

Prepare for Suddenly

by Brian Long

To be ready for suddenly, you need to be spiritually awake and watching, disciplined in prayer and seeking God's face, and prepared to share the gospel.

Duration: 40:20

Scripture: Malachi 3:1, Matthew 24:43, Acts 16:25-26, 1 Thessalonians 5:2, Hebrews 9:27, 1 Peter 3:13

Topics: "Christian Life"

Description

In this sermon on Mark chapter 13, the preacher emphasizes the importance of being ready for the sudden return of Jesus Christ. He highlights the fact that no one knows the exact day or hour of his coming, not even the angels or the Son, only the Father. The preacher urges the listeners to watch, pray, and be vigilant, comparing it to a man who leaves his house and commands his servants to watch. He warns against complacency and compromise, urging believers to be ready to proclaim the gospel and give hope to those in need. The sermon emphasizes the necessity of seeking God through prayer and staying spiritually awake.

Transcript

Amen. It's great to be with you again tonight. And we're going to turn to Acts chapter 16.

The message tonight as we continue this theme of preparing the way is prepare for suddenly. Prepare for suddenly. You know, many times in the Word of God, we read this word suddenly.

And the word suddenly in the Bible carries the connotation of surprise. God doing something quickly. Often times after you've been waiting for a long time in prayer, but God doing something suddenly, without warning, suddenly.

God is a God who is never late. And who often acts after a season of waiting, of prevailing prayer, and of persevering faith. Suddenly, He comes.

Suddenly, He moves. Suddenly, He answers. Finally, but suddenly, He delivers.

That's our God. Malachi chapter 3, verse 1 says, Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple. Acts chapter 2, verse 1 and 2. When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house

where they were sitting.

And of course, we know that's when the early church of 120 were waiting in that upper room. And they were in one accord, and they were praying, and they were waiting upon God. They were believing, they were persevering in prayer, and suddenly, the Holy Spirit comes.

Mark chapter 13, verse 35. Speaking of that day and hour that no one knows when Jesus Christ comes. Again, for His own, He says, Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

In the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning. Lest coming suddenly, He find you sleeping. 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verse 2. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night.

For when they say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them. Sudden destruction comes upon them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they shall not escape. So for many, it will be sudden judgment.

For some, it can be a sudden visitation from God in revival. A sudden outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For others who have been praying and persevering and seeking God for a long time, suddenly, He comes.

Suddenly, He comes to save. Suddenly, He comes to deliver. And in Acts chapter 16, which will be our text tonight, that's exactly what we're going to see.

Acts chapter 16, beginning in verse 25. It says, But at midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. And the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, Do yourself no harm, for we are all here. Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them, and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all of his household. Paul and Silas were going to prayer. A demon-possessed girl began to follow them around.

And this demon-possessed girl was a fortune teller. She was actually a slave to some men who was a fortune teller. And she was making these men a lot of money.

She was following Paul and Silas around. And she was saying, These men are servants of the Most High God who proclaim to us the way of salvation. She kept saying that.

The Bible says Paul grew greatly annoyed, and he turned and he cast the demon spirit out of this girl. Well, her masters became very angry because they were making a lot of money off of this girl. So they catch Paul and Silas and they drag them to the rulers of the city.

And Paul and Silas are beaten with rods. Then they're thrown into the prison and they're fastened in shackles and in chains. Verse 25 tells us here that it was at midnight.

A midnight hour. So it was at an hour when most were asleep. The jailer, the prison guard certainly was asleep.

And surely Paul and Silas were weary in their beaten bodies. But when most are asleep, Paul and Silas are awake. Brothers and sisters, if we're going to prepare for suddenly, if you're going to be ready for suddenly, you better wake up spiritually.

We better be awake. I'm talking about spiritually awake. They were awake even at a midnight hour.

We better wake up out of spiritual slumber at this critical hour when most are spiritually asleep and in the dark. You and I live in a nation that is on the brink of utter destruction and the judgment of God. We are living in the last days.

Are you awake? Are you spiritually awake? Romans chapter 13 verse 11 says, Now it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Remember that when Jesus comes, He is coming with power and great glory, and He is coming like a thief in the night. He's not going to announce a week ahead of time from heaven and say, Everybody get ready because I'm coming next week.

Jesus is not going to shout from heaven and say, Everybody get ready on the count of three. I'm coming. Ready? One, two, three.

No, like a thief in the night. Faster than you can bat your eye, the skies part and the Son of God comes in power and great glory. He's coming again.

And when He comes, it will be suddenly. Are you awake? Are you ready? Mark chapter 13. Mark chapter 13 and verse 32.

But of that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming. In the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning, lest coming suddenly, suddenly, He find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all, watch.

Let's not grow weary when we ought to be watching. Don't be found sleeping when you ought to be seeking. That's what it means to watch.

Be seeking God. Be awake. Now what is it that causes us to go to sleep? It's when we get complacent.

It's when we get compromised and comfortable. It's when we get mesmerized by the things of this world, and we're distracted by all the things of this world. If you want to put a baby to sleep, or anybody for that matter, what do you do? You pull down the shades.

You make it dark. You dim the lights. You put them in a warm, comfortable bed, and wrap them up in nice, comfortable blankets.

And then if it's a baby, you put that little mobile above the crib. That's what we used to have for our little kids. And they begin to be mesmerized by this little thing going around and around, above their head.

And next thing you know, they're fast asleep. Folks, what a job the devil has done. What a job the devil has done by making even professing Christians comfortable, full, complacent, wrapping them in these warm blankets of complacency and being lukewarm, times of prosperity, mesmerizing them by the things of this world, pulling their focus away from Christ, dimming the lights and darkening everything around them by sin.

And what happens next? You fall fast asleep. There's a spiritual slumber that comes upon sometimes even the people of God. I'm not talking about a physical sleep.

I'm talking about a spiritual slumber. Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is take a nap, or go to bed early. We're not talking about physical sleep, but spiritual slumber.

Are you awake? Don't be caught sleeping when you ought to be seeking, seeking his face because Jesus Christ is coming again. And when he comes, like I said, and we've seen here in Scripture, it will be suddenly. It's that spiritual slumber that makes us totally unready for suddenly.

When suddenly he comes. To stay awake in seasons of comfort and prosperity, it takes discipline, brothers and sisters. It's impossible to stay awake and be ready for suddenly without discipline.

It's impossible to be a disciple of Jesus Christ without discipline. The first word in discipline is disciple. And I realize that the word discipline is almost a dirty word among Christendom today.

You talk about discipline yourself to pray, discipline yourself to fast, discipline yourself to read the Word of God, and everybody wants to mark you off as a legalist. But you tell me how you're going to get out of that warm, comfortable bed early in the morning to get up and open the Word of God and pray without discipline. How are you going to rise and turn off that computer and television and go to the prayer closet without discipline? How are you going to fast and seek the face of God without discipline? It takes discipline to stay awake, to be ready for suddenly.

Again, in Malachi chapter 3, verse 1, the Lord says, Behold, I send my messenger, he will prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. Who is ready for the Lord to suddenly come? Only those who are seeking. And if you're not seeking his face, you're falling fast asleep.

A spiritual slumber will come over you. And how do you seek the Lord without prayer? You cannot. It's impossible to seek the Lord without prayer.

Listen, beloved Church of Jesus Christ, are you ready for Jesus Christ to come suddenly? Are you seeking or are you sleeping? Are you praying or are you playing? Many people will be found playing. They will even be found playing church. They'll be found going through the motions of church every week,

Sunday after Sunday.

They're playing, playing with the toys of this world. Playing, wasting precious time when the clock is ticking and Jesus is coming. Playing, wasting precious time.

Playing with this precious gift called life and they're not ready for suddenly. But some of you, and I hope and pray all of you, will be found not playing, but praying. Only those who are found watching and praying are ready for suddenly.

Only they are prepared for suddenly. 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 7. But the end of all things is at hand. Look at that.

The end of all things is at hand. If it was at hand when the Apostle Peter was moved by the Spirit of God to write that, how close are we, brothers and sisters, to the end? The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayer.

Because the end of all things is at hand, it's time to get serious and sober about the most serious thing of all, and that is prayer. Seeking the face of God, praying. Noah preaches.

He warns of judgment to come. He swings his hammer every day, building the ark. No doubt he prayed and he prayed and he prayed for 120 years.

But the people play. Noah prays, but the people play. They say, let us eat and drink and be married.

Let us play. Noah prays, the people play, and suddenly the flood of God's judgment comes. There's no it's sudden.

And who was ready for suddenly? Noah and his family. Only. And a whole world is swept away in the floods of God's judgment because they're playing.

And not praying. Moses was up on the mountain praying, seeking the face of God, but Aaron and the children of Israel got tired of waiting for him, so they build a golden calf. And the Bible says the people sat down to eat and drink and they rose up to play.

Moses prays, the people play. And who is ready for suddenly? Only Moses. 120 surrendered and sold out believers are gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem.

For 10 days, they pray while the religious crowd continues to gather and play their religious games. When suddenly the sound of a mighty rushing wind fills the house and 120 people were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they played while the religious played. Who was ready for suddenly? Are you praying or are you playing? Surely, there's a time to play, there's a time to laugh, there's a time to be lighthearted.

But brothers and sisters, that time to play should never, ever take precedence or priority over time to pray. Nothing is more important than prayer. There is the prayer meeting is the most important meeting of the church.

There is nothing more important than that. What is Paul and Silas doing according to verse 25? It says, but at midnight, Paul and Silas were praying, not playing, praying, not sleeping, even though it's a midnight hour, seeking, seeking the face of God. They're praying when suddenly there was a great

earthquake and God comes to deliver.

Have the discernment to know when it's time to stop playing and start praying. But notice what else Paul and Silas were doing in this prison. Verse 25 again says, at midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.

And I hear the Holy Spirit say to me, don't be sighing when you ought to be singing. It'd been easy to sigh in a prison. Listen, they just had been beaten with rods.

This isn't a slap on the wrist. These are rods that went across their backs. They were beaten severely because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

They were being persecuted. They were beaten with rods. They were thrown into prison.

It would have been easy and natural to say, why is this happening to me? Murmur, sigh, complain. But they're not sighing. They're singing.

They're singing praises to God, even in the prison. They sing live or die, we will praise the Lord. And God hears their prayers and rising up to him.

And suddenly, suddenly God comes and shakes the prison and he sets them free. I love what somebody said. They said God heard Paul and Silas singing praises to him and he couldn't help but start tapping his foot.

And when he tapped his foot, the prison shook and the bars broke apart and the chains fell off. I want to tell you, one of the greatest ways to victory in Jesus is to begin to praise him in the midst of your storm. Sing to him when you want to sigh, when you want to complain, when you want to murmur, lift up your voice and offer up to God the sacrifice of praise.

Brothers and sisters, that's what the Lord, one of the things the Lord taught me when my son was sick, how difficult I remember. I'll never forget watching Luke. He's in a hospital bed.

He's suffering more than any. I've sat by many deathbeds and I've never witnessed the suffering of a human being like I saw in my son. And in the midst of his suffering, in the midst of me praying over him, I heard the spirit of God say, Brian, lift up your voice in praise.

And everything in my natural being said, Lord, how can I lift up my voice in praise? My son is dying. But I knew it was the Lord. And by faith, I opened my mouth and offered up to God the sacrifice of praise in the midst of suffering, in the midst of a storm.

And the presence of the Lord comes and he mounts us up with wings as eagles and he gives us the victory against Satan and the devil. The devil wants to take away your song. He wants to rob you of your song.

He wants to rob you of your joy. That's why he discourages the people of God. He tries to get them to hang their heads in shame and keep their mouths closed and hang their harps on the willows.

Don't be sighing when you ought to be singing. Paul and Silas, even in the prison, are singing. Faith, stop sighing and start singing, even in the midst of the storm.

When you're dry as gunpowder, when you feel nothing, when you don't see that answer to prayer and you've been praying so long. Lift your voice in praise, offer up to God the sacrifice of praise and let it flow. Why? Because he is worthy.

Jesus is worthy when you're in the valley. Jesus is worthy when you're on the mountaintop of all praise and glory. Jesus is worthy of praise when you're in the storm.

Jesus is worthy of praise when you're under the sunshine. Don't be sighing when you ought to be singing. I know it's easy to get to grow weary.

Believe me, I know, especially at the midnight hour when you're in prison or you're in a hospital or you're in some place of difficulty or discouragement. It's not hard to lose that expectant faith when you wait day after day. You've been praying for something and you wait day after day and the answer is delayed.

You're not seeing the answer. I know it's easy to grow weary and lose heart. But only those who are without hope lose heart.

Brothers and sisters, we're not without hope. If Jesus Christ lives in you and you belong to him, you are not without hope. This hope is an anchor to our for our soul, the scripture says, a steadfast hope, a no so kind of hope.

The truth, truth is, even in the midst of those places, God is calling us not to sigh, but to sing. But I want to point something else out to you in this text. Notice one more thing, at least one more about Paul and Silas and all those who are ready for suddenly.

They were ready to lead a sinner to faith in Christ when suddenly the opportunity arose, when suddenly the open door came. You see, God not only opened a prison door, God opened the door to this prisoner that guards heart. He shook the prison, he busted apart the bars and he caused the chains to fall.

And this prison guard was terrified. He was about to commit suicide. And he cries out after Paul stops him and says, don't don't kill yourself.

We're still here. And he says, sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they were ready for suddenly they were ready when suddenly God opened the heart of a sinner. And he says, what must I do to be saved? Are you ready for suddenly when someone comes to you and says, I hear you're a Christian or I see you're a Christian and everything around us is being shaken, that can be shaken.

I'm telling you, brothers and sisters, there's a storm coming. There are already storms here, but there's greater storms to come to this nation. They're very difficult times ahead of us.

Very dark times. People are going to want to know they're going to want to come to you for answers. This is a church, right? Maybe I can come to the church and get some answers after losing my job and the stock market crashing, the financial collapse and all this trials and hardships and wars and rumors of wars and tornadoes and earthquakes and hurricanes and all of this.

And people come here for answers. Are you ready for suddenly? Are you ready to lead a sinner to Christ? Are you ready when someone knocks on your door? Someone calls you in the middle of the night. What must I do? What must I do? God forbid that you be not be ready for suddenly.

And pity the person, pity the person who finally has someone running up to them. What do I do? And you say, ah, ah, let me go get the pastor. Let me call the counselor, let me find a book or something.

No, God sent that sinner in that needy soul to you. Are you ready for suddenly? Are you ready to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to them? Are you ready to suddenly give them hope, give them an answer and a reason for the hope that lies within you? First Peter chapter three, verse 13. Who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed and do not be afraid of their threats, nor be trouble.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready, be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear, having a good conscience that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. He's saying, be prepared, be prepared for suddenly shame on the Christian who doesn't proclaim the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. When a lost sinner comes to you and cries out, what must I do to be saved? Well, I just don't know enough yet, brother Brian.

I don't have enough Bible knowledge. Do you know for sure that Jesus Christ saved your soul? Do you know for sure that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that he died on the cross for the sins of the whole world as God's perfect sacrifice for sin? Do you know for sure that your Savior lives? Do you know for sure he's come to seek and to save the lost, that he saved you? You know enough to lead this whole town to Christ. What more knowledge do you need? You know enough.

You tell your testimony. You tell them what Jesus Christ did for you. Be ready for suddenly, be ready to open your mouth and proclaim Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

The message is so simple here. Paul said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. That's all is required for a sinner who's who's already come to repentance and they're ready to hear the gospel.

If they've not yet come to repentance, add one word, repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And you shall be saved. Can you all say that? Can you all be ready for that? When God puts someone across your path to lead them to Christ, are you ready for suddenly? Don't be silent.

When you ought to be speaking and there will come a time when you must speak. Now, I want to share one more thing with you before we close about being prepared for suddenly. The Bible says in Hebrews nine, twenty seven, that it is appointed unto men once to die.

But after this, the judgment that is an absolute that is brother. When you said earlier the enemy always wants to say, did God say, is this the word of God? I want to tell you, this is the word of God. This is an absolute.

This this is not something that might happen. This is something that will happen. It is appointed unto man once to die.

After this, the judgment, every single one of us will face death, lest Jesus Christ comes before we do. Every single one of us will stand before God at the judgment seat of Christ. The Bible says we must all stand.

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Ten out of ten people die. Ten out of ten people will be brought before the judgment seat of Christ.

Now, I ask you, are you prepared to suddenly face death? Suddenly face the Lord Jesus Christ at the judgment seat. And when you face him, will you face him as one? Will you face him with deep regret or will you face the Lord Jesus Christ with rejoicing? For some, when they face the Lord Jesus Christ or he comes again suddenly like a thief in the night, it will be with rejoicing. With others, it will be the most tragic, terrifying day of their life.

The deepest of regret. The Bible says when he comes, every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Every eye will behold Christ, some will behold him with deep regret, some will behold him with exuberant joy and rejoicing, which is it for you? Are you prepared to suddenly stand before God? James chapter four, verse 14, whereas you know not what shall be on the morrow, for what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time.

Suddenly it vanishes away. These cold days you go outside, breathe out. You see that vapor of your breath.

How long is it there? Here it is, there it goes. Your life, the Bible says, is but a vapor. Most young people never consider that.

Did you know, according to most statistics, people who die today, most people who die today die before the age of 25. There's a website called the 27 Club. They've got a list probably that long of rock and roll singers and celebrities.

Every single one of them died at age 27. Go down the line. Young people.

Amy Winehouse, I think is her name, was one of the last ones. Jimi Hendrix, all these these rock and roll. It's it's it's it's it gets a hold of my heart to say it's it's it's.

I don't know, an awakening to see how many of these people died at 27. What is your life? The Bible says it is but a vapor. It's here for a moment.

It's gone suddenly. Are you ready for suddenly, are you ready to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ if you face death right now, would you face it with regret or with rejoicing, would you face it prepared or totally unprepared? Multitudes are unprepared to meet God face to face. Many get up to go to work, but they never return home at the end of the day.

Some set out for a road trip, but they never arrive at their destination. Some climb aboard a plane, but it never safely lands. Others walk into a hospital for a test and they never walk out.

Others will get to bed tonight, but they will never wake up in the morning. How close are you to meeting God face to face? I'll never forget. I took in a young man, he was in his early 30s, into our outreach building.

We've taken in guys to get them off drugs and alcohol, those that wanted to be delivered. Many of them came to Christ and they were set free, and I love this young man. His name was Clint Stanton.

And I'll never forget one night when he really cried out to God, the story of the prodigal son so arrested his heart, he wept a river of tears, he wept all night long at the love of God. And he was there for probably two or three weeks after that. And then the old man rose back up and the devil went to tempting and in the middle of the night, without letting me know, he packed his bags and snuck out and ran away.

Only weeks later, I get a call from his mom and dad. They found him dead in a camper trailer in their backyard. Of a drug overdose broke my heart, that's not the only one I've seen.

They said, Brother Brian, will you do his funeral? I said, yes, we don't want to have a funeral. We just want to have a graveside service, something simple. We don't even have money for a funeral.

So we went and had a graveside service, and I'll never forget standing there and seeing all of his friends, many of them on dope and alcohol and in sin themselves. But I saw them through the eyes of Christ with love and my heart broke, 30 or 40 of them standing around me. And I put the notes away from the funeral sermon that God broke my heart and I couldn't contain myself.

And I began to weep and plead with all of my heart, begging these people to come to Christ before it was too late. We closed up the service. I went home that evening.

I was so exhausted, I turned off my phone, went to bed. Next morning, I turned it on. There was a missed call from the same number all throughout the night.

I felt so bad that I turned my phone off. I said, this is an emergency. Someone really is in need.

Before I could call them back after just turning on my phone, the phone rang. It was the same number. The man on the other end of the line said, Brother Brian, you don't know me, but I was in that crowd yesterday when you were preaching.

Clint's funeral. He said, God was speaking to me. He said, I knew that could be me lying there in that casket.

It should be me. Brother Brian, I need help. I said, where do you live? He told me, I said, can I come to your house now? He said, please do.

I found his house, we talked, I shared the gospel of Christ with him and he fell to his knees and called upon the Lord for salvation. Praise be to God. He was only 34 years old.

Eight months later, only eight months later, this healthy man was out to the lake swimming. He cut the bottom of his foot. He was too stubborn to do anything about it.

He wouldn't go to the doctor. He got infected. He wouldn't tell anybody about it.

Finally, it got so infected they had to take him to the hospital. But by then he had turned septic. They had to put him on life support.

Two or three days later, he passed away. I looked in my notes and saw the funeral of Clint Stanton. Now I look in this day when I'm going to preach the funeral of Jeff Swanson and the time period in between eight months, only eight months.

Who would have known a 34 year old young man standing at a funeral, hearing the gospel and the Lord pleading with him one more time? Come to Christ, come to God and be reconciled through Jesus Christ. It's the only way to be reconciled with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. And he nor I nor none of us knew he only had eight months to live.

How much time do you have before you suddenly stand face to face with the Lord? I remember another time when one of my dear friends out in the Oklahoma Panhandle, Brother Cuco Villa, he was a Mexican pastor. There was a lot of Hispanic work done there and he was holding a Bible study in liberal Kansas. And there was a young man came in there to talk to his mom because he wanted to borrow money.

And Brother Cuco had such a burden for this man, and he grabbed him, pulled him to the side. He said, don't you think it's about time to come to Christ? Pleading with this young man to come to Christ, the young man said, Brother Cuco, I know what you're telling me is the truth. But I just it's not right now, he said, can you give me another chance, Brother Cuco said, if it was up to me, I could give you another chance, but it's not up to me.

That young man left that Bible study, having rejected Christ, left that Bible study, got in the car with two other guys. They had drugs in the car. Police came up behind them, pulled them over for some violation.

Violation, they panicked and the one in the middle who just heard the gospel and an appeal, please come to Christ. And said, no, he took the bag of drugs and he swallowed it. Cops searched the car, wrote the ticket, let them go, and within minutes, this guy's bent over with excruciating pain.

Get me to the hospital. They rush him to the hospital. The bag burst open, they lay him on the emergency room table and he dies.

Only not even an hour ago, the spirit of God is pleading through a man, come to Christ, come to Christ. Suddenly it's over. And he's face to face with God, I want to ask you tonight.

Are you prepared for suddenly? And if you're not, I beg you and I plead with you in Jesus name to come to Christ tonight, come to God and be reconciled through Jesus Christ. Maybe you're here tonight and you say, Brother Brian, I am I'm already saved. I know Jesus is my savior.

All right, are you seeking his face or are you sleeping? Are you mesmerized by the things of the world tonight? It's time to repent. Are you playing or are you praying? Are you sighing? It's time to start singing. And are you silent when you ought to be speaking the gospel of Jesus Christ? Can we stand together to our feet? Johnny, you come and lead us in an invitation hymn, please.

Friends, this is what is called an altar call. If the spirit of God is speaking to your heart and you're not ready for suddenly, you're not ready to stand before the Lord face to face, even now, God in his mercy and grace is calling you to come to himself. Come forward, kneel at one of these pews and humble yourself before God.

Jesus Christ will come and say he's a savior, he's mighty to save. We just sang about it. He's mighty to save and he's the only one who can save you.

And if you're here tonight, a believer and you say, wow, what would happen if God, if the Lord Jesus Christ suddenly came, what would happen if he suddenly came in revival? Am I prepared? Am I ready? Am I praying? Am I seeking? Am I singing? Am I speaking the gospel? This is your only opportunity, folks, one day we're going to be in heaven. Who are you going to lead to Christ in heaven? There's no one there to lead to Christ. Now's your opportunity, your only opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and lead a soul to Christ.

Will you do it? Let's respond to the Lord. Holy Spirit, I pray that you would fall fresh upon us tonight, that you would speak to the very depths of our heart. And God, do not let anyone leave this place without responding to you.

There's nothing more important, Lord. Please create in each of our hearts a sense of urgency to hear the cry, to hear the call, to hear your voice calling us, Lord. Draw us unto yourself in Jesus name, I ask.

Amen.

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