the lag time between the instructor when he says, "Everybody up on your feet!" and it is not that those who are 40 and 50 don't understand the instructor.

It is not that it takes their brains longer to process, "Everybody up on your feet" but it is just that when you're in your 40s, 50s, and 60s, when your brain tells your legs, alright uncross, your brain will tell your legs but the legs will say – alright, just a minute, just a minute. And then when your brain tells your legs that there is – in youth they can pop up without even thinking about it but when you get some age on you and you're going to uncross your legs – My grandmother who lived to be 97, she used to say sometimes, you get a catch in it. Now I don't know the medical term for catch, but she says – sometimes you'll be getting up and something but you know it will catch in your back and I don't know what – catch is it but there is a difference as you move up in age the body does not respond the way it used to and fundamentally what it means is you are getting closer to that reservation.

I wish I could put it gently or put it in another manner or have another meaning but bottom line is, the longer it takes you to get up, the closer you are to going down. And it's just the reality of it. And it has been that way. God himself programmed this into your very DNA and cellular structure. From the time we left the Garden of Eden, when there was no death. God programmed into our very structure that reservation.

In 1 Samuel 2:6 the Bible says, "The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up." God Almighty does this, God Almighty does this. The Bible says, he killeth and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. And when we begin to understand this reservation it will take some of the trepidation and some of the fear that we have of facing this day. And it takes some of the fear out of and some of the sorrow when we see our love ones who have to go this way and this path. Because it is a reservation that without question you will keep. You will go that way absolutely no doubt about it.

So if you go in that way, you need to have some divine understanding that will help you understand this divine appointment, this divine reservation that you have that we commonly and simply call death.

And though you may book an airline reservation and it may be over booked, and though the weather may stop the plane, mechanical failure may stop the plane. Death doesn't stop. And there is no over booking in the graveyard. Proverbs 30:15 says "The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough:" and the first one is the grave, it's never satisfied, it never says hold on a minute I'm full.

And even in some places, in some countries where land becomes scarce and they really don't even have anymore space to burry people it does not stop folks from dying. I read in an article once in a town, the grave was full and the Mayor passed an order and it said – No one could die until they got some more graveyard space". And he literally passed that in the law. But even though the Mayor passed it in the Law, death wasn't listening. And that reservation still was kept. David said in Psalms 49:15 says, "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me."

Benjamin Franklin perhaps put it extremely eloquently when he said – as he wrote his own epitaph before he died and he had it placed on his grave at his death, and this is what it said. The body of Franklin, printer, like the cover of an old book, its content torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding, lays here food for worms. But the work will not be lost for it will appear once more in a new and more eloquent edition, revised and corrected by the author.

Now Benjamin Franklin, he was a printer and he put it in terms of his profession. But every profession will understand it a little bit differently. If you are a builder you will say, even though this house be torn down the great builder will build a better mansion and restore it anew that shall not wear out. Even if you are a lawyer, you may say, these laws of men will pass away and be changed but the great judge will re-write the law book that shall remain enforced. Even if you are a singer, you may say, these songs will fade from the memory of the people but the great psalmist will sing a song that shall reign eternal. Even if you are a cook, you may say, these meals will spoil and pass in the drought and go in the garbage can but the great cook will prepare a meal that shall forever satisfy and keep me full.

See, whatever your profession is and when you have an understanding, you will understand that the first reservation is only a reservation in truth with the door. It's not a reservation with the grave; it is a reservation with a door. And the door opens the way to the second reservation. And often times, you know, if you go into a restaurant, they ask you the question that you will be asked at the second reservation. And you'll say – What question is that? They all ask you a question –

that you will be asked at the second reservation. And the question that they'll ask you is – Smoking or non-smoking?

Smoking or non-smoking – the second reservation is the reservation that you will make and you make that reservation right now. It's the reservation that you will make for heaven or hell. It's the reservation that will determine where you will spend the rest of your eternal life. Now, some people, to be honest about it don't believe in heaven or hell. And that's not a new discussion.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees, that's what they argued over. In Acts 23:6 NIV version, "Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees called out in the Sanhedrin, My brothers, I am a Pharisee the son on a Pharisee, I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees and the assembly was divided. The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection and that there are neither angels nor spirits but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

People thought that was a new argument and a new discussion. See, even in the synagogue, even in the religious body there was a division among those who believed that there was something after this life and those who didn't. And basically the Sadducees and when you read the word, it's 'S-A-D' are the first three letters of Sadducees. The Sadducees didn't believe there was anything, they said, they didn't only they believe in life after death. They neither believed in angels nor spirits as the demons. The Pharisee believes on all of it.

I am by that definition a Pharisee, I believe in Angels and I believe in demons because you can't believe in one without the other. See, you can't just believe in just the angels and no demons. Either you believe in both of them or none of them. So the Pharisees said – Look, we believe there's a resurrection, there's a life after death, we believe in angels and we believe in demons. Sadducees say – I don't believe in any of that stuff. I don't believe there is any life after death, I don't believe there are any angels and I don't believe there are any demons.

And what you believe will determine which reservation you make. It will determine whether you're headed because see – that belief, it will shape the choices that you make. Because – people, if you don't believe there is a restaurant, you're not going to make a reservation. You are not going to make a reservation in a restaurant, if you don't believe the restaurant is there. You have to believe there is a restaurant to even make a reservation to go to the restaurant. So if you don't believe there is a heaven, if you don't believe there is an afterlife you are not going to do anything to prepare to make a reservation for heaven and for the afterlife.

I'm like Paul. I'm like the Pharisees, I believe that there is something else after this life and I believe in both sides. I believe there is a non-smoking section and I believe

there is a smoking section. And now is the time for you to make the choice, Smoking or non-smoking.

Two reservations, one of them without question you have an appointment and a destiny, and the second – one of them you don't have a choice. The second reservation, it's your choice. And Jesus came so that we have a choice in that second reservation.

I had an experience that changed my whole view of death when my brother died. I spent 24 hours in the funeral home, I talked about that experience and you can go to the OnLineWord and hear the sermon "One Hour and Forty Minutes" or "The Eulogy of Ephie Thomas" both of them I dealt with that particular experience but when I came out of that, I had a whole different belief of death and I was no longer afraid of it.

People, don't fear death. Fear that you've got the wrong reservation. Don't fear death because you're fearing the wrong thing. Don't fear death, fear that you've got the wrong reservation. And if you got the wrong reservation, you've got a problem without question and you have a big problem. And that has been one of the things, that's the thing that the whole Bible talks about, it's the wrong choices. And the choice that we live for the short brief moment, it's gone on a flash and we have made the wrong reservation.

Have you been on the wrong flight? I mean I actually got on the plane once and I was literally sitting on the wrong flight and it wasn't – because the gates were right there together, there were two flights going and I went through the gate and I got on the wrong plane and fortunately I was in someone else's seat and they came and said – I got this seat. We looked at the ticket and the flight attendant had to come and said – You're on the wrong plane.

Some of you right now, you're on the wrong plane and you're headed to the wrong destination, you've got the wrong reservation and there's only one ticket agent that you can get the right reservation through. There is only one airline and that's AirJesus.com. There is only one airline that will take you to the right destination. There is only one. So if you have the wrong reservation, you need to book your flight right now. And when you're flight gets book the right reservation, you'll find that you have no fear. And what you discover in the Bible that those who really knew Jesus, not only did they not have a fear of death, they look forward to it.

And that's the difference, that's the difference between a person who knows and who knows that they know who know that they are secure in Christ. Not only that they not have a fear of death, every one of the disciples look forward to it and they said – Look, I would rather not even stay here with you but I would rather go home to be with Christ but for you sake I'm staying just to teach and to train you. Those

who knew, look let me go ahead and get this first reservation out of the way because I got my second reservation, that's the way you know me.

Right now, for those of you who are listening or watching electronically, you're on the wrong plane, headed to the wrong destination, and you've got the wrong reservation. And now God is speaking to you and calling to you out right now, because you may not have much time left as you think you do and it's time now for you to turn around. Make a right decision, make a right turn. Get on AirJesus and get to the proper destination because there are two reservations and you're going to make both of them. What matters is which one you shall choose is the second.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word. Amen, amen.