

**ART DEMUYSERE FUNERAL MESSAGE  
DECEMBER 30th 2020**

Service

Prelude:  
Testimonies

Special Song: Gentle Shepherd

I meet Art Demuyser back in Bible College around 1977, roughly 43 years ago. He dropped out of college and I lost track of him for a long time, until one day he showed up and started to attend our church about 4 years ago. Art used to say that when he first came to our church, he felt like being here was in his words, "HOME." He felt like he fit in.

Art had a lot of physical problems and really struggled financially the last few years of his life. When he first came to the church he lived in Tunkhannock PA and between his rent, utilities and other expenses he just wasn't making it. So I would try and help him out from time to time. I helped him with car expenses and other things as I could. Then one day I sat down with Art and went over his finances with him, and tried to come up with a solution for his problem. I told him, I wanted to help him but just helping him pay a bill here or there was not the solution. So we looked at his budget and it was winter, about three years back. The heat in his apartment was not working and he was heating his place with electric space heaters. Between his rent and electric bill he was spending more money than he was taking in. So I told him point blank he needed to move somewhere and I suggested he move into a high rise.

Now if anyone knows Art, you know he could be a bit stubborn. He told me he couldn't move. So I went and got the applications for some senior high rise facilities and helped him fill out the applications and we decided that if he moved to a high rise across the street from my store maybe he could go in part time and work the store and make some extra money.

Art used to work in sales for a company I once worked for, "National Music Centers.." Because of that I tried to recruit him to do some sales for me in my company. He tried but his health always prevented him from doing very much.

So I took his application to the McDade apartments in Olyphant Pa and submitted them. Then Art started getting cold feet. He said, "Pastor how am I going to move, I have too much stuff.." I said, "Art, don't worry about it I will help move you, I have trucks, I move pianos I can move you. He said, but you don't understand, There is too much stuff in my apartment How can I move? I said don't worry about it. I will help you. Just start packing what you need and don't take it all.

Now you wouldn't believe how many times we had this conversation over a period of months and months. we first submitted applications and it was close to a year before there was an opening. Finally winter came 2018 into 2019, he was behind on his electric bill by \$1000.00 dollars, and he was having problems with his landlord. Finally I said, Art you have to move. So I called the high rise for him in Olyphant and they said they had an opening but they rejected his application because his credit was bad. He had one bill that he let go and that put a bad mark on his credit. I talked to the manager and said, I would vouch for him, and I owned the Piano store across the street and he could make extra money working for me and that would help him out. Finally on my word they approved him. So that was around December-January 2018 – 2019.

Then I said, Art alright it's time to move. He said, what floor was he going to be on, I said, Art it doesn't matter, they have an elevator. Now he needed 2 months rent in advance and he didn't have it. Then he got cold feet again, and said, Pastor you don't understand, I have too much stuff how can I move, and I don't have the 2 months rent. I said Art don't worry about it I will pay the 2 months rent, you can pay me back from commissions. (He never made any commissions) Then he said I've lived here for over 20 years. I said Art, we went over this, you have to move 2 + 2 does not equal 10. You will save \$600.00 a month moving into the high rise. Finally, one day his water lines were freezing in his apartment because of the cold, and the landlord came over to fix them, and the landlord started yelling at him about something and Art not thinking blurted out, it doesn't matter I am moving anyway. And the Landlord flipped out at him and evicted him. So Art called me and said, Pastor I have to move, my landlord got mad at me.

So I called McDade and told them he was coming, I called the men in the church and set a date to move him the first week of February. So Monday Feb 4th I set the date to move him. I called Art and asked if he had everything packed up he said, "Weee!!! no!" Then I knew we were in trouble.. I wanted to move him in one day, so I decided to go out and rent a big U-haul truck and bring my van and trailer for everything else that we were going to throw away.

So when we got to his apartment, and started to try and move him, I looked around sent one of the men to get some garbage bags, and started filling up the bags with everything to throw out, and started separating what would go to the high rise, and what would go to the dump. Then I said, now I know why he didn't want to move. I praise the Lord for all those who helped to move him.

Gary Schmitt  
Ray Taylor  
Tom Diehl  
Steve Haglin  
Joe Souder  
Shar Souder  
Nathan Souder

Sammy Souder  
Micah Souder  
Jessalyn Souder  
Jaxson Souder

We made one trip to the dump.  
One trip to the apartments.  
We got him moved in one day.

Honestly I did not think this day would come so soon after we moved Art.

This February will be two years that he would have lived at the high rise. I was hoping he would have had more years there.

Intro: We are here this morning to share a memorial for our dear brother. When I think about Art I think about what it took to move him. But now, he has moved on once again, and none of us were called upon to decide that for him. He didn't need a U haul to move. This is his final move. When I meditated on this the Lord drew my thought to this passage in Ecc. Chapter 8:

Ecclesiastes 8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

Ecclesiastes 8:7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

When I was musing about what text to share for brother Arts funeral, the Lord brought my attention to this text in Ecclesiastes.

Let me just explain the meaning of the text before I apply the message to our Brother Art's memorial message.

### ***I. EVERY PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE IS ORDERED OF THE LORD.***

Ecclesiastes 8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

Ecclesiastes 8:7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

What does this mean? What is every purpose, the word purpose here could mean every matter, every endeavor in your life, everything you do, involved two divine things:

For every matter in your life there is a time, and that time frame many times is not based on your planning. That plan is made for you!

Then it says, a time and a judgment.

The timing you are not in control of.

It says, a time and a judgment, the judgment comes down from the judge, the judge is the Lord. He is the one that makes the decrees. God determines what purposes, or matters, you succeed in and don't succeed in. He is the one that orders your life. He is the one that is in control.

Note how the next verse clarifies verse 6.

Ecclesiastes 8:7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

No man really knows what will be and what will take place.  
No man knows the timing of when it will take place.

God determines the what.  
God determines when.

Ecclesiastes 8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.  
Ecclesiastes 8:7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

You don't know what will be in your life.  
You don't know when it will be.

You have no control of things. We try and the more we try the more we fail, and therefore it says, the misery of man is great upon the earth. Why the misery? Because of the failures, the things that don't work out in your life. Things you have no control of. You make these plans and they don't work out because of health problems, people problems, circumstance problems.

## ***II. THEN THERE IS THE MOST UNEXPECTED INTERRUPTION IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OF, DEATH!***

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Notice what our verse says:

No man hath power to retain the spirit or to loose the spirit.

Again you have no control of that day and no matter how much you look to the doctors they have no control of it either.

### **1. WE ARE POWERLESS TO RETAIN THE SPIRIT.**

Solomon says, when it comes to this fight, this battle, you are not in the pilot seat. It is not up to you.

No man has power in that day.

It says there is no discharge in that war. In other words there is an appointment and you will not be exempt when your name is called. I remember when there was the draft for Vietnam, I had some friends that were discharged, or exempt, for various reasons. That is not the case when God determines to take you to Himself.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

### **2. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE TO GET OUT OF THIS APPOINTMENT.**

"Neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

We think of wicked people as deceptive people, people who can lie and cheat. No man can cheat death. You cannot steal life. You cannot trick death. It will come when it comes and it can spoil your plans and you will not be asked about it at all.

When that day comes, the Lord is not going to ask you if you are ready to go. You will not be able to talk your way out of it.

I remember George Burns saying he could not die because he was booked. Truth is even though he lived to be 100 still he died when the Lord said it was his time to go.

When the Lord says it's time to go He will not ask you if you are ready.

He will not wait for you, That will be your final move.

I thought Art would be in that high rise probably till the day he died but I never imagined that he would only be there a little under 2 years. I had hoped he would have had many

years there. I had hoped he would have been able to walk over to the store and work there at his leisure. None of that worked out because his health.

I wonder how many plans that people have made have been interrupted by this Covid pandemic. Who can have planned 2020? I have people say to me that 2020 was the worst year of their lives. So I wrote a tract entitled, "HAS 2020 BEEN THE WORST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE?"

Now what is the lesson, we need to learn from our Bible lesson this morning? The lesson is simple, There is only one thing you can do to make preparation for the uncertainty of the future. Give your heart and life to the Lord because when you make that final move from this life to the next, that decision will be made for you and God tells you what he requires of you.

You won't need to pay 2 months rent in advance when God moves you.  
You won't need to fill out any applications when God takes you.  
You won't be taking any of the things you hoarded through the years.  
You won't have time to pack when that day comes.  
You won't need a U haul truck to take your belongings.  
You won't be able to make a petition for a delay.

There are only two things you can do to make preparation for that final move out of this world into the next.

- 1. RECEIVE JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AND LIFE.**
- 2. OBEY CHRIST AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**

### **1. RECEIVE JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AND LIFE.**

Mark 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

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?

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

The Lord does not make it hard for a person to receive Him.

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

So receiving Christ is the only thing you can do to make preparation for that day,

Then the second thing you can do, is obey Him and serve Him.

## **2. OBEY CHRIST AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**

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.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

You can send your treasure before you in good works and obedience.

That is all you can do to make preparation for that day.

These are the lessons we can learn this morning. I hope you will take these lessons to heart.