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Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

All Dried Up  
Have Faith in God  
Forgiveness

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

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Have Faith in God  
Forgiveness**

*March 18, 2009*

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**Mark 11:20-26**

*20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.*

*21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.*

*22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

*23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

*24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

*25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

*26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

I thought when someone was talking a minute ago; I would say that everybody in this building, everybody I am talking to tonight, whether it is in this building, or wherever you may be listening at tonight; probably there has been a time in our lives and maybe still yet today that we have had difficulty forgiving people. Now, I am talking to everybody. I am talking to all of us. I'd say that there have been times in our lives that we have experienced that and some people may be experiencing it today. That's where we live. That's where we are at, a lot of times in our lives. Isn't it great that God can bring us to a place in our Christian lives that He'll mature us and grow us to a place that we can forgive? Isn't that wonderful?

When I first got saved many years ago, and was called to the ministry; the association that I was associated with at that time, the conference that I was associated with at that time, for some reason, did not like me. I'm a likable guy. You all know that. However, they did not like me and they did everything they could to destroy me in my ministry. Probably for two or three years after that, they called meetings and they threw me out, but for three or so after that happened, it was very hard for me to forgive people. I said that I did. I preached all over the country and held revivals and done all that and went through all the motions; but I did not get anywhere. In my spiritual life I did not grow any. I

did not get anywhere. However, the Lord helped me get to a place where that I could honestly and sincerely pray for those folks and really mean it. We may pray out loud sometimes and we may say things to people, but God really knows what is down in here. (Pointing to the heart.)

It is great that we can get to a place that we can honestly ask God to bless those that curses us. That is an awesome place to live. We can get there.

## A Place of Worship

Last week, we talked about what Jesus done. Week before last, we talked about His triumphal entry. Then last week, we talked about Him coming to Jerusalem on Monday. He cleansed the temple. Do you remember what we talked about? He comes into the temple. He sees on Sunday evening what was going on when He came in, on what we call "Palm Sunday." He looked around and He went back to Bethany.

On Monday, He comes back and He goes into the temple here and He saw what was going on. He goes into the temple and cleanses it on Monday. He goes in and throws out the thieves and the robbers that were all in there.

*17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

He ran out all those that bought and sold. He chased them out. He runs them out.

Keep that in your mind. The church of the living God is not a place to conduct business. It is not a place of commerce. It is not a place that we come to do anything else except worship the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what coming to the House of God is about. This is God's house. We know that God doesn't necessarily dwell in wood and two by fours or anything like that. However, this place has been dedicated and set aside for the worship of Almighty God. This is a very special place. We come here to worship Almighty God. I really appreciate Him meeting with us here. Don't you? I know that He dwells within us. I understand all that, but this is a holy place to be. Whether, it is three o'clock in the morning, ten o'clock in the day or seven o'clock at night; this is a very holy place to be. It is just a wonderful place to come, pray, and seek the face of God. Please, let us always remember, if there is anything holy in our lives—as far as, things go—this is a holy place.

We know the Word of God is holy and so many different things, but we need to keep it that way. In the world that we are living in, there are all kinds of pressure to compromise and say that it doesn't really matter anymore. We are living in modern times and modern days and we don't need to live by the old fashioned ways. I really think sometimes, in our own lives, if we go back to some of the old fashioned ways, then our lives would be better than what they are today.

We have thrown old things away that used to bring revival. I'm going to have a funeral tomorrow for a dear old lady. Twenty-five years ago; when she came to church, she could get up and she was very

vocal. She could shout and you could hear her for a half mile away. However, she was sincere in what she was doing. She was not trying to put on a show.

I could remember my old grandma many years ago, when she would go to church. They had their hair rolled up in a little knot on her head and had these things sticking in it to hold it up there. The men wore blue jeans and had bibbed overalls with a red handkerchief sticking out of the pocket. However, people came there to worship Almighty God. We did not have air conditioning. They did not have that. They did not have all the modern things that we have now. People come to worship Almighty God. I think sometimes, we have lost some of that. I think sometimes that it becomes more of a convenience sometimes. If we are not comfortable, if we think it is one degree too hot or one degree too cold then we don't like it. If the preacher talks too long, or he don't talk long enough, or he talks too loud, or he don't talk loud enough...we get tied up on too many things.

We come here to worship Almighty God. We must remember that we come here to worship Almighty God.

Do you remember that Jesus cursed a fig tree? We talked about that last week. He walked by. He looked at the fig tree. He saw leaves on the fig tree. Even though it was not time for figs; when He saw the leaves then that would indicate that there was fruit because the leaves came on before the leaves did. He goes over and there are no figs there so He curses the fig tree. We talked about that and we are not going to go through that because we don't have time. However, we know that the fig tree has a tremendous picture of Israel. Israel should have been a nation that was bearing fruit. Even though they were going through all the religious ceremonies, had their temple, and had all the rituals that they went through; however, they were not bearing any fruit that was bringing any glory to God.

Many times in our churches today, we go through a lot of motions sometimes. We have a lot of programs, and all kinds of committees, however, many times we are not bearing any fruit. We are bearing a lot of leaves sometimes, but we are not bearing any fruit that will bring glory to God.

The Bible says in verse 18, how the scribes, and religious leaders heard and saw what Jesus did. They tried to devise some kind of plan that they could get rid of Him. They were not going to stand for this to go on. They were not going to stand for Him to come in and destroy what was going on in the temple here because He was getting in their billfolds. They were making money from what was going on inside the temple place. This was a prayer place that people should have come in and been able to worship Almighty God and meditate upon God. However, they had made it a place of commerce. They were not going to stand for anybody getting into their billfold.

*19 And when even was come, he went out of the city.*

*20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.*

...We are getting real close to Friday. Friday is when He is going to die here. That is when He is going to be crucified.

## All Dried Up

*20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.*

I never really thought much about that until I was studying on it this week. A tree, if you read about John the Baptist three and a half years before this, John the Baptist made the statement, “...now the axe is laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that beareth not fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire...”

That is what happens to people and to nations. The roots are the very foundation of a tree. If a tree has deep roots and they grow in different directions; if they have roots like that—a hickory tree. If you have ever run a bulldozer very much and worked out in the woods then you will know that a hickory tree’s roots really go into the ground. A hickory tree is not easy to push over. You can take an oak tree, that is slender, and it is not easy to push over. The foundation of a tree and where a tree gets its help to stand, as well as, its life from is its roots. He is saying here that the tree dried up from its roots.

In our lives, that is where we really begin to dry up, is from the roots outward. When we start compromising those fundamental, our foundational things that we have as Christian people, then we start drying up. From the roots, the foundation that is in the ground, the foundation that we have; we start drying up down there...Do you know what starts happening after a while? It may take a while before the leaves turn brown or begin to fall off, or before the tree looks dead. That is what happens. When you and I compromise, when you and I don’t bring forth any fruit; our lives start to dry up.

I thought about our nation today. How that we compromised many years ago and we want to blame it on the last fifteen or twenty years, but many years ago we couldn’t pray in schools. We have done all kinds of things; the very fundamental things that Christianity is based upon and we believe as our fundamental beliefs; but as a nation we don’t believe that anymore. We don’t trust in God anymore. We don’t think anything about the blood of Jesus Christ is the only thing that will atone for our sin. We don’t think about that anymore. The very thing that we hold dear to, we have just cast those things aside and the universal church as a whole is drying up. We don’t believe anything anymore. We don’t have anything that we believe anymore that is based upon the scripture. I’m not talking about here necessarily but I’m talking about all the churches made up of all the...the whole world. There are many kinds of different denominations. I’m talking about all of them because as a whole we are seeing that dry up because we don’t ever believe anything anymore that is fundamental and sound.

The Bible said it dried up from the roots. When you and I start drying up as individuals, we dry up at the roots. We quit praying. We quit reading. We quit studying. We quit trusting God. Do you know what happens? We start drying up. Our lives start drying up.

*21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.*

It looks like here that Peter is blaming or accusing the Lord here—I don’t know what he is actually doing, but I know when he sees the tree that it comes to mind what Jesus said to the tree—and he says, “Lord,

look at the tree here that you spoke to, that you cursed. It is all dried up.” Now when we look at that and look at what Jesus’ response is; sometimes it does not go together. Sometimes we cannot make the connection. Look at something here. He is going to teach about praying. He is going to teach about the conditions if we are going to have our prayers answered. He is going to teach us some things here about that. Now Peter thinks about the fig tree being cursed. He says, “Jesus, it dried up from the roots.”

## Have Faith in God

*22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

Now Peter has been talking about cursing the fig tree. He says, “Lord, it is dried up from the roots.” He reminds the Lord of that and do you know what Jesus says? “Have faith in God.”

When you think about faith and we think about prayer; they go together. I want to say this too tonight. I hope we can understand some things. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen. We know that is what the scripture says that faith is. Faith is something—having faith in faith is nothing. When you look at the word **faith**; faith means **believing in something**. Does everybody agree with that? Faith is just not having faith in faith, but what really is faith? How do we respond to faith? How do people who are rich in faith respond? It is not necessarily faith, but the object of our faith that makes the difference.

I can have faith in all kinds of things, but that does not mean that things are always going to work the way that I think they should work. I can have faith in this wood. I can pray to this wood all that I want to and that wood is not going to hear me. I can have all kinds of faith that this wood is going to answer my prayers, but it is not going to. Faith in power is in that which is the object of our faith. That is where the power is at.

I read a story one time about two fishermen. They were going to go ice fishing. One guy had never been ice fishing at all. He did not like ice. He did not like to walk on water. The other guy was an experienced ice fisherman. He had been out there and he had spent all of his life fishing on ice. So, they get down to the edge of the lake and the lake is frozen. The experienced guy says, “Hey, go out on the lake and we will cut a hole in the ice and we are going to fish.” The inexperienced guy who has never been out on the ice, he starts inching his way and he gets a foot or two from the land and he turns around and comes back. However, the experienced guy picks up his tackle box; he picks up his saw and just takes off walking. He goes out in the middle of the lake where he is going to fish at and he cuts a hole and begins to fish.

What makes the difference then? What makes the difference in these two guys?

There was more than just faith that made a difference. Experience but more than that—something else made a difference here. One guy knew the ice. The other guy did not know the ice. One guy had experienced it and proven the ice while the other guy had not.

The object of our faith has to be the same way. The more I know about God, the more faith I can have in Him. Just like the guy that spends more time on the ice who goes ice fishing every day. He knows that the ice is going to hold him up because he knows the ice. He has faith in the ice that it will hold him up. That is the same thing in your life and in my life.

The more we know about God, the more faith that we have in God. Does everybody agree with that? The reason sometimes that we are weak in faith—I know when we first get saved it takes a while for us to learn about God, grow in grace and knowledge about Him. We understand that. However, the reason that we don't have much faith in God sometimes and it is not because that God does not love us or care about us, but it is that we don't know that much about Him.

Like the guy that is going to fish on the ice, he spends time on the ice. He knows what is going on out there. That is the same thing for you and me. When I spend time with God then I can have faith in Almighty God that He is going to supply my needs, take care of me, we get acquainted with Him and we can have faith in Him.

Jesus says here, "Have faith in God." Faith in faith means nothing. Faith is more than an emotion. Having faith in emotions is not going to get you anywhere. Having faith in feelings—and I love to feel good; God comes down and blesses and we know that He is real. That is great and we need to know that. However, we need to have faith in God. The power that we need, the power to answer prayer is in Almighty God and not in my feelings. The more we know about God, the more time we spend with Him, and we get acquainted with Him then we can have more faith in Him.

He said, "Have faith in God." How can we do that? How can we have faith in God? The Bible tells us very plainly if we want our faith to increase that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. How that we can have more faith in God is by exposing our self to the Word of God. It is great to sing and we love great singing, and that's wonderful, but faith comes by exposing our self unto the Word of God. The more we read and the more we study then that makes me more acquainted with Almighty God. If I get more acquainted with Him then I have more faith in Him.

I spend more or the guy spends more time on the ice, therefore, he can trust the ice more.

That is the same thing with you and me. When you and I get acquainted with God, when we spend time with Almighty God then we know Him and we know what He will do. We know that He will hold us up. He won't let us fall through the ice. Isn't that great to know? We have a great God. Faith in God, not faith in feelings, not faith in our jobs, not faith in our companions, not faith in your preacher, but our faith has to be focused on Almighty God. We need to have confidence in people, but our faith needs to be in Almighty God. That is where power is at. That is where we need focus our faith at; that is where we need to have confidence at is on Almighty God. Do you know why that's important? People will let you down. People can't a lot for you that God can do for you. God can do what nobody else can do. He said, "Have faith in God."

The tree has been withered up and He looks them and says, "Fellows, Have faith in God."

The reason that is so important is because there are times in my life and in your life that things are not going to go so good. There are times in my life and in your life that we are going to have to have faith in Almighty God if we are going to get through. There are just issues and times; you might say, "I've never been there before." You have been very blessed. However, if you live long enough you will be there. If you are saved there are going to be times in your life that the only way that you are going to get through whatever you are going through is by having faith in Almighty God.

The object of our faith has to be in Almighty God. Keep in mind again. Faith has no power. There is no power in faith. However, power is in the object of our faith and that is the God of heaven. That is where power is at. He's the one who has the power; not me, not you, and not anybody else. God is the one where the power comes from. He is the one who can transform my life.

I can believe whatever it is, whatever the issue in my life may be, how bad or how drastic it may be...People say, "We need to think positive and positive thinking is a great thing." That's okay, I guess. However, do you know what we can do? We can think positive all that we want to think positive. However, there is no power in thinking positive that will transform your life, but there IS in God. That is why we need to have faith in Almighty God.

## Our Prayer Life

*23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Do you really believe that? Now when we read that verse, we read that verse and we automatically think Jesus is saying that...as they are walking here, the disciples here were on one mountain and they could look down across the valley and they could look over to another mountain ridge over here. There is a valley between them. Jesus makes this statement:

*23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

If we read that and that is all that we read, we would think that the disciples could say unto this particular mountain be removed and cast into the dead sea over here and it would automatically happen if you don't doubt that; that it is going to happen. That is not what Jesus is saying. Do you think that is what He is saying? Do you think that you could walk up to this hill over here that is in front of us that is several hundred feet tall, and you go over there and have all kinds of faith that God is going to move this mountain eight feet for you; do you think that is going to happen? You can believe it all that you want to believe it. However, that is not going to happen because that is not what He is teaching us.

He is teaching us some things that we need to look at. When you look at this in the original manuscript, the mountain that He is talking about is not necessarily talking about a mountain of dirt and rock. They were standing on limestone when this discourse took place. He is talking about “stupendous difficulties.” In other words, “great difficulties.” You can say unto this great difficulty, be removed from me and cast into the sea; if you believe what you are asking; that’s true. However, there are some conditions here if we are going have prayer answered then there are some conditions. Do you think God is going to answer prayer for those who never pray? When He is talking here about asking, He is talking, He is bringing out the idea about praying; He is talking about a prayer life that is consistent, habitual prayer life. He is not talking about emergency prayers.

He is not talking about if we are going down the road and somebody pulls out in front of us and we whisper a prayer real quick. If that is all we ever pray then when the difficulties in life come then I am afraid that you are going to be very disappointed. A prayer life has to be a continually, everyday, habitual prayer life. That does not mean that we need to pray all day long. It does not mean that we just sit aside everyday three hours for prayer. I’m not saying that. However, I am saying that we need to be constant in our prayer life.

If I would ask you all to raise your hands here tonight that everybody’s prayer life could be improved; if we would all be honest, we could raise both hands up. None of us prays all that we could pray.

There is a way that we must go if God is going to answer prayer. First, we have to be born again. Second, we have to be acquainted with Him. We have to be intimately acquainted with Him. Just like the guy on the ice, he is intimately acquainted with the ice and he knows what is there. He knows how thick it is. He knows all about it. Therefore, he knows that he can trust it. You and I are the same way. We have to have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. We have to communicate with Him and fellowship with Him every day. When we do that, then when we start praying then our prayer life is going to change a lot.

What I mean is this. In our prayer life; if we are not acquainted with Him, if we don’t know Him very well then we get selfish in our prayer life. What I mean by that is that we start praying for all kinds of things that God is never going to answer. We start praying for all kinds of things that has nothing to do with glorifying God. We start praying for our desires instead of God’s will. When we start doing that we get disappointed because we read this verse here and we automatically think if I have faith then I can go over here and say to this mountain be removed; then when I do that and it does not happen we get discouraged and say that God does not love me. I never did get saved. There must be something wrong in my life.

The problem is this. It is not that we didn’t get saved a lot of times. It is not that God doesn’t love us. The problem is that we are not approaching God and going to God and living as we should be living to have our prayers answered.

We can’t live in SIN and have our prayers answered. We can’t live a life living like the world and doing all the things that the world is doing then have a crisis come up or a stupendous difficulty comes in our life then don’t think that we can just run to God and that He will automatically answer that. We can’t

live like that. Do you really think that? Do you really think that God is going to do that for you? If you do, my friend, you are dead wrong because it is not going to happen that way. Living for the Lord, being acquainted with the Lord, communing with the Lord is very important in our prayer life. If we don't live that way then our prayer is not going to be answered. Truth? That is just the way it is. That is things that we need to understand as Christian people.

Many times, the reason our prayers are not being answered is because we don't know really who God is and we are not living close enough to Him. We don't have faith in Him; focusing all of our attention and all of our faith toward Him. He is the one with the power not us. We want to put it in our economy. We want to put it in our stock market. We want to put on people. We want to put it in our bank accounts. We want to put our faith in a lot of different things then you are going to be disappointed. Put your faith in Almighty God and you will never be disappointed.

I promise you something. If you really know Him, then you are on your way to being able to get to a place where you can have prayer answered in your life.

*24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Not only do we need to know God.

Not only do we need to have an intimate relationship with Him and He is the object of our faith.

Not only that but when we bring our petitions unto Almighty God, He is the one we are praying to; when we bring our petitions unto Him; we need to believe what we are praying for that God is going to do.

Do we do that? If we pray about a certain situation and we really don't believe that God is going to do it then why are we wasting our time for? Expectation is an important thing. Therefore, when we are praying, when we know Him, when we have an intimate relationship with Him, our prayer life is a habitual constant prayer life day in and day out. It is not one of these things where we just pray once a month, but we have a prayer life then when we pray, we need to be expecting God to do something. If I did not think that God was going to bless you, help you, heal you or provide for you; then why would I waste my time? Along with that...when I know Him and am acquainted with Him and I'm having fellowship with Him, communicating with Him and I really know Him; then we are not going to be praying for selfish things like Cadillac's, million dollar bank accounts, mansions on the hillside. Do you know why? It is because we will know Him well enough to know that He will take care of our needs. I don't need to tell Him what I need. He already knows what I need and when I live as I should live and be acquainted with Him then if I need a car, He will give me a car. God knows what we need. We don't need to tell Him necessarily what we need because He knows what we need. We do not need to be selfish. We do not need to try to get God to do something for us in supplying us wealth. God knows what He is doing. I promise you that there is not a one of us hungry tonight. There may be some that are listening tonight who are hungry across the world. However, no one sitting here tonight is hungry.

When I was a young Christian, I prayed for a lot of things that God never did do. That was because it was not His will. I knew that I had been saved. I knew that there was a God in heaven. I knew I was born again. I knew my sins were gone. However, I did not really know and understand and was not really acquainted with Almighty God.

Like the guy that never went fishing that just never did go. He knew there was ice down there but he did not know whether it would hold him up or not. When we first get saved, and even after we have been saved a long time, we don't know a whole lot about God sometimes. Therefore, because we don't know a lot about God; we ask and we do some crazy things sometimes. We all have been there. Every one of us has been there. We have prayed for things, done things, and asked God to do things that God is not going to do. When I am right with Him, living as I should be living, I know Him and the object of my faith is directed towards Him then when I am praying and I am expecting Him to do something then I expect Him to do it. There is nothing like being able to get down on your knees and thanking God for something in the same prayer that you ask God for something. You can do that. You can have that kind of faith in Almighty God because there are things that we can communicate with God about and pray to God about that we know that God is going to do. Isn't it great to be able to thank Him and out of the same prayer, "Lord, I am asking you for this but Lord I want to thank you for what you are going to do because I know you are going to do it. I want to thank you and I want to praise you for that now." Isn't that awesome! Just because I pray for something now does not mean that it is going to happen now. It does not mean that at all. If it doesn't happen today that doesn't mean that God won't do it. We need to be expecting it.

Some of you are praying for different things here; different things and different ones. I was thinking about some things the other day. I don't know when God is going to take care of some of the problems that you have. I don't when He is going to do it, but I know that He is going to do it. I know that He is going to do it. In His own way and in His own time, God is going to touch and everything is going to be just fine. When God comes along and gives me the assurance of that I can say "Praise the Lord! Praise You Lord for what You are going to do." Isn't that great!

In the last ten years, I've seen a lot of growth in you folks. Some of you have not been here for the last ten years, but some of you have. I have seen a lot of growth in some of you. Do you know why? It is because you have become more acquainted with Jesus Christ. You've become more acquainted with Him and you want your life to be molded to look like Him and you know that some of things that you were doing was not making you look like Him, you were looking like the world. Therefore, you quit doing some of these things so that you could look more like Him. That's growth in all of our lives. That gets back to praying and becoming acquainted with Him and being exposed more to Him. It is good to know that when we pray, living right, and we are acquainted with Him; then we know that God is listening. Not only is God listening but God is going to answer.

Now here is the big one.

## Forgiveness

*25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

That's a big statement. If we are going to pray and have answered prayer then the object of our faith must be God. Not only that but we must expect God to answer our prayer when we pray. If we are going to have answered prayer then we have to expect God to do that. He is the object of our faith. We are acquainted with Him. When we are praying, we need to expect God to do something, but the big thing here is this. This is one of the most critical things that stops prayer from being answered is the lack of forgiveness we have in hearts towards others.

Unanswered prayer, many times, is because of the lack of forgiveness that we have towards someone: it might be your husband. There are husbands and wives who have lived together for many years. They are saved and on their way to heaven, however, they have issues that they have had for many, many years. It is over little things that may have been or done.

If you don't like the color of my hair, so what. If you don't like how I cut my hair, so what. If you don't like it because I'm fat, so what. If you don't like how I dress, so what. Those are things that we don't need to get mad about and hold grudges. Do we?

The reason that I'm saying this is because those things hinder our prayer life many times. As husbands and wives, those things hinder our prayer life.

"She told me I was too big. She told me I had a pot belly." He told me this or that. I'm not talking about being mean to your husband or wife. If we are doing that then you need to apologize and straighten up. However, let's put the little petty things behind us. We say that we are saved and on our way to heaven. If we are living today and if we are living ten years from now; we are going to change and your looks are going to change. If you ever were pretty, ten years from now you probably won't be. Truth?

We hold grudges like that. Husbands and wives do. Families do.

I've have extended family who had a falling out 30 years ago. I guess to this day they won't talk to one another. It is over something that wasn't worth \$3. Yet, one goes to this church and the other goes to this church and they think that everything is just fine. Well, I'm not anyone's judge. I'm not that big. However, I do know one thing. It is going to be hard to get to heaven, my friend, if you cannot forgive people over something that worth \$3.

If we don't forgive...our prayer life and our prayers being answered depends on our being able to forgive others. Not only that but also being able to forgive our self. Every one of us sitting here tonight has done things in our Christian life, after we have been saved, that we should not have done. We have come back and repented, asked God to forgive us and God has forgiven us. People may have forgiven us that we have trespassed against. That's a good word and we might talk about that next week.

However, a big problem for people these days is being able to forgive self. I did this or I did that. We need to put that behind us.

We need to understand that there is an all caring, all-knowing, God that is sitting on the throne tonight. All He wants us to do is for us to ask Him to forgive us. Do you know what He will do? He will get His big eraser out and He will erase that trespass or that sin that we sinned and He will rub it out. Do you know what He will never do? God will never mention that to you again. The enemy will. Your family might. Somebody else might. However, God will never bring that up to you again. He will forgive you for it and wipe the slate clean. Isn't it great what God will do for us?

If you can't forgive then your sins are not going to be forgiven. That is what that says. If you can't forgive your brother of his trespasses against you then God is not going to forgive your trespasses. We all have trespasses.

If you are here and you need to come and pray then we invite you to come and pray. Let's find us a place to pray.

If we need to seek forgiveness, if we need to talk to Almighty God then this will be a great place to come. Why don't you come?

Come—