

Jerusalem

by George Verwer

George Verwer's sermon 'Jerusalem' calls for a revolution of love, emphasizing purity, worship, and the importance of spiritual reality in the life of believers.

Duration: 44:17

Scripture: Psalm 69:29, Matthew 6:33, Revelation 3:1

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Evangelism"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of understanding and reaching out to the world population. He mentions the lack of geographical knowledge among evangelical Christians and highlights the need to switch our perspective and love all people. The speaker shares his personal experience of growing up in a non-Christian home but still receiving love from his parents. He then moves on to discuss the difference between having religion and having a genuine spiritual reality in one's life. He refers to Revelation chapter three, where it is mentioned that a church can have a reputation of being alive but be spiritually dead. The speaker concludes by stating that there are basic principles for spiritual growth that everyone can agree on, and it is important to focus on these principles rather than getting caught up in controversial issues.

Transcript

I'm Kip, I'm from the Tehno. I've been migrating to school for 18 years. And I discovered that my greatest need, a diamond brother, I won't be able to be without him.

The people switch you off, they leave you out of their town. They're not imparting the same. Certain kinds of people, the way they speak, the way they walk, the way they dress, Did they spit you off? Amen.

I'm not sympathetic. I'm very easy to coerce into Salute. And yet this is just the opposite.

I am not of the mood of what's happening. We can't. But God can do it.

It is God's plan. That we may be switched on to people. That we may be able to love all people.

Come to believe me. I found this the most exciting year. My God is God's Holy Spirit.

In 19 years. I have never met an angel. Or a girl.

That I could not love. And to me it's exciting. To see God taking out a gate.

And putting it in my mouth. It's supernatural. And it can happen.

Without some people it's much more difficult. I had a somewhat loving home. It was not a Christian home.

But there was some love from both my mother and my father. Which is a major factor in our lives. And if you have come from a broken home.

An unloving home. Where there was no love from your father. No love from your mother.

It will be a longer, harder road for you. To learn love in your life. But don't be afraid of young people.

This is why I want to invoke St. Paul on a revolution of love. We want a revolution. But it doesn't mean we break into the church.

Grab one of the elders. Hang him up. Tie him on the floor.

Take over the church. Now I thought. Because I read my Bible.

I couldn't find the path. For that kind of revolution. Oh this is a revolution of love.

We're going to get into that church. We're going to find that elder. There's usually one in every church.

This is really sad. Whatever the young people should get. He says no.

We tried that. One hundred years ago we tried that. We can't do it again.

No matter what technique I'm doing. Even if I have a little church picnic. No, no, no.

Stop it now. There's one in every church. Of course that's an exaggeration.

And what are we to do as young people? And love his wife. You can imagine what it is to be the wife of such a character. On the other hand he may be that way because of his wife.

This is what we are called to as young people. And you know we've done this in many places. I've seen some of these here all morning.

We have seen them tonight. And we have realized they are real people. And they have realized we are real people.

There is unity and reality at work. Our weapon is love. In every area.

And in purity. The last thing. Well all over the world I've spoken on that subject.

It's probably my most popular tape. What the Bible says about sex. I have a tape.

It says on the tape for girls only. It's the main tape the young men write in for in our tape library. So now I give the lecture to normal people.

You know there are over 250 verses in the Bible on the subject of sex. What utter nonsense that so often the church is a... And everything is this stuff. You read Leviticus 18.

Homosexuality. Sex with animals is this stuff. Which by the way is on the increase in the point.

This book is absolutely blunt. Absolutely clear. It's not all fucking.

Many times the young people see it. It makes a big impact on them. And the Bible teaches that sex is pure.

Hebrews chapter 13. And within the context of man. And outside man.

It's ugly and impure. We don't have time to speak on this tonight. But the word of God is clear.

Perhaps this is yet even the greater. As young people. To be pure.

To be gentle. To be clean. To be free.

The people are all telling us today about being free. But actually in the last ten years. Israeli psychology has disproved.

That the new freedom is one of the deepest forms of slavery. Real freedom. This was probably the greatest problem in my life.

When I was 16. I don't want to go into it. But I know one thing.

Jesus set me free. From the day of my conversion. For five years when I was not married.

And I thought I would never go one more day. Without falling flat on my face. I discovered.

The power. In Jesus Christ. To keep us pure.

Full sensitivity. Free. Free you.

Whether it's in a mask. Or in action. Whether it's through books.

Or whatever. Over these past years. I've killed so many people.

I've killed so many people. But I will not do it again. I will bring back their lives.

I will not do it again. I will not have the power. To kill one more.

I will not. I will not achieve. This and yet another.

Sit down for a few moments of silent prayer as we search our own hearts. We tell the Lord our burden as we ask him for cleansing in any area that the Holy Spirit has convicted us of. Be very conscious of our weakness.

Realize in the end that many times we have been poor soldiers. In God is the last two wars in this country. I've been fought the way we are fighting the Christians, not you in the West.

For not disciplining our lives. For being afraid to throw ourselves into front line combat. For not being an example of the believers.

Explain it. We recommit our hearts to you. This is the beginning of the second message.

We're a little short on time this morning, so we're going to forget about the introduction. I want to share with you from the Word of God seven priorities for spiritual reality in your life. There's a great difference between having religion and having reality.

There's a tremendous difference between having knowledge in the head and reality in the heart. There's an enormous difference between having religious cliches on the lips and having love and spiritual power in one's personal life. Turn your Bibles to Revelation chapter 3. The book of Revelation chapter 3. And verse 1. In this living Bible it reads, towards the end of the verse, I know your reputation as alive and active church leader.

But you are dead. In King James it says thou hast the name that thou livest but art dead. And we know it's possible for us to have the name evangelical.

To be called believers and still not have spiritual reality. I believe there are many reasons why so many people who claim the name of Christ are not experiencing that burning heart reality in their life. I do believe it's any one reason.

Too quickly we generalize and toss out our easy answers why people are not spiritually what they should be. Life on this earth is not a simple thing. I think most of us wish it was all much simpler than it is.

And spiritually we wish it was all much simpler than it is. And spiritual life is not always an easy thing. It may be simple in one sense but it's not easy for most of us.

Even the very books on the book table that we want people to read in some cases or some people can confuse them even more. I believe we need a lot of patience with one another. We need a lot of patience with the younger brother who is finding difficulty in his faith.

We need that love the Bible speaks about. That covers a multitude of sins. And we need to realize that God is working different people in different ways.

It is a very grievous thing to me that over all these years the church is still arguing and fighting so much over certain things. For example, everywhere in the world there is still tremendous contention and confusion and arguments going on over the Holy Spirit. Somehow there are so many people who just cannot accept that God works in different people in different ways.

That everybody is not going to go through the same little way. As you know I had the opportunity of teaching and preaching in many many different countries. Satan has different tactics in different places.

But one of his main tactics is always to divide the believers. I personally feel that though I don't know much about these conferences I believe they are very good. I don't know what you are going to put down on your little questionnaire forms.

But I hope if you put down some good criticism you'll also be ready in the coming weeks to get into the battle to help improve the situation through your hard work, tears, toil and effort. The church today is filled with Job's advisers. They are giving their advice out in every direction free of charge.

Of course it has to be free because no one would ever buy it. But all how we need people who are willing to get into the battle and help us improve whatever situation. Sometimes someone in my work comes to me with some good suggestion.

Or some criticism. So I usually make him chairman of the committee to solve that problem. Sometimes he quickly changes his ideas.

But the devil does continue to attempt to divide the church and the believers. And so these principles for spiritual growth that I want to give this morning I believe are so basic that there won't be any controversy. You may not agree with everything I say but I think you will agree with the basic principles that I want to give this morning.

We have a very interesting work in which we have people of all different denominations working together. And we've had to learn to emphasize the major biblical issues that we can agree on and not emphasize the issues that we can disagree on. And we've had to learn to emphasize so much the things we cannot agree on.

Of course without this we would get caught up in all kinds of controversy that we would never get on with evangelizing the three billion people who now live on the earth. I find very few people who are realistic about world population. When you live in a small country it must be even more difficult to comprehend world population.

But Jesus said go into all the world. And this is something we need to think about. It's about time however to get into that this morning.

Let me just give you seven or eight of these principles. There are more but I think that's all we can cover in this class. These are the principles we have been trying to teach young people all over the world.

On the ship we usually have about ten major programs all going on at the same time. One of those is a pastor's Christian leaders conference. I just finished one in the state of Orissa.

Probably most of you when I say the state of Orissa would not know what I'm talking about. Because evangelical Christians are notoriously poor at geography. Many of them don't even know what country Mount Everest is in.

Many of them don't even know what country Mount Everest is in. I wonder how many of you know. I'm going to embarrass you on Sunday morning.

But Orissa is a state within India. Very few believers there. And there are 30 million souls.

It's a small state. Only 30 million. Our main thrust in coming here is into the state of Uttar Pradesh.

There are only nine nations in the world that have more people than that one state. There are 90 million people in the state of Uttar Pradesh. More people in that one state in India than live in the entire world in the day of the Apostle Paul.

And as we read the word of God and realize the command of the Lord Jesus concerning every creature it makes us do some serious thinking. Some serious praying. Another thing we always have on the ship is a youth conference.

The tremendous thing to get these young people living, all living on the ship for three days. We can handle a little more than we have right here. We've had over 10,000 young people from all over the world go through this three day training program.

And we've had another 10,000 pastors and Christian leaders. That of course usually comes just before or just after the youth conference. And these are the seven or eight principles that we've just felt constrained again and again to share with these leaders and with these young people.

The first principle is the priority of worship in the life of a believer. In John, the Gospel of John chapter 4 verse 21 Jesus replied, the time is coming when we will no longer be concerned about whether to worship the Father here or in Jerusalem. For it's not where we worship that counts but how we worship.

Is our worship spiritual and real? Do we have the Holy Spirit's help? For God is a spirit and we must have his help to worship as we should. The Father wants this kind of worship from us. The highest call of the believers is worship.

More than worship. Look at Psalm 69. The Book of Psalms 69 If I can find the verse.

It speaks here about the importance of thanksgiving and praise. And how this is more important than even sacrifice or work. Verse 29 or verse 30 Then I will praise God with my singing.

My thanks will be his praise. That will please him more than sacrificing a bull or an ox. This is what really pleases God.

To worship. Not just once a week. But every day.

God wants to give us a worship experience every day. It is our privilege to commune with God. Now in this area we are all different.

Some commune in a very noisy way. Others in a very quiet way. Some experience God more out in the woods than they would in a church building.

Some prefer to read and to praise God from the sound. Another man may praise God as he sings and makes his own song. But worship is our highest call.

It is at the foot of a cross. As we come to worship God. That we are all put together.

We are all sinners. Saved by grace. Worshipping God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

How much time do you give to worship God? When is the last time you took one day and just gave it to God? When is the last time you took half a day? A quarter of a day. And now? Just for God. Just for God.

Alone. This has become the greatest burden of my own heart. I don't find it easy.

I'm a mind wanderer. Even in a worship meeting. Or a prayer meeting.

My mind starts flying away. I don't know if any of you have that problem. I can be sitting there.

But being very sanctimonious. My mind is a hundred miles away. But I was encouraged in reading the works of a great man of God.

And he said that as you worship. Your mind goes away. Bring it back.

And he said each time you bring it back. Even if it goes away again and again and again. Each time you bring it back.

Now that was an encouragement. And that's going on really. Worshipping quite a bit.

So I've been emphasizing more the need to constantly bring it back and not become discouraged. Many times we hate guilt upon ourselves. We feel we're not worthy to worship.

Keith Miller is a very bold writer. Some of you have read his book Taste of New Wine. And he's written another bold book called The Becomers.

Not becoming, how we all want to become something. And he describes a young man sitting in a communion service. I think it must have been an Anglican church.

And he was sitting there praying. Thinking all beautiful thoughts. And people were going up to the communion.

Up to the railing as they do in the church. And he was just about to go up into his nest. His mind was filled with beautiful thoughts.

Down the aisle from the communion railing. Just as he looked up to go forward. The most beautiful woman he had ever seen.

And her dress was not exactly Anglican. Immediately his mind was filled with everything. And immediately he started thinking some wrong things.

So how can I go down and think? Soon he was in the big bath of guilt. What an evil fellow I am. Right here in the church thinking these things.

Probably I'm not even a Christian. And within a moment he was disparaged and depressed. So as we look in the God's Word.

When we sin with our mind, whether it's in the street or in the church or in the woods. God can cleanse us and will cleanse us and forgive us. And that should not hinder us from worshiping God.

Let me in a few minutes tell you what I believe happens when we sin with our mind. When we sin with our mind, whether it's in the street or in the church or in the woods. A majority of sincere Christians come to Christ.

They come to Christ or they rededicate their lives. For a while they live at a much higher level. There is victory.

And they're quite happy. God is working. Then they have a fall.

Or two falls. Or ten falls. Or any number of falls.

So they become discouraged. Now most Christians, they don't end there. They again rededicate their lives.

Maybe at a summer camp. Maybe a special conference. Maybe a special speaker throwing out blessings.

Maybe they have some new experience. So back up they go. And for several weeks.

Maybe even a long time, several months. They're really living for Christ. During that time they testify.

And they even get fanatic. Enjoying some movement. They may even get out of track.

And they may even take out the four spiritual laws and lead someone to Christ. But soon. They fall again.

And again. And again discouraged. And eventually many.

Just never bother to get up again. They think it's no use. Or God doesn't love me.

Or I can't live this life, it's too hard. Or I've got too many problems. Or there's so many other excuses.

They are somehow unable to appropriate God's forgiveness. How many times will God forgive? No, for the same sin. Not different sins.

For the same sin. How many times? Two times. Some thought.

Seven. That figure of him. Seven times.

And Jesus Christ said, He ain't got seven, but seven times seven. Now if God taught us to forgive others, we can live in this number of times. Then how many times do you think He is willing to forgive us? What am I saying? I am saying that there is no reason for any of us to be discouraged or defeated.

Whatever our sin, whatever our failure, God is willing to forgive us and cleanse us and restore us to fellowship so that we can worship Him forever. The Bible says that Satan is the accuser of the present. He's always telling us we've had our last chance.

He's always telling us we're no good. He likes to whisper and say, You're no different than when you were unseen. All this business of being in the future, obviously it's not true.

Satan is the accuser of the present. But heed the word of God and learn this reality of communion and worship for the cleansing of the Lord Jesus Christ. The books of A.W. Tozer have been a great challenge and help to me in understanding the way of worship.

Worship was very hard for me. I am an active. I'm always going.

Let's get the job done. And when I started to get this work, be still and know that I am God. I've never been still in my life.

Be still and know that I am God. I remember reading Andrew Murray's book, Waiting on God. I told myself I've never waited on anybody.

I can't even stand to wait in a queue. I wait in a queue. I would go around the front.

Or I get someone else to wait. Or if I have to wait, I make sure that I've got a good book I can read. Then I read again and again that I'm to wait upon the Lord.

That God is very, very gracious. He's been slowly teaching me what a blessing it is to wait. Many times as young people we rush into things.

We're waiting for the voice of God. The way of waiting is the most important principle of spiritual evolution. In fact, I believe that's why God created us in the first place.

To worship Him. To praise Him. And when we're converted, that's not the end.

That's the beginning. That's the beginning. Now we can begin to fulfill the real purpose God had for us.
I believe that God's ways are very different from our ways. A new book has come out that shows this.

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