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Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Big Mistakes

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Big Mistakes

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Bob Bradley

Mark 14:27-31

27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

A couple of weeks ago, we talked about the Last Supper. We talked a little bit about Jesus washing the disciple's feet. Keep in mind; the scriptures that we are talking about now are the scriptures that are happening on Thursday night. He is going to die on Friday afternoon. They are going to put Him on the cross about 9:00 on Friday morning. He is going to die Friday afternoon. These events that we are talking about tonight are happening on Thursday evening up in the night just a little bit.

He has had the Last Supper. He has washed their feet. He has told them that one of them that were eating with Him in the dish, or taking the bread and dipping it in the dish that they were eating from was going to betray Him. The Bible says they begin to say, "Is it I?" Jesus told them that the one who dipping his hand in the bowl is the one that was going to betray Him and so forth.

We know that was Judas. We know that Judas, after they had ate; we know that Judas goes to the chief priests, scribes and elders and all the leaders of the Sanhedrin. We know that he goes and gets them. He is going to bring them back to get Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. That's where he is on his way here to now.

The scriptures I read to you; He's on His way to the Garden of Gethsemane. He is having a conversation with them as He is going about a lot of different things. If you read the whole accounts of all the different gospels and the different things that each one of them says; He had some great things to say to these fellows and some great encouragement that He had for these fellows. Again, He knew He was going to die in a matter of hours. He knew that He was going to leave this world. He knew that they were going to be heart-broken, but still yet, He loved them. He was concerned about them. He cared about them and He wanted to do everything that He could do to be an encouragement to them.

Keep all of this in mind. He wants to be an encouragement to all those that were there, but yet, thinking in His mind that in a matter of hours what was going to happen to Him.

Sometimes we have issues going on in our life such as if we are going to have surgery at a certain time, or go through a doctor's appointment, or go to the dentist; when we look at things like that, many times that is all that we think about. That's all that is on our mind is about what we are about ready to face. However, do you know what Jesus' mind was on? His mind was on all those that were following Him. His mind was on the disciples, those that He was going to leave behind and who were going to have the responsibility of carrying on the gospel message. He was concerned about them.

I do think, in life, that we get concerned about a lot of things that we don't need to be concerned about. We lose sight sometimes of what is really important. Surely, we all have things that we deem as being important. What could be any greater, what could be any more important than teaching our children and grandchildren, neighbors and co-workers? What could be any more important than trying to encourage them and teach them about the Lord Jesus Christ? What could be any more important? Since that is the case; there is nothing more important than spending more time doing that. Shouldn't we? The reason that is more important than a lot of things that we get involved in is because a lot of things that we get involved in is temporal. What I mean that is it is vain or it is empty.

We get concerned about homes, jobs, cars and doing all these things. That's true. We all need homes and cars and things like that, but what we lose sight of is that people needs our help. People need to be encouraged. The greatest thing that men can ever do is to repent of their sins and make things right with Jesus Christ. Because when life comes to an end, when the funeral director comes to get that person—who ever that is—then all you may have or I may have accomplished is not going to matter any.

What is going to matter is if you or I, our children or grandchildren, neighbors or co-workers have made things right with Jesus Christ. That is going to matter. That's why it is so important that we get to a place in life that we can get beyond our own concerns and be able to see the concerns of other people. We can get beyond our own needs and be able to see the needs of other people.

I know it takes us some time to get there. I know it takes some people longer than it does other people to grow-up and mature and to understand that there is greater needs than what I have and greater desires than what I have and that is people lost and dying.

Many times the things we think are needs are not needs at all but they are just wants. The desires, lusts or whatever we may want to call them; but a lot of the things that we think are needs are not needs at all. There isn't anyone that needs three cars. Many things we think are needs are not needs at all. We don't need a TV in every room. Do we? We don't need a lot of things that we say are needs. We have a lot of desires and a lot of wants.

Friend, listen. The greatest need that I have and you have is first of all, that I live my life where my life is pleasing to Almighty God. Second of all, that I live a life where I can get beyond self and get beyond self and look around and see the needs of other people that other people are dying lost on their way to a

lake of fire. That is what we should be looking at. If this is the greatest thing we have ever found then why don't we want to share it with somebody else? We get up and testify in church about how great it is but we are like little mice when we get out around other people though. I wonder about people like that.

If it is so great, then let's share it with somebody.

Again, Jesus is on His way to Gethsemane where they are going to come and get Him.

27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Now Jesus Christ said that. The reason that He can say that is because that is what Zachariah 13:6 says. Speaking about the arrest of Jesus Christ, when they come and get Him and when the religious leaders and soldiers lay their hands on Him to arrest Him; Jesus is telling them that when that happens all of you are going to be offended because of me.

When you read Zachariah 13, you will find out that is God speaking. God says, "I am going to smite the shepherd." Jesus Christ going to the cross is the Will of Almighty God. This is the Will of His Father. It's the Will of God, the Father, for Jesus Christ to be arrested on this particular night in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is the Will of Almighty God. He's the One that's going to smite the shepherd. He's the One that is bringing these things to pass; God Almighty is. He's ordained that.

He says here, "I will smite the shepherd." He quotes Zachariah 13:7.

Zachariah 13:7

7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

He tells them that for a reason. Sometimes in life, God tells us things and we really just don't want to listen. We really just don't like what He tells us sometimes. We really worry about sometimes if we do what He directs us to do, what people are going to think about us. We worry about that a lot. That's a big thing that people worry about. However, when God says something then we need to pay attention to what He says.

It was already ordained. The God of heaven said, "I'm going to smite the shepherd. I'm going to smite Jesus. I'm going to smite my Son and when that happens; everybody needs to scatter." That's what He said was going to happen.

Many times God says things, God directs us, gives us direction from His Word and many times we don't want to hear that. As we are reading and studying many times; when we are living in the Will of God, when we are reading and studying the Bible; do you know what God will do? God will give us instruction about different things. It may not even be about what we are reading. God will give us instruction

about different things as we read, as we study, and as we pray. However, you had better make sure you are living in the Will of God. Make sure that you are living as you should be living and your mind is on heavenly things because the enemy is a great imitator. The enemy will put all kinds of thoughts in your head. I've had people come and tell me all kinds of things that God directed them to do and He didn't do that because God will not do anything that is contrary to this Bible. They are good people but we need to grow up sometimes. What I am saying is that God will instruct us and God will tell us and when God does; we need to be obedient to that. Jesus was saying exactly what God said was going to happen.

The disciples needed to hear that. The disciples needed to pay attention to that.

When Jesus says something to us, then that is exactly what we need to do. If we don't do that, we get ourselves into a world of hurt. We can cause all kinds of issues when we go against and do things that God says is going to happen that needs to happen this way; we get to thinking in our minds, "Hey, I don't want to do that. What's plan B, I don't like plan A?" With God, plan A is plan A and there is no plan B. We either do plan A and God will bless us and take care of us; or when we do plan B, C, D, and E; you are on your own, friends. We have a lot of folks on their own today.

He says here, "I'm going to smite the shepherd and all shall be offended." Do you know what the word "offended" means? It means "to stumble" or "to fall." It actually means "to mess up."

Every one of us, I don't care who we are. I don't care how long you've been saved. We've all got issues. Some of us have got more issues than others, but we all have issues. We can call them shortcomings. We can call them whatever we want to call them, but we all have issues. There is nobody living on planet earth today that has it all worked out. There is nobody living on planet earth today that does not have issues, or that don't have problems sometime in life and dealing with things in the wrong way. You do and I do. You might say, "Preacher, you don't know me very well." I know you real well. I know you are human. I know enough to know that we don't always do what is right.

These fellows here on this particular night; there were going to be some of them that were not going to do what is right.

27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

They are all going to be offended. They are going to stumble. They are going to fall.

There are times in life that we stumble and fall.

Jesus had this heavy weight of all of mankind upon Him, the sin of every human being that has ever been born; Jesus was carrying it. He was going to go to the cross in a matter of hours. He had this tremendous weight upon Him, but His friends were, the fellows that had been with Him for three years or so are going to mess up.

Think about knowing that you were going to go just in a matter of hours; they were going nail you to a cross. Even before that they were going take you, tie you to a pole and scourge you. They were going to

beat you. They were going to pull the beard out of your face. They were going to take their fists and beat you in the face. Just think about all of that. You knew that was going to happen. Here you're disciples are and you've just told them that they are going to stumble and fall. You have taught them. The God of heaven was teaching them. Jesus is God. He had been teaching them for three years. Yet they are going to stumble and fall.

Here is what I want us to get from this tonight.

The Son of Almighty God had been teaching these fellows day and night for over three years. Even though that was the case, even though they knew who He was, even though they confess that He was the Son of Almighty God; they knew that, but yet they messed up. They are going to stumble and fall.

27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

Think about that just for a moment.

Judas is gone. There are only eleven of them. Here He is going towards Gethsemane. He is going towards the place where they are going to come and get Him and arrest Him. He's taking the disciples that direction. He quotes the scripture...

27 And Jesus saith unto them, all ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

The next thing He said was...

28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

Think about that just for a moment. Do you know what happens in my life and in your life? When I get offended, when I fail, or when I stumble a lot in my Christian life and when you do that in your Christian life—the first thing is the enemy comes along and says “You just might as well quit. You just might as well throw in the towel and quit. If that is the best you can do you just might as well throw in the towel and quit.”

These men on this particular night were going to stumble and were going to fall, were going to fail. However, do you know what Jesus says? “I'm going to go before you. I'm going to see you in Galilee.” He knew they were going to stumble and fall this night. He knew they were going to sin. He knew that Peter was even going to deny knowing Him. He knew that Peter was going to curse and swear. He knew all about that but yet He said, “I'm going to go before you into Galilee.”

Do you know what that means? Do you know what that is telling us? Even though we stumble and fall; God still yet loves us.

I'm not advocating stumbling and falling. I'm not saying that. But do you know what God does not do? God is not like people. God is not like men. God is not like some preachers in some churches. Do you know what God does not do the first time you mess up? God just did not wipe your slate clean and say, "Hey, you're done. You're over." God does not do that. God does not give up on you. God does not give up on me. God does not give up on mankind. We stumble. We fall. We do that.

Jesus said, "I'm going to see you in Galilee." Do you know what He could have said? "Hey, I know you guys are going to forsake me tonight. I know all that is going to happen. You guys are done. I'm done with you. I'm going to die but I'll just hunt me some more guys." He did not do that.

He will never do that in your life either. When you stumble and fall and when you fail—and you will—if you have not today, you may tomorrow; you don't have things all worked out to where that you will never fail again in your life. I don't care who you are. I don't care how smart you think you are. I don't care spiritual you think you are. I don't care how self-confident that you are—you are going to mess up. When you do mess up, we need to be like Peter.

Do you know what we need to do? We need to see Him in Galilee. He is telling them about His resurrection. He is going to die, but...

28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

He has told them many times that He is going to die. He has told them many times that He was going to raise again on the third day; but it just didn't sink in. We understand why. There were reasons why. They just didn't understand some things. He told them that He was going to rise from the dead. They didn't get it. They didn't understand it. Even though that is the case, He says here I'm going to see you in Galilee.

I hope that everybody who is listening to me—you may have failed today, or yesterday. You may have done things that you should not have done. You may have forsaken the Lord as these guys did, or you were offended as these guys were; but don't give up. Don't give up. What do we have to go back to anyway? Jesus still yet loves us. He cares about us. He wants to forgive us. Do you know what we need to do? We need to get up off the ground and say "Lord, I'm sorry I've sinned; please forgive me." Dust yourself off and keep on going. Do you know what there will be? There will be another time that we will fall.

I was in town one day, on Halloween and we were egging cars and done a little bit of everything. The police got after us one night and we started running between houses. The other kids lived in that neighborhood, but I didn't. We were running between these houses and they knew that this clothes line stretched across. I didn't know that trap was there. They ducked. I didn't duck. It caught me right here. (Pointing to his neck.) However the next time I run through behind that house; I knew that clothes line was there. I did not get tripped up.

In my Christian life and in your Christian life when we walk this way; we are going to fail, we are going to fall sometimes, but God doesn't want us to get tripped up on the same clothes line again. He doesn't

want is to fall in the same hole again. He wants us to move on. I run behind that house many times after that but I never did get caught on that clothes line again. That is the way it is in our Christian life.

We are going to fail. We are going to mess up. That is going to happen but we need to continue on.

29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

In other words, do you know what Peter says? Everybody else may stumble and fall but not this cat. That is what he is really saying. The rest of the bunch here may all stumble and fall but Peter says, "Not me."

That is self-confidence.

We are not near as strong as we let on that we are sometimes. Do you know what the Lord does sometimes? The Lord will let us see sometimes just how strong that we really are. The Lord will let us know that we cannot make it without Him. We just can't make it without Him. Aren't you glad that He lets us know that? Aren't you glad that He loves me enough to let me know that I can't make it without Him? Isn't that wonderful to know?

Self-confidence says "Hey, I don't need the leadership and the Holy Spirit of God. I don't need to come to church. I don't need to be faithful to church. Self-confidence says, "Hey, I don't need to be led by the Spirit of God. I don't need to read my Bible. That is what self-confidence is. Self-confidence says "I've got it all worked out." You don't have it all worked out. Even though you think you might.

God doesn't have any special plan for your life. What I mean by that is this. God has a specific Will for your life. In the eyes of God, you are no more special than she is. You're no more special than he is. If God requires me to live a holy, dedicated, consecrated, life to be able to go to heaven; He expects the same out of you. Don't tell me you are something special in the eyes of Almighty God. Don't tell me you and God has it all worked out yourself. You got your own little plan. Here's the plan friend. We all go this way, or we don't at all. Don't tell me that stuff. That is just self-confidence again. I've got it all worked out. Well, you don't have it all worked out. God is our Savior. We are special in the eyes of Almighty God. We ALL are, but one is no more special than the other. God won't require any more out of you than He requires out of me, as far as, Salvation and Holy living goes. God will not require anything else out of me than He requires from you and vice versa. You are not going to go to heaven living in your sin.

I had a lady call me one night here, not very long ago, and she was about three sheets in the wind. Do you know what you told me Bob, a few years ago? She said, "Bob, you told me a few years ago that it was okay to get drunk." I said, "Lady, are you crazy? I didn't tell you it was okay to get drunk." She said, "Oh, yes you did, preacher." Well, I didn't. But what I am trying to say is that people gets these things in their minds sometimes that it's okay to sin and because of what they did fifteen to forty years ago; that God is going to overlook it because of what they did back then. It's not going to happen that way.

Some of us need to straighten up. Some of us need to grow up.

29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

That's being over-confident. The Bible says the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. That really means something when it says that. In our own strength, within our own self; we are very weak individuals. The only way that you and I can have victory in our Christian is by allowing the Spirit of God to live in us and to live through us. That's the only way we can have victory. You can't win any battle in your flesh. You can't do it.

He has already said "You all shall be offended." He says all. He didn't say Peter. He didn't say except Peter, but He said "All of you shall be offended tonight." That's what it says. A-L-L of you are going to be offended.

Peter says, "Not me Lord. Everybody else may forsake you, but not me."

30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Peter looks at Jesus and says, "Jesus, the rest of the crowd may leave you, but not me. I'm stronger than that. I would never do that Lord. I know who I am. Lord, you know who I am." The Lord knew Peter better than Peter knew Peter.

The Lord knows Bob Bradley better than Bob Bradley knows Bob Bradley. That goes for all of us here tonight. He knows that we are weak. He knows that we are frail. He knows that we are just flesh. He knows that.

He says, "I'm going to tell you something Peter. This day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice." Not once, not twice, but continually deny me. We know the story and we will talk about that as we get on over through here. We know that's exactly what happens.

Here is what I want us to think about just for moment. They are going to go to the garden here...God has already said, "I'm going to smite the shepherd, the sheep are going to be scattered." Peter says, "Not me Lord. The rest of them may forsake you, but not me Lord." The thing is this—when Jesus Christ speaks unto you and me, and when we read this Bible; we need to pay attention to what it says. The reason I say this is this. Had Peter listened to the Words of Jesus when they come to get Jesus; had Peter just left and went on about his business believing the Words that Jesus had already said... The chief priests, scribes and the elders were going to take Him, crucify Him and in three days He was going to rise again. If Peter would have believed those Words, then Peter would not have got himself into the mess that he got himself into. Peter would never have taken a sword and drew it out and tried to commit murder that night had he simply listened to the Words of God. Peter would never have been in a place... Peter followed afar off. I've heard people preach about Peter following afar off.

On this particular day, Peter should not have been following at all. Jesus said, "I'm going to smite the shepherd, the sheep are going to be scattered. I'm going to rise from the dead and I'll see you guys in Galilee." God's got a plan.

If you think I'm saying that we don't need to follow Jesus Christ; I'm not saying that. I am saying that we need to listen to His voice. We need to pay attention to His Word. When His Word tells us something, then that is exactly what we need to do. If we would listen to His Word and be obedient to His Word, then we would not get ourselves into the messes that we get ourselves into living on planet earth a lot of times.

Peter would never ever have had to face the little damsel that came out and said, "Hey, aren't you one of His disciples?" The folks came out and said, "We know that you are a Galilean because your speech betrays you." Peter would have never had to go through all of that if he had just done what he was supposed to have done. Peter would have never heard the cock crowing, or the rooster crowing here. The Bible says that when he heard the rooster crowing here, he looks across the judgment hall and sees Jesus. I'll guarantee you that Peter's heart melted when that happened.

If you are saved tonight—when we do fail, when we do mess up, when we do fall; it does hurt. It doesn't feel good. If you can sin and it don't bother you; I worry about you. If you mess up and you sin, you do things that you should not do then I worry about you. You are in bad shape. You may not have ever been saved. You may have seared your conscious. Your conscious may have been seared with a hot iron. There is something bad wrong in your life when you can commit sin and it don't bother you one bit; there is something bad wrong in your life.

Peter would not have had to face all that if he had just listened. Do you remember back in Philippi when he confessed that Jesus was the Christ? Jesus asked him, "Who do men say that the Son of man am?" "Some say that thou art John the Baptist and some Elisha and Jeremiah and some of the prophets." He looked at them and said, "Who do you say that I Am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." He agreed that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus began to tell him what He was going to do. He was going to go to Jerusalem and they were going to kill Him and so forth. Peter said, "Lord, be this thing far from you. We are not going to let this thing happen to you. You are not going to go to Jerusalem and die. That's not going to happen." Jesus said, "Get thee behind me satan."

Here's what happens a lot of times in life. The Will of God, the plan of God we don't like sometimes and therefore, we try to do things different than God's Will. It was God's Will for Jesus Christ to die on Passover. The next day, actually this day here already when Jesus was speaking His Word; it was already Passover. Passover started at 6:00 on Thursday evening, so it was already Passover.

It was the Will of God for Him to die and Peter was not going to change that. Peter was not going to change the fact that Jesus was going to die. There are many things in my life and in your life that I am not going to change. There are many things that we cannot change. There are some things that are forever settled in heaven that we cannot change. However, we can live as God wants us to live. We can live as God expects us to live. We can live where the Holy Spirit of God is in our lives that He speaks to us and directs us. We can live in that way.

There are issues and things that happen in life that I don't always like. Do you? There are things that happen that I don't like. There are things that I just don't like sometimes. But I have also been around long enough that God knows what He's doing. The great thing is when the issue, thing, or problem is

come and gone; we can look back on it after we get through it and say “Hey, this was the reason that happened. This was the reason that I was here.” We can see those things. That’s the great thing about Almighty God.

There are times in our life that we mess up. There are times in our life that we fail and fall. Jesus told the disciples, “I know that you are going to fail. I know that you are going to scatter tonight. I know what you are going to do. Peter, I know that you are going to deny even knowing me, but I am going to see you in Galilee. I’m not going to forsake you. I’m not going to abandon you. I’m going to die—absolutely. But I’m going to see you in Galilee in three days.”

Friend, listen today. You may have failed but don’t give up. You may have made some awful blunders in life, but don’t give up. You may have messed and done some things that you never dreamed you thought you would have done, but don’t give up.

They repented of their sins and Jesus used these guys in a great way. Do you know what He will do? He will do the same thing for you tonight. If you will ask Him to forgive you of your sin, for your blunders, and your failures; He will forgive you tonight. You can get ready to go to heaven.

Let’s pray

Come—