

## Title: Rise, Let Us Be Going

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 4/5/26

Well, good morning. It is a glorious day of salvation, because of what happened at the tomb of Jesus. You have real hope. We have a true hope. We have a true faith. We have a true God. It's a hope that's alive because it's living in Heaven. You have a living hope because your hope is alive in Heaven today. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, then you need that hope. It's what your heart is yearning for. It's what your soul was meant to know. There is a blood that is being offered for a true cleansing of your sin and your conscience. But why do I need blood? Because it says in the Word that, "life is in the blood." But there was no blood that could cleanse the heart. It was just an outward cleansing.

Then one man came whose blood was so pure it could save the sin of the world all the way till now. Why? Because He's alive, and He went to Heaven. He said, "Here is My blood, Lord, for the sin of the world. I will pay their price. I will pay the price of the past. I will pay the price of now. I will pay the price of the future." You are in His future, and though you were not known then, He knew you. He predestined you to know Him and to be alive in that blood, in that hope. It is the blood of Jesus that covers sin. It does not remember them anymore. There is a true liberty from the sting of death. When you have the Lord, you look to death as a good thing. Passing away from here is actually good. "For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." To die is a gain in my life, as I've already died. I've already given up. I've already surrendered. That's true liberty. There's true liberty in the face of Christ. It's true liberty from the sting of death.

Let's read about the account today in the book of Acts. This is the witness that they gave, and Peter gives us the witness boldly of what we are remembering today. Here's the account. Right after the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### Acts 3:13-26 NKJV

Who is he talking about? The lame man that Brandy brought up about two weeks ago. It's the lame man that was at the temple. Jesus probably walked by him. Jesus probably went by a couple times and winked at him, because Peter and James were the ones that allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through them and healed him. The gospel is preached to him. Verse 17, "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers." We walk in ignorance before we understand what He said. We do not understand the way of the cross. It's foolishness. It makes no sense. It's ignorance. But yet, when the light comes, you realize just how much of a need, just how much of a grace and just how much of a love is in the hands of Jesus. Verse 18, "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." That's the hour that you're in. This is the time of refreshing. This is the day of the Lord, and we are in His presence. He has unleashed His Holy Spirit on all flesh. Verse 20, "And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before," Verse 21, "Whom Heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Jesus's return is dependent upon the restoration of all things, but also all things will be fulfilled in time, and Jesus must remain in Heaven until that hour. But, he says, "Be converted, repent, come into the presence now, to quicken that day, to bring the day quicker, to raise up the house of God, to be the Bride of Christ, so He can come and have His Bride." Verse 22, "For Moses truly said to our fathers, the Lord your God, will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you." Verse 23, "It shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly

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destroyed from among the people.” There's the warning. Verse 24, “Yes, all the prophets from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.” That you are living in now. Verse 25, “For you are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘and in your seed, all the families of the Earth shall be blessed.’” Verse 26, “To you first, God, having raised up His servant, Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away everyone of you from your iniquities.” It went to God's family first, and then to the family He wanted to adopt. So He's preaching to the Jews, because it went to His family first. They were the ones looking for God, and it was offered to them, and then it went to the ones He wanted to adopt and graft in. Jesus did not come to condemn them. Jesus came to bless them. Jesus came to save them. It says it right here. “He raised up His servant, Jesus, and sent Him to bless you. He has not come to condemn. He has not come with a rod. He has come with an offer. It's His own offer. It's His own flesh. He went to the Jew first, then He went to the Gentiles.”

Let's read the account for us who are not Jewish. He longed to adopt the Gentiles. He did not show partiality to any race. The offering was given freely to all who would say, “Yes.” This is to the house of Cornelius, a centurion, who had a vision from God to be saved. He called on Peter, the same man that we just heard speak, and the Spirit of God spoke to him.

#### Acts 10:34-36

There is no other God. There is no other way. The way that the Jewish nation had received religion, and the religion that the Jews received is the one true religion. Now it is available for all. The one true God that met Moses on the mountain, He is the real God. There is no other way. He was the Almighty God. There was no other nation on the Earth that would have the Lord. So, He created His own out of a man that was 100 years old and a woman who could not bear seed. He said, “I'm going to make My own nation that will love Me and present Me to the world. The Jews did not exist until Abraham believed because all the other nations, Gentiles, all of us, said, “I do not want the Lord.”

So, God said, “I will make My own people.” Then He used those people to tell us the truth, and to tell us there is a one true God. That He's not hating us. He loves us. He's not against us. He's for us. He's always wanted to be with us and not leave us in our own ways, in sin and miry clay that gets stuck on the feet causing us to begin sinking into death. He has not left us in this place. He has raised us up and even seated us in heavenly places. This is the gospel of salvation. He has shown no partiality.

#### Acts 10:35-41

That is the key point. That is the key thing. Even Jesus, we talked about this last week, He would reveal what He was going to do, but then come hide. He would be openly telling everyone, this is what's going to happen, and this is where I'm going. But, not be in view of of the Jews. He hid Himself, even from His own apostles. Even in this, there were some chosen to bear the testimony, and to bear the weight of this gospel. Chosen to say, “He is alive, and we ate and drank *with Him*.” That's a key thing. He wasn't a spirit, He wasn't a ghost. He wasn't an apparition. “He was in the flesh, alive, and now we are standing here speaking to you,” is this testimony. That there was a man, there were 11 of them, there were 40 of them, there were 700 of them, and there were 3000 of them, that said this One man went into the grave and nobody prayed for Him and He came out all on His own. There Spirit of God breathed on Him, brought life in Him and He walked out of His own grave.

If He walked out of His own grave, you are going to walk out of your own grave. That's what a Christian believes, that you have a resurrection from the dead. That the grave that I go into, I will see myself walk out of it. Yay, I will show you how I will get baptized. I'll be immersed, see my grave and come out. It's a statement of the faith that you have that this is true.

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That they ate and drank with a man who was in the grave and He came out with His organs still working the same way. It's power that you've never known, and it's fearsome power that we try to put in a box. But the Holy Spirit says, "You cannot put Me in a box. Do not do that."

Acts 10:40-43

This is what we're preaching today.

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 110:3 ESV

"Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power."

Psalm 110:3 NKJV

"Your people shall be volunteers in the day of your power."

This is the day of His power. This is the day to volunteer yourself freely to the Lord. This is the day of His power. This is the day of His power. The Israelites saw Yahweh on the mountain. That was a day of fire. That was a day of power. That was a day of fear and trembling. They said, "No." We read that in Hebrews, "That when the day of salvation is here, do not turn away as they hardened their hearts on the mountain. But you have not come to that mountain. You have come to Mount Zion, to a festal gathering. Do not harden your heart on the day of salvation, but volunteer yourself freely on the day of His power."

The disciples heard a voice say, "Come follow me. Come follow me. It is the day of the Lord. Come see, this is the Christ." There were some, and there was a company of them. Twelve followed Him all the way, and one betrayed Him in the end. Eleven were there, but even they were scattered in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will remember that this week. But, they came back. They did not deny the voice of the Lord in that day. But, this is not the day of Jesus. This is not the day of the Father Yahweh. This is the day of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead. It is His voice. It is the Spirit of Truth that calls you to this faith. It calls us to this belief. It calls us to look up. "Your salvation has drawn nigh. Your salvation has drawn near. Your salvation is here. Do not harden your heart. Do not harden your heart, but hear the call, hear the cry, hear the agony in Christ's voice from the cross. He cried out for you, and He loved you enough to bear it. He encountered death, so that you would never have to." Wow, "On the day of your power, people shall be volunteers." This is the day of His power. Amen.

Last week we talked about Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus gave His disciples and the residents of Jerusalem a glimpse of His glory, a glimpse of His kingship, a glimpse of His rulership. This is how Jesus was. He came full of the grace and truth of the Father, yet He just gave you a taste. He gave you a taste of the zeal of the Lord in the temple. He gave you a taste of the fullness of the final day. We know that there will be a millennial reign of Christ. Where all that we have longed to see will be done. Where even the lion and the calf will lie down together. Where the children will play by the cobra's den. In Isaiah, it says, these things shall happen. You ask, when is that going to happen? That's when Jesus comes back. He will be King and Priest in His city, the city of David, and rule and reign in the millennium. I want you to be there. I want you to encounter that. I want you to see that. "Your people shall be volunteers in the day of your power."

We noted last week that the chief priest, as Jesus was coming in, riding on a donkey colt, said, "Look, the world has gone after Him." They recognized it. "Look, the world has gone after Him." Yet, four or five days later, from "the world had gone after Him," He was hanging on a tree. He was hanging on a cross as a spectacle. What changed? Why did that happen?

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Why would He have revealed such a glimpse of glory and then His suffering? Right? They thought, “the Kingdom of Heaven is near. The Kingdom of Heaven will appear immediately. The Kingdom of God has come through the city gate. He walked through the kingly gate. He was riding a *colt* and fulfilling Zechariah.” Yet, it turned very quickly. Yes, the plan for the Messiah to be received by all of Israel, the plan for the Christ to reign in Jerusalem, and the plan for the Kingdom of God to appear immediately, had gone terribly wrong. On Good Friday, we recognized that. On Good Friday, we recognized the goal was either missed or not understood.

This can be true in your walk with Jesus today. God's visions or intentions for your life can be clear, but His plan and the details to get there remains partially hidden from you. We talked about this. He gives you these glimpses of I know what He wants me to do. I know where God is taking me. I know the goal. But, the details on how you get there, He hides. Because, “It is the glory of God to hide a matter, but it is the glory of kings to search it out.” So that no man would boast, it's not about you getting there. It's about who you encounter along the way. God will not tell you what you're going to do. He'll tell you where you're going and then reveal Himself along the way. You know that doesn't make sense, but listen to it. God does not tell you what you're going to do. He tells you where you're going, and then reveals Himself along the way.

It's as if He revealed Himself here as Lord, here as Savior, here as King, here as Bond Servant, here as Love. The revelation of Jesus Christ changes you, because, “When you see Him, you will be made like Him.” Scripture says that in First John. So, if I see Him as Savior, then I can be saved. If I see Him as Lord, then I can bow down. I see Him as King, wow, “I am your servant.” If I see Him as a Bondservant, “Lord, let me go deeper. Let me go lower.” If I see Him as Love, then, “Oh God, give me Your heart.” The Revelation of Jesus Christ changes you in this journey. “This is the way, walk in it,” it says in Isaiah. God's visions or intentions for your life can be clear, but His plan to accomplish them remains partially hidden from view. God will give you the vision, but will not tell you how to get there. He gives you the next task, and then reveals Himself to you on a journey. He gives you the next task. Then, He gives you the next task. He tells you this is the goal, but doesn't tell you the steps of how to get there. He just gives you the next task and reveals Himself to you in that task.

#### First Corinthians 13:12

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

You have to have that relationship with Christ if you're going to see and be known by Him, and He has already known you. But for you to know Him, you have to be open and laid bare. Right now we see dimly, as in a mirror, and it's glory to glory, faith to faith, step by step, precept upon precept, and line upon line, that transforms and sanctifies the working of Christ in you. You're not already made perfect. Your spirit man is perfect, but the soul and the flesh have to be sanctified and go through a process.

In the book of Philippians, it says that, “We are trying to attain the resurrection of the dead, today.” Today, we are trying to attain that. You say, “I did not know that.” Yes, if you are a Christian, you are trying to attain the resurrection of the dead, now. To imitate the Holy Spirit, and to imitate Christ, now. Yes, just as I am also known, now.

In this week, we just celebrated from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. In this week, there was a culmination of Jesus's ministry that we remember. Even in this week, Jesus gave His disciples tasks. In those tasks, He revealed Himself to them. Starting a little bit before the triumphal entry, when He went to Bethany. If you remember, they got the news that Lazarus was dead. Well, they didn't know for sure, but Jesus told them, “Lazarus is dead, but I'm going to go and

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wake him.” In the town of Bethany, He told His disciples to, “Roll that stone away.” Lazarus was four days dead. Now, “Roll the stone away.” That's the task. They did it. What did they find? They found that Jesus is a Prophet greater than Elijah and Elisha. He is the Prophet with the power to raise the dead, and even stronger. Yes.

Then we heard about the triumphant entry. He told them to, “Go and untie a colt.” It's the task, to get the colt and bring it to Him. When that happened, they had a revelation of Jesus, as the King, riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. He gives you the daily tasks and then reveals Himself. You see it? Then, this week, He told them, “Go and prepare an upper room. Go and prepare a feast for the Passover meal.” In that place, He broke the bread, He poured out the cup, He washed their feet, and He shows Himself as the Priest. The High Priest that breaks the bread, that pours out the offerings, that serves the house, cleanses them and makes them pure. He revealed Himself as Prophet, as King and as Priest, all in this week. But, He didn't tell them. He told them to do a task. In the task, He says, “I will show Myself. In this task, “I will show Myself.” That's how it works with you, and that's how it works with us. He invites us into His Kingdom of glory.

I told you last week that the glory of God does look like something. The glory of God looks like a mighty mountain. The glory of God looks like an entire city talking about God. But it's in the daily task that He asks you, and that He will reveal Himself to you. That's where the glory is. This is where the glory is, in the relationship you have with Him. The revelation of Christ, and the revelation of Jesus. You see it, yes? God reveals who He is in your daily walk with Him. He gives you the next task and then reveals Himself to you on the journey. Wow.

But the disciples missed out on one of the revelations of Jesus this last week. They missed Him. He asked them to pray with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. They couldn't do it. They missed out. This is what I want you to hear today.

#### Luke 22:39-46

Notice when He rose up from prayer, and He had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. A weightiness came upon the Garden. The agony that Jesus was in, and that atmosphere weighed on them. They couldn't handle it. Instead of handling it, they just shut it down and went to sleep. They don't want to deal with this. Hindsight is 2020 and we know what's going to happen. They have no idea. They have done this before. They've been in the Garden in prayer with Him before. They have no idea who's coming. They have no idea who's marching. But, what they were in, they said, “I don't want to deal with this. I just had an overload of what just happened in the upper room. I need to sleep.” Yes, this is normal, yet heart breaking.

#### Matthew 26:36-40

This is the same account, but told a different way. “Jesus found them sleeping, and said to Peter,” remember, we read earlier about Peter. We read two of his sermons. This is that, Peter.

#### Matthew 26:41-46

I want you to understand that they had an opportunity and they missed it. There are not many things more crippling in your walk than how the disciples probably felt at the end of this verse. A realization that He asked us to do something, and I missed it. It was important, because now I'm in a dire place. Now the situation is really bad, because a betrayer is at hand. You asked us to do something for an hour, and that despair hits the heart. When the Lord does that with us, He asks us to do that task. “A simple thing is simple to do, but so hard to do.” That despair can cripple your walk. Because, if you *miss* it once, or twice, or too many times to count, how do you get up and believe that you will be faithful to the Lord? You see it? Peter goes through a really hard place. Right after this, he missed out. “Peter, what are you doing?” Right after this,

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he takes a sword, strikes a servant in the ear, and cuts it off. Within a few hours, he has denied Christ three times. He has been in bewilderment. He forgets the prophecies of Jesus after He died. He is not there at the tomb on the third day. He doesn't understand what is happening. It takes him time, and yes, he gets restored at the end of the Gospel of John. Yet, we read what happens, because we read two of his sermons. They are powerful, and they're full of faith, and with the Holy Spirit. So, he comes out of it. But, how did he go from this despair to that? He had to see Jesus face to face.

You have to go back. You have to receive the words that Jesus is saying. He says, "Rise, let us be going." He does not berate them. He does not bash them and make them feel horrible. He is a good Father. He doesn't drive them to that place of despair more than they are. He says, "This is done. You missed it, but now I need you again. Let's get going, because this hour is near for something else, and I need you." Even in that, we saw they were scattered like sheep. Yet He says, "That hour is gone. You missed the revelation. But if that's going to cripple you, that's not what I'm asking. I'm not here to condemn you. I'm here to bless you. I am not here to belittle you. I'm here to lift your head."

Even to this day, we can feel like these disciples. If we wake up and we realize, "I have disappointed my Lord." We wake up and we see that despair. That's what cripples your walk, and you just stay there. You don't want Jesus to look at you. You don't want the Father to really look at that part, because it's better to just bear the shame. "It's my fault, and it's what I did, Lord, and it's nothing that's your fault." But the Lord says, "Look at Me. Rise, let us be going." This is freedom in the house of Lord, and He's coming after despair in the heart. He's coming after those places where you feel like you've let Him down, and you probably have. But He is not condemning you. He is here to bless you. He says, "Rise, let us be going."

One of the best exhortations I have ever heard is this from Oswald Chambers. It's from, "My Utmost for His Highest." He says it like this, and I think it's to encourage you. I think there's real freedom from this today.

"In the Garden of Gethsemane, the disciples went to sleep, when they should have stayed awake. Once they realize what they had done, it produced despair. The sense of having done something irreversible tends to make us despair. We say, "Well, it's all over now, and I've ruined it. What's the point in trying anymore?" If we think this kind of despair is an exception, we are mistaken. It's not just you that is experiencing this. All who have walked in Christ have felt this despair of letting Christ down when He asked us to do something and we didn't do it. Now I'm in the fire with the disappointment within me. Or the disappointment of I should have told that person something, but now they are gone. There is the guilt. We are not mistaken. You are not an exception. It is a very ordinary human experience.

Whenever we realize we have not taken advantage of a magnificent opportunity, we are apt to sink to despair. But when Jesus comes and lovingly says to us, in essence, "Sleep on now, that opportunity is lost forever, and you can't change that, but get up and let's go on to the next." In other words, "Let the past sleep. Let the past be the past. Let it sleep where you were sleeping, but let it sleep in the sweet embrace of Christ and let us go on into the invincible future with Him."

There's more but, I want to pause. Realize they missed out on being a watchman and encountering the Lamb of God. They really missed out on an encounter with the Lamb of God taking on the sin of the world. You have to come to grip with this. You have to encounter the Lamb of God hanging on the cross for you. There is real revelation there for us, and they missed it. But He's saying, "That's in the past. Let it sleep." Now, what we don't do is, we don't put it in the embrace of Christ. We carry it in the past and never let it come out.

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But Jesus doesn't want us to do that. He says, "No, let me take that. Give that despair, give that disappointment, and give that guilt from what you missed into my sweet embrace. It's mine now. Let us get going. I carried it for you in the Garden of Gethsemane. I carried it for you right there. I've already dealt with this while you were sleeping. I've already dealt with this while you were sleeping on Me. Let me take it. Let me have it. Let me have it and let's be going." Yes, in other words, "Let the past sleep, but let it sleep in the sweet embrace of Christ and let us go on into the invincible future with Him."

Oswald Chambers says this, "There will be experiences like this in each of our own lives. We will have times of despair caused by real events in our lives, and we will be unable to lift ourselves out of them. The disciples, in this instance, had done a downright unthinkable thing. They had gone to sleep instead of watching with Jesus. But our Lord came to them, taking the spiritual initiative against their despair, and said, in effect, "Get up and do the next thing. Get up and do the next thing." If we are inspired by God, what is the next thing? It is to trust Him absolutely and to pray on the basis of His redemption. Never let the sense of past failure defeat your next step. Never let the sense of past failure defeat your next step. "Rise, let us be going."

I feel this is an opportunity. If you are carrying that, we will be up here to pray. If you need to know the Lord, I am right here. We are here and want you to not step out these doors without knowing Him and making Him Lord. There is a real anointing to be free from the past and that deep despair, amen. So let's stand and let's pray. Praise the Lord, we'll be here after.

"Lord Jesus, here we are. We open our hearts to you. You have seen, God, where we have not put it in your embrace. You already carried it. You had already been there. You had already put it on your shoulders. Let us not keep picking it up. We thank you that you bore the weight. You bore the shame. You became the spectacle. You became the public abhorrence. You became laid bare and open. By your blood, we receive that cleansing. We receive the the freedom from embarrassment. We receive the freedom from shame and guilt. We receive the the blessing that takes away our failure. We receive the the lifting and the encouragement that takes away failure. I'm coming to you to trust that you remove them. That you would remove that crippling force. You will remove that and the lame will walk. The paralyzed will heal. May we go forth. "Rise, let us be going." We thank you, Jesus, for this day is a day of victory. It is a day of your power. It is the day of the Lord. We remember God, it's every day that you are this hope of glory in us. But we thank you for a time when the world says, "Jesus is Alive, He is risen, and He is risen, indeed." We offer ourselves to you. We thank you for families. We bless them while we're together. We don't want to turn our ears away when we hear your voice today. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.