

LIFE-SAVER—WORLD CHANGER

Video: Montage of a broken world...dealing with sex trafficking, drugs, crime, war, starvation

Coffin—enter the sermon from trying to get out of the coffin

Video footage: (shoot “live” footage of me in the darkness of the coffin...
Where am I?

How did I get here?

Who put me here?

How do I get OUT OF HERE?!!

How did I GET HERE?!!

**THE HEART OF GOD BREAKS FOR THE BROKEN HEART OF HUMANITY...
DOES YOURS?**

--What have you done for fun?

--What have you done under the sun?

--What have you done under the gun?

--What have you done on the run?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ONE?

WILL YOUR LIFE GIVE LIFE?

Can you fill your deep longing without fulfilling your deep calling

II Corinthians 5:17-20—given the ministry of reconciliation as ambassadors

GO! verse

III>> turn on noise while reading the passage—All about listening—focus—
what do you most want?

Acts 10:1-10

Cornelius—devout—family God-fearing—gave generously—prayer based
—listens to God/angel

Servants & soldier—devout & attentive—listened & sent

Peter—praying—his sanctuary

WE ARE DROWNING IN NOISE—DROWNING UNDER DEMANDS

HOW AM I LISTENING TO GOD?

AM I PLACING MYSELF IN A POSTURE TO HEAR GOD?

III>> The heart of God leaking out—what am I doing about it? Have a black
sheet covering the

heart—we often keep it covered so that we can't see God's heart—
because of past pain—noise in our lives—do we dare remove the black
sheet? What would happen to our lives if we did? How would our lives be
changed? Is God telling you right now, **JEFF, KNOW...MY...HEART!**

Once we have removed the sheet, how often do we walk right past it...
everyday? And where do

we spend our time if it's not at the heart of God? At death's door!

Place myself under the heart...how often do we seek out the heart of
God? How often does my

heart join where God's heart is?
I Samuel 3:1-10—"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening"—what do we listen to? What are we listening to that we don't realize we are listening to? "Speak Lord, for your servant tried listening"
--Jesus' command to Peter to "Come!"
--God's command to Moses, "Go!"
--Jesus' command to the disciples to "Go!"
--God's command to Isaiah, "Go!" after Isaiah says, "Here I am! Send me!!!"

--Jesus' command to Paul to "Go!"
--What if they missed their calling?!! What if you missed yours?!!
Video: Unstoppable—chapter 20—1:03:10-1:04:05—unmanned train—the attempt to stop it by blowing it off the tracks

Quote: Yaconelli, Mike; Messy Spirituality; pg. 96, 97—busyness—we all go through life meaning for our lives to mean something, yet never stop to discover what it would mean for my life to mean something

In the demanding world we live in it's easy to turn our relationship with God into a drive-thru worship service—a drive-through relationship

III>> Noise—all the things we listen to in a given day—pull them out of the casket—music; sports; movies; people; books; demands—how do we find God's voice? Are we searching for God's voice?

EITHER WE TURN IT OFF OR HE WILL—HIS MISSION FOR YOU IS THAT IMPORTANT! DON'T MISS IT!

Take the noise down one at a time until it is absolutely silent...fade out lights...let it be still...then bring up quotes...fade back into stillness

Quote: Obedience to the Great Commission has more consistently been poisoned by affluence than by anything else

—Ralph Winter

Quote: The world can no longer be left to mere diplomats, politicians and business leaders. They have done the best they could, no doubt. But this is an age for spiritual heroes—a time for men and women to be heroic in their faith and in spiritual character and power. The greatest danger to the Christian church today is that of pitching its message too low.

—Dallas Willard

Quote: ...for many people a career becomes the altar on which they sacrifice their lives.

A calling, which is something I do for God, is replaced by a career, which threatens to become my god. A career is something I choose for myself; a calling is something I receive. A career is something I do for myself; a calling is something I do for God. A career promises status, money or power; a calling generally promises difficulty and even some suffering—and the opportunity to be used by God. A career is about upward mobility; a calling generally leads to downward mobility.

--John Ortberg

Quote: “Sometimes I would like to ask God why He allows poverty, suffering, and injustice when He could

do something about it.” “Well, why don’t you ask him?” “Because I’m afraid He would ask me the same question.”

--Anonymous

Quote: It’s never too late to be who you might have been.

--George Elliot

Acts 10:11-16

Three times—what else happened in Peter’s life three times? “I don’t know the man!” “Peter, do

you love me?” Which of the two do you think God is trying to recall to Peter’s mind?

(John 18—Peter’s denials; John 21—Jesus’ question—“Do you love me?”)

HOW AM I STALLING MY CALLING?

WHAT IS YOUR “NO, LORD! NEVER!”?

III>> The casket—my calling is stalled when I fear I will lose what’s in here...

Peter’s fear was killing

him because he was afraid of death and so he denied Jesus; Jesus looks at me and asks, will you trust me? What’s at stake?

Video: Unstoppable—chapter 10—34:35-35:10—everything seems fine—unmanned train—coming

down the track—then it crashes through things on the track

Matthew 10:37-39—who loves...more than me...is not worthy of me

Matthew 16:24-26—“God would certainly not call us to place ourselves in harm’s way!” Really? What

happened to His Son? Jesus’ disciples? The early church? And us? He is asking the question: Will you hold onto your life before you hold onto me?

What am I gaining by missing my calling? What limitations have I placed on God’s calling for my life?

III>> What are you afraid of? Why? Trust—**HOW DOES THAT FEAR PREVENT ME FROM FULFILLING**

MY DESTINY? Look at the nature of God—He saves you to save others—yet we hold onto

things that prevent us from saving others—we hold onto those things that drag us down—Jesus saves us from those things so that we can save others!

Esther 4:14—you have come into this position for such a time as this? Do we not all have a “position”

for “such a time as this?” What is your “such a time as this?”

WE WERE GIVEN LIFE TO GIVE LIFE! WILL MY LIFE GIVE LIFE?

Ephesians 2:10—What were you created for?! We are God’s...workmanship... created in Christ...to do

good works! Don’t miss your calling!

106—What do we give out of? **DO WE GIVE OUT OF THE WORST OF OUR FIRST?**

Woman who gave all she had—the penny; Mary; Rich Young Ruler; Zaccheaus;

Isaiah 41:9, 10, 13, 14—the God who calls us, chooses us, helps us—do not be afraid!

Quote: Man has set out at a tremendous speed...to go nowhere.

--Jacques Ellul

Quote: It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to

fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.

--CS Lewis

Quote: I cannot say I did not hear; that sound so haunting hollow; I heard, I heard, I heard it

clear...I was afraid to follow

--Shel Silverstein

Quote: Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.

--Carl Bard

Quote: You don’t get to write your own obituary, but you do get to live the life that will be written about.

--Richard Stearns

Quote: If we are not personally engaged in God’s great mission in the world, then we have missed the very thing he created us to do.

Acts 10:17-22

--Cornelius looking for what Peter had to say—a Gentile searching out for a Jew

--Notice what Cornelius WAS NOT looking for—Warrior Ways; Military Advancement

--How is Cornelius described?

Ambitious; tactician/strategist; strong; courageous—righteous; God-fearing; respected

WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AND WHY?

3—Jesus didn't just expect his followers just to believe in him, he expected that if they believed in him

they would continue to carry on the work he believed in

Jesus came and died to change the world—the gospel changes hearts and it changes the world

Has it changed your heart?

Jesus doesn't ask for us to join him—you join him when you believe in him —they aren't two

separate things—it's a command

And the command brings purpose—healing—and life!

Acts 10:23-48

--Peter, a Jew, sent by God to Gentiles

--The calling confirmed

WHO IS GOD SENDING YOU TO?

AND HOW IS HE EXTENDING YOU TOO?

WAS SENT MEANT OR AN ACCIDENT? 9 times!!! (Acts 10:5, 8 17, 20, 29, 29, 32, 33, 36)

Matthew 28:19, 20—Go! Go! Go! Go! Go! The Great Commission—how am I fulfilling that?

III>> stick figures with used crayons (have these drawn during the worship service)

107—10 million children dead in a year; 26,500 dead in a day

III>> The starfish—man walking along beach throwing starfish back into the ocean...another beach

walker asked him what he was doing...there are thousands of starfish!

How could you possibly expect to save them all? The Savior's response:

"I don't...but I can save this one! And this one! And that one!" (162)

III>> Stearns, Richard; Hole in the Gospel—pg. 261-262—story of Billy Graham; Dwight Moody; and Edward Kimball

Video: Unstoppable—chapter 26—1:27:30-1:29:09—Go! Gaining control of the unmanned train—the

risk—the reward—the celebration—the calling—the mission that saves lives

Which character do you represent in this video? The unmanned train?

The one in the rescue

effort? The one celebrating the rescue? Are you even in this video?

Can you imagine what character God wants you to play? Your role is cast, and he is calling out to you..."Are you ready? Now Go!"

WE WERE GIVEN LIFE TO GIVE LIFE! WILL MY LIFE GIVE LIFE?

III>> The heart of God dripping...don't let it touch me! Because then it will change me! (let the heart

“break” and pour out) Are you letting it change you?

Coffin—those who choose to step out of the coffin of death now have the opportunity to pull others out

of coffins of death (pull someone else out of my coffin who has been there all morning long)

III>> Ryan Beck—people are dying to get a hold of the gospel—we are dying to get a hold of

McDonald's

Quote: If you think you are too small to make a difference, try spending the night in a closed

room with a mosquito

—African saying

Quote: We are saved by faith...and saved for works

--Richard Stearns

Quote: There are now two billion people on earth who claim to be Christian. That's almost one in three.

Have we changed the world?

The whole gospel is a vision for ushering in God's kingdom—now, not in some future time, and

here, on earth, not in some distant heaven. What if two billion people embraced this vision of God transforming our world—through *them*?

Imagine it. Indeed, what if even two *thousand* people took their faith to the next level—what might God do? Two thousand years ago, the world was changed forever by just twelve.

It can happen again.

--Richard Stearns

Quote: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

--Jim Elliot

Video: Daniel Bates/History Maker—Delirious

Quote: Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes

through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.

—Saint Teresa of Avila

COMMUNION:

A four-year old girl was overheard whispering into her baby's brother's ear, "Baby," she whispers, "tell

me what God sounds like. I am beginning to forget."

Take this time to hear God speak to your heart...and to find his.

DON'T MISS YOUR CALLING—DON'T MISS YOUR PURPOSE—AND WHATEVER YOU

DO DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO CHANGE A LIFE...WHAT ELSE ARE YOU HERE FOR?

ELDERS:

Support a child in Honduras, Kenya, or World Vision; you've been saying no for too long, and now it's time to say yes; you want to say yes but you just don't know what that yes would be and need help finding it; interested in getting involved in a ministry that will impact lives

Quote: pg. 231—Billy Sunday—Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing

in a garage makes you a car

Quote: pg. 274—Chinese proverb—"The one who says it can't be done should get out of the way of the

one who is doing it"

Quote: God can't steer a parked car

Quote: We have shrunk Jesus to the size where He can save our soul but now don't believe He can change

the world.

--Anonymous

Quote: It's not what you believe that counts; it's what you believe enough to do.

--Gary Gulbranson

III>> Life Savers—do I eat more of these than I act on these? They are easy to eat, refreshing to

eat, but truly saving lives is never easy—refreshing yes, but never easy—to make an impact

requires that you sacrifice

Matthew 25:31-46—what did I do for the hungry? The only difference between the sheep and the goats

is what they did...

--Often we feed ourselves and discover our appetite never ends because we were created to help

others

III>> pg. 111-113—assuming the responsibility of a youth—it's personal for me!
Making it personal for you!!!

III>> Platt, David; Radical; pg. 196, 197—It's because of the value Jesus placed on relationships—

and his sacrifice—that we have a relationship with God

III>> David Platt goes to Sudan to be that “brother”

Video: The Patriot—Shoot; reload; shoot; run!

Video: Blood Diamond

III>> faces of youth who need help—include those who have passed away

III>> pg. 133—Haiti mud patties for dinner

Video: I Am Legend—Dead!!! What happens to our souls when we continue to shut out God's heart in

our heart...and so death flourishes

61—Northern Uganda—recruiting child soldiers—dead souls

Quote: Mankind wants glory. We want health. We want wealth. We want happiness. We want all our

felt needs met, all our little human itches scratched. We want a painless life. We want the crown without the cross. We want the gain without the pain. We want the words of Christ's salvation to be easy.

—John MacArthur

Quote: We can't say our generation didn't know how to do it. We can't say our generation couldn't afford

it. And we can't say our generation didn't have reason to do it. It's up to us!

—Bono

Quote: No, after encountering Jesus you can't just go back to your old life. That is not an option. It

changes everything.

Quote: Why not tie it all up in a neat bow and end it right then and there? But no. Instead, Jesus

chose to leave.

John 17:15, 18

Quote: The gospel message of Jesus was not just an offer of forgiveness; it was his call to enlist.

Acts 20:24—“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete

the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

Quote: Baseball is like church. Many attend, few understand”

—Leo Durocher

Quote: If your income is \$25,000 per year, you are wealthier than approximately 90 percent of the

world’s population! If you make \$50,000 per year, you are wealthier than 99 percent of the world!

--The Hole in the Gospel