

**6-5-16**  
**LET ME PURSUADE YOU**  
**TO PREPARE FOR YOUR DAY OF JUDGMENT**

Ethel Stankus

Yesterday we had a memorial service for Ethel Stankus. She was 96 years old when she passed away. I preached a message taken from Ecc. 12:6-7, which talks about the silver cord being broken. We also sang the song written by Fanny Crosby that we sang this morning.. SAVED BY GRACE..

The song my wife sang.. SAVED BY GRACE.. was written by Fanny Crosby..

It was taken from Ecc. 12:6-7 as she was getting up in years.. She wrote about the day when she would meet her savior and see him face to face.. The Hymn reminded her that she was living to see her saviour face to face.

FANNY CROSBY ONCE SAID:

***If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind...for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Saviour.***

Fanny once said.. She called SAVED BY GRACE.. HER SOUL POEM..

***There is one hymn I have written which has never been published. I call it my soul's poem. Sometimes when I am troubled, I repeat it to myself, for it brings comfort to my heart.***

Years latter this poem was set to music and became the Hymn that we sang, called SAVED BY GRACE...

The text I preached at the funeral was,

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

My message was simply this..

***I. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS TURNED TO DUST..***

***II. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED OUR SPIRITS RETURN TO GOD TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN ON EARTH..***

***III. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS BROKEN WE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE FLESH WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL***

Now this morning I want share a bit of an addendum to the message I preached at the funeral...

Whenever a loved one or a friend or a church member passes on into eternity we should naturally consider that someday we ourselves will have to face God shortly..

Frank was visiting with His mother.. she just fell asleep and died.. no struggle.. she just fell asleep and never woke up. What a way to go home with the Lord.

I was talking to Frank's sister after the funeral and she was telling me about losing her husband not long ago. They were just sitting in a Restaurant and he just went home to be with the Lord.. Just in an instant he was gone..

Selwynn Schmitt died a similar death he was walking between his daughter's house and his house for lunch and just fell over.

So too, for each of us that day is going to come - all too soon, we don't know when, but it is a sure thing. It will happen.

What greater thing can I preach and share this morning than how we should prepare for that day..

I think of this verse:

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

As we gather together this morning..

I want to challenge each of us.. to be provoked to love and good works..  
BECAUSE WE ALL CAN SEE THE DAY APPROACHING..

And what day is that .. but the day where we all will meet our God ..

Whether in life.. or death.. each of us will stand before this great judge and have to give an account to Him!

In fact the Apostle Paul wrote about this reckoning day .. saying..

***II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

***II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.***

**MESSAGE LET ME PERSUADE YOU:  
TO PREPARE FOR YOUR DAY OF JUDGMENT**

This morning there are only two types of people in this room this morning. There are saved and there are lost people. There are people who are going to spend eternity with Christ and there are those who are lost and will spend eternity in hell. If we are wise we will consider and secure a position in heaven before that day comes.

First of all I want to speak to those who are believers.. those who are saved and know the Lord..

### ***I. EVERY BELIEVER IS GOING TO EXPERIENCE DIVINE JUDGMENT:***

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

This verse that says, knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men, is written not to the lost but to believers.

The Bible teaches that every Christian should have a holy fear and concern that they have accomplished what they were supposed to accomplish here on earth!

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

The Bible clearly teaches that every christian is going to have to stand and give an account for what he has done in the flesh and will suffer loss for the things he did that were bad and get gain for the things that were good.

Fearing that day is a healthy thing...

We should do our best... healthy fear of that day of accountability...

Jesus gave a parable to teach the importance of preparing for eternity. In Luke chapter 16 He used the example of a slothful and unjust steward who made up for lost time to prepare for a day of reckoning with his earthly master... in this parable he suggests that we as the Children of God should learn a lesson about our future day of reckoning with our heavenly master..

Note the parable:

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Luke 16:3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

Luke 16:4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

Luke 16:5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

Luke 16:6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Luke 16:7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

Luke 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

What is the point of the parable? Our Lord says, the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light...

What does he mean by this?

Children of light, are not wise... Any person that thinks that salvation gives them a license to be free to be slothful in their service for their master is wrong! In the parable the Lord says.. why don't the children of light reason that they too need to make up for lost time.. they too need to secure themselves a habitation.. not on earth but a habitation in heaven!

Lessons from this parable:

**1. THE MORE STEWARDSHIP THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED YOU WITH THE GREATER RESPONSIBILITY YOU WILL HAVE BEFORE GOD:**

For example:

Pastors and leaders: James 3:1 Every Pastor and spiritual leader will face a heavier judgment for the leadership he has been entrusted with ...

Those who have been entrusted with finances will be called into account

II Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

Those who have been entrusted with spiritual gifts will be called into account:

I Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

I Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

It is our duty to warn people, to speak up. Do we not have the answer? When I first heard the gospel my exact words were this: "If salvation is a free gift and all we have to do is believe on the Lord and give our heart to him, what kind of person would I be if I didn't share that with as

many people as I could.. " So when I got saved in 1974 that is what I have been doing for these 42 years!

## ***2. It is never too late to start making up for lost time:***

The unjust steward was commended for his last minute effort to prepare for his day of accountability... So he was wise.... Jesus said the children of light ought to learn from him...

College.. make a calendar with assignments due... sometimes would forget and have to cram for a test... With a desire to excel and succeed you don't say no use.. and don't give up.... you do your best... to prepare.. with what little time you have. I recall cramming right up to the test.

The truth is .... Most of us have less years ahead of us than what has gone before us. We need to do the math..

In the Parable above, we need to learn the lesson Jesus wanted the children of light to learn.. We need to learn to make up for lost time and opportunities..

**AS WE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING WE SHOULD STEP UP OUR ZEAL AND SERVICE FOR THE LORD!**

Why is it, when some Christians get older they get less zealous to serve the LORD? They should become more zealous.. more diligent!

The Bible likens our Christian walk as to running a race..

Why is it when we see the finish line right up ahead some Christians slow down their running for God? When they can see the finish line just up ahead it should motivate us to put more into our efforts.. Does it make sense to quit the race... and rest?

What is the lesson the Lord was trying to teach his people from the unjust steward? Was it not that when you see your reckoning day up ahead to do something about it?. We need to work hard to prepare for meeting the Lord...

Use what stewardship you have to secure your eternal abode.. concern yourself with what treasures you have in heaven when your stewardship ends on earth..

This Steward figured when he was cast out of his stewardship he would be able to abide with these people who were indebted to him because he served them well. He did them favors.

**WE HAVE ONE OBLIGATION SPIRITUALLY TO PLEASE OUR ETERNAL LORD AND USE OUR STEWARDSHIP TO SECURE ETERNAL REWARD IN HEAVEN ..**

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

What you do for God's people.. what you do for God's church you do it for the Lord..

Quick, do something for God while there is time..

Use whatever assets you have to serve God..

Quick, make preparation so when you stand before God and have to give an account you will have something to show.

In this case.. the unjust steward had been slothful and people owned his master a lot of money.. His masters accounts were delinquent.. so he acted wisely .. and went around and settled as many accounts as possible. Before his reckoning day. He made preparation also for being cast out of his stewardship. To secure a habitation for the inevitable.

John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

In the resurrection we all will receive the things that we have done in our flesh .. The unsaved will have to pay the penalty of their sin because they rejected Christ's Payment.. the saved will receive the reward for the things they did for God ... they will suffer loss or get the gain of their labors..

### **III. A LESSON FOR THE UNSAVED TO PREPARE FOR THEIR DAY OF JUDGMENT..**

Concerning the Judgment of the loss..

There are some who would think that just because they and others do not believe in hell or eternal judgment that that makes it so...

After the Lord speaks the parable about the unjust Stewart .. basically a warning to Children of light to prepare for their reckoning day as stewards.. Then down a few verses He speaks a parable warning those who were unbelievers. He shares the story of the rich man in hell.

In Luke 16 the rich man in hell prayed that Abraham would send Lazarus to preach to his 5 brothers...

Abraham said,

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Moses and the prophets.. were the Old Testament Scriptures..

If a person will not be persuaded to repent through the preaching of the word of God they will not be persuaded through miracles or any other thing..

#### **1. THE REASON THAT A PERSON MUST SUFFER HELL IS BECAUSE THEY REJECT THE PAYMENT FOR THEIR SINS IN CHRIST:**

There is only one reason a person is sent to hell and that is because he/ she has rejected Christ!!!

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

They are condemned because they love their sin and fear to change or lose that which they love and will not come to Christ for salvation...

The love of drunkenness has sent many person to hell..  
The love of covetousness has sent many a person to hell..  
The love of immorality has sent many a person to hell..  
The love of position popularity, fame has sent many a person to hell..  
The love of another idol or god has sent many a person to hell..  
The love of false religion has sent many a person to hell..

All the works of darkness are briefly condensed in the  
Lust of the eyes.  
Lust of the Flesh.  
Pride of life..

## ***2. Because a person has rejected Christ as the payment for their sin they must pay for their sin in hell***

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Mark 8:37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

At Ethel's funeral I shared these verses:

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed,

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Someday everything we own shall be turned to dust.. DUST.. DIRT.. GARABAGE..

Hell is likened to God's burn pile.. garbage pit...

The common word our Lord used describing hell was Gehanna..

Dictionary defines the word as:

*(originally Ge bene Hinnom; i.e., "the valley of the sons of Hinnom"), a deep, narrow glen to the south of Jerusalem, where the idolatrous Jews offered their children in sacrifice to Molech (2 Chr. 28:3; 33:6; Jer. 7:31; 19:2-6). This valley afterwards became the common receptacle for all the refuse of the city. Here the dead bodies of animals and of criminals, and all kinds of filth, were cast and consumed by fire kept always burning. It thus in process of time became the image of the place of everlasting destruction. In this sense it is used by our Lord in Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5. In these passages, and also in James 3:6, the word is uniformly rendered "hell," t*

How sad it is that people live for things that will not have profit..

#### **IV. INVITATION:**

My job as a pastor is to persuade each person to prepare for their day of judgment..

UNSAVED...                      only way to prepare is to get saved....

CHRISTIAN...            You prepare by living a life that is pleasing to God.. a life of obedience to his word..

***II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.***