



281.890.1900
TheMETonline.org

Jones Road Campus
13000 Jones Road | Houston, TX 77070

Fry Road Campus | Hopper Middle School
7811 Fry Road | Houston, TX 77433

The last three weeks we've been in a series entitled, *God @ Work*. And for three weeks we've been talking about God at work in us personally—in you. Now we want to start talking about God at work through us corporately. Just a moment ago we had this great, great worship experience. And I want to talk about that this morning as God at work through us as we worship together.

Now, when I say worship—don't shout this out loud, but—what do you think about? Normally you would think about a style of worship:

- Something that you like that you get caught up in
- Something that you are familiar with maybe (or)
- Something that makes your heart stir (or)
- Just what we experienced a moment ago—the Spirit of God is among us and we're worshipping Him

That's what you think of when you think of worship.

Well, when you look into the *New Testament*, worship is so much more than that. Worship is the defining act of every believer. In *Romans, chapter 12*, in the first two verses, I'm going to talk to us this morning about the transforming power of worship—how worship literally transforms us.

WORSHIP TRANSFORMS US

In the opening verse of *Romans, chapter 12, verse 1*, the Apostle Paul writes this:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Your translation [*KJV* or *NKJV*] may say, "your reasonable service" toward God.

When God speaks about worship there are reasons why He wants us to worship Him. After 11 chapters already now, in the book of *Romans*, the Apostle Paul comes to *chapter 12* and he says: "Therefore."

The old adage that I've heard all my life—since I have been in church and a preacher—when someone says "therefore" ask yourself: What's it there for?

It's there because of all the preceding 11 chapters. When chapter after chapter the Apostle Paul goes through and says: Look at all that God has done for us. There is no more condemnation. There is grace that God has given us. And he says: Because of these mercies that God has given us we ought to bring a sacrifice to Him. That's what worship is.

TRANSFORMED IN OUR SACRIFICE FOR GOD'S MERCIES

So when we think about worshipping, why would we do this? Why would we offer ourselves to God?—because of the mercies that He has showed us. What are some of the them?

- God has saved us from **the penalty of sin**. We are not going to spend eternity separated from God because of our sin, because He sent Jesus to die for us. We are removed, never to be punished for our sin. Jesus was punished for our sins.
- He has taken us away from **the power of sin**. We no longer have to be the slaves of sin. We don't have to sin any longer. We will [sin] and we will stumble and we will fall. But God has broken the power of sin, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and regenerating our lives.
- One day—thank God—He'll remove us from **the presence of sin**. One day, as Jesus said, He's building a place for us in Heaven, somewhere for us to dwell with Him [*John 14:2-3* (paraphrased)]. In Heaven there is no sin. We're not going to have to struggle with it any longer. We're not going to ask—to confess and [ask God to] forgive us of our sins, because the presence of sin, the very nature of it, is going to be totally gone.
- We're going to have **glorified bodies**. The older I get, the louder I shout amen on that one. God in His mercy is going to give me a body, give you a body, that is built for Heaven forever and ever and ever that never wears out.
- God has **seated** us right now **in the heavenlies** at the right hand of His throne in Jesus Christ.
- God has **sealed us in His Holy Spirit**. That means we can never be unsealed. We can never be taken away from God. We may fall in sin. We may walk away sometimes. We may not do the will of God sometimes. But there is never a time, by the mercy and the grace of God, that He turns His back on us; that He walks away from us; that He ever denies us—
 - He keeps loving
 - He keeps giving grace
 - He keeps being merciful
 - He keeps extending forgiveness
 —because we have been sealed, never to be unsealed from His presence again.

You can go ahead and clap, but you ought to be happy about that. Listen, these are the things that make you want to worship God. Not only that—

- We are **joint heirs with Jesus Christ**. Do you know what that means? Everything that belongs to Jesus, guess who it belongs to?—it belongs to us. We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ.
- We have been **adopted by our Heavenly Father**. He's just not God that is in Heaven. He is our Heavenly Father. And His Spirit that He put inside of us bears witness with His Spirit that we are the children of God.
- He **meets our every need**—everything that we need. His hands are open.

- He **answers our prayers**. He sits on this giant throne of grace in Heaven and He beckons us: Come into My presence. Ask Me for whatever you need and here in My presence you will find grace and mercy to help in your time of need. [*Hebrews 4:16* (paraphrased)]

That's why we worship God. We worship God because of everything that He has done for us. Not only that—

- He's **gifted you**. When you became a follower of Christ, the Spirit of God came inside of you and gave you a supernatural gift to be able to serve Him.
- Not only did He give you a supernatural gift, He **put you in a church**. He put you around people that love you and care for you.
- He **wants to use you**—you—right where you are as you sit right now as you contemplate these words. Almighty God of Heaven dwells within your earthly body and He wants to use you in supernatural ways that demonstrate that God is alive and He is moving through you.

That's why we worship God. We worship God and the only thing that He asks us to do in this worship is one thing. Everything else that we think about worship all has to do with style. There is one substantive act of worship and that is found here in *Romans, chapter 12, verse 1*, where he says: "in view of God's mercy"—everything that He does—"offer your bodies as living sacrifices"—offer your bodies as living sacrifices [repeated for emphasis].

Now why would God want that?

The Bible says: That our bodies now are the "temple of the Holy Spirit" of God; that we were "bought with a price" and we are to "glorify God" through this body. [*1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV) and 20 (KJV)*]

Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God, took a body—Why?—so that He could glorify God down here on this earth. As He glorifies God down here on this earth, and He did the work of God down here on this earth, that's exactly why God has redeemed us. So that He could work through our bodies. Everything that God does just doesn't pop into thin air. It is done through a body like yours and a body like mine in which the very presence of God dwells.

We are to be "living sacrifices." Now what does that mean? Well, there are two other living sacrifices that we can look toward.

1. One was Isaac when he was placed by Abraham on the altar of sacrifice. And as his father raised the knife to take the life of his son—the very promise from God to him—at that precise moment when he was getting ready to come on the down stroke, there in a thicket was caught a ram. And Isaac—in a type—was sacrificed, but he came off of that altar as a living sacrifice and the ram took his place.
2. There is another living sacrifice and His name is Jesus. When God took the form of man and worked through the body of Jesus Christ—God in man right there inside of Jesus:

100 percent God; 100 percent man—He died for us on the cross and three days later came up out of the grave. And now is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us, listening to us, [and] ministering to us. He is the living sacrifice for our sins.

The third one is you and me. Become—he says: give your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Now, the only way that we can do the things that God is calling us to do—the greatest worship service we’re ever going to have—is every morning that we get up and we say:

God, here I am. I don’t know how many days I have. I don’t know what’s going to happen today, but I know this. Today I am dying to myself and I’m giving You my life, the life that You now possess. Because You bought me. Because You live inside of me. And this day—this day if it has 24 hours, if it’s 23, if I die in the next 3 hours, I want You to know, this day—I give You my life for You to work in me and for You to work through me.

It’s the only reasonable thing that we can do in response to all that God’s done for us.

Did you worship this morning?—not, did you come in here and worship? When you got up this morning, did you become a living sacrifice? To God [saying]: Use me any way You choose to use me.

God never forces and coerces a sacrifice. A sacrifice is willingly given to God. Do we die daily to ourselves? Do we take up our cross and follow Jesus every day? Can we say like the Apostle Paul?—I am crucified with Christ but nevertheless I live, but it’s not I who live, it is Christ in me who lives. And the life I live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and died for me [*Galatians 2:20* (paraphrased)].

Are we living sacrifices? Are we saying?—God, here I am and use me. Because if we are, I’m going to tell you: some great things are going to happen in our lives [and] some great things are going to happen in our church right here if we’re all dead to self and alive to Jesus.

I want to tell you something: True worship just isn’t a mystical experience where we get the holy heebie-jeebies. It’s a concrete act of obedience that I am dying to myself [and] I’m coming alive to Jesus.

So let me tell you something. Every *Old Testament* sacrifice was dead and never got up off the altar. And I know this about dead things: They stink. Now, let me tell you why—

- Some of our marriages stink (and)
- Some of our family life stinks (and)
- Sometimes why church stinks to us (and)
- Our boss stinks (and)
- My life stinks

—because they’re dead sacrifices [and] not infused with the power of the Holy Spirit. And if you want your life not to stink anymore, then say:

God, I offer You my death, my selfishness, my darkness. And I give it to You and I ask You to fill me with Your Spirit and infuse me with Your power so my life doesn't stink.

It's an aroma that's pleasing to God. Does your life stink? Don't say amen out loud. Sometimes it does. Sometimes stuff just stinks and that's when you need to remember: I'm God's living sacrifice. I choose to die to myself. Now when we make that [decision]—we say:

Here I am, God. I choose to die to myself today. I want to come alive to You. I want to worship You. I want to see You move in my life.

How does that happen?—now, it transforms us. When we do that we are totally transformed.

TRANSFORMED IN OUR MORALS

Look in *verse 2*: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world..." [*Romans 12:2a (NIV)*]

Do you know what I love about this verse? It appeals to the rebel inside of me. Don't conform to the world. Don't be patterned after the things that you see and walk after people who are groping in darkness. A pattern is something that you would put when you were—

How many of you all had Play-Doh when you were a kid? Or at least had dough that had color in it if you were poor? (But it never smelled the same. But it ate a whole lot better than Play-Doh did; wasn't as salty.) When you had that little Play-Doh machine, you put that Play-Doh in there and it conformed to whatever mold that you put it on. Or if you put it in that little machine, it squeezed out in a little mold.

That's exactly what the world does. The world wants you to do exactly what it wants you to do—

- To look like everyone
- To be like everyone
- To conform, conform, conform so everybody is correct all the time

And God comes along and says: No, I'm giving you permission to be a nonconformist.

That just charges me. I've got a little bracelet right here that Pastor Bryan [Rose] gave me. It says *Renegade Pastor* on it. I love that...I love that! We can be renegades to the system of this world. Don't be a cultural chameleon. In other words, I am not to reflect what my culture is. I am to be a committed Christian reflecting Christ in my culture.

(You know) it just comes down to some good, old advice my mother (who is in Heaven now) gave me when I did something with my friends and I came home.

She said: Why did you do it?

[I'd answer:] Well, everyone's doing it, Mom.

And you know what Mom said: Well, if everyone jumped off a cliff, would you do that too?

[I'd answer:] Well, no.

[It's] the same thing with us.

- If everybody's committing sexual immorality, we might as well too.
- If everybody's cheating, we might as well too.
- If everybody's gossiping, we might as well too.
- If everybody's banking everything for this world and nothing for the next world, we might as well too.
- If then nobody's going to church, we might as well not too.
- If nobody's—then we might as well not as well because everybody else is doing it.

And God's saying: No, don't be conformed. Don't be normal; be abnormal. Amen?

I like being abnormal. I'm unique when I'm abnormal. (That reminds me of a movie that—we won't go into now—anyway.)

You know what?—we are imitators. Let me show you. Even in the church we are imitators. This is hilarious. Ten/fifteen years ago when church style started changing, (I mean) I can remember the days not too long ago I wore a coat and tie [and] slicked-back evangelist hair. It looked like I was a TV evangelist. Only I'd wear real flashy suits, not toned-down suits, because of the rebel in me. But now—I guarantee you—go on any Web site and here's what you'll see. You'll see this [gesturing to his clothing]—I promise you—everywhere: A cool shirt, some cool jeans, probably not as cool boots as I have, but something similar. Why?—because we all imitate.

Now, here's what I'm going to do. If you could bear with me—if you could bear the sight—I'm going to start dressing like my father did when he came to watch me practice. I'm going to have on those Bermuda shorts hiked up to about here [gesturing high on his waist], some of those man-hose that are tied together up at the knee, some black wingtip shoes, and a white Mexican wedding shirt. Give me six months and turn on the Web TVs and you will find preachers everywhere doing it.

We are imitators by nature. Why not imitate Jesus, the ultimate nonconformist to this world?

- Who loved people who weren't lovely
- Who gave when it wasn't popular
- Who trusted God when no one else would
- Who took this world's ridicule
- Who did not care what the world said, but cared what His Heavenly Father said

And when we worship God, that's what we become.

Don't be conformed; be transformed—in the last part of *verse 2*: "but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." [*Romans 12:2a (NIV)*]

TRANSFORMED IN OUR MINDS

Now how does this happen? It's a great word here. The word *transformed* is where we get our English word *metamorphosis*. And if you've had any science at all in elementary school, you know that's what happens when the caterpillar makes his little cocoon and he comes out. He's no longer a caterpillar; he's a butterfly, a beautiful butterfly. And so what He is saying is: When you worship Me like that—when you give Me your life daily—when you refuse to be conformed, but

you begin to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, something is going to happen in you. What's really inside of you is finally going to come out.

Several times in the *New Testament* this word is used—just three actually:

1. Once when Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration. He took Peter, James, and John up there and they were praying. All of a sudden, Jesus whose deity was clothed in humanity, what was on the inside—the deity—overwhelmed the humanity and now it wasn't deity clothed in humanity, it was humanity clothed in deity. What was on the inside came to the outside.
2. The second place that you see this is in *2 Corinthians, chapter 3*, where the Apostle Paul is comparing what the Spirit of God does in our life compared to what happened to Moses. He said it was so glorious for Moses that when he went up to get the Ten Commandments and spent 40 days up there, when he came down, he had spent so much time face-to-face with God, literally his face was transformed—it glowed. And after awhile the glow started to recede, and so he put a veil on his face so everybody would see: Yeah, look, Moses is glowing behind the veil because he's been with God.
3. Now, the Apostle Paul picks it up and he says—now that Christ is in us, that the Holy Spirit lives in us—this is what he says:

¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, {Ready?} the veil is taken away. {You don't have to hide the fact that God is fading in your life. God's not fading in your life.} ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we, {You ready?} who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed {the same word that we just talked about} into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NIV)

The Spirit of God lives inside of us. And if we give ourselves to worship God by the act of surrendering our wills and our ways to Him and becoming that living sacrifice, the deity inside of you, who is Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God begins to overwhelm your humanity. So when people look at you it's not so much you're identified by color, race, creed, denomination; but the fact that the Spirit of God is radiating out of your life.

How would you like to come to church where we didn't have to turn the lights on [because] it was so bright with Jesus in here? But you know what we do? We put a veil down because we're not being transformed sometimes. We're not listening to God. We're not sacrificing our lives.

We need to remember that the Word of God and the Spirit of God and prayer is what transforms us.

- Come to worship.
- Go to a *Small Group*.

- Get into the Word.
- Pray.

That's why we're trying to do those things together as a church.

Because—Can you imagine for a moment?—[if] we took the veils of pretense and pretending we're walking with God; and actually walk with God, what would happen?

- In our marriages, they won't stink anymore.
- In our relationships, they won't stink anymore.

We won't have to lie about what kind of relationship we don't have with God. We would have one and the essence of Christ would be coming through our lives.

I'm kind of excited about this by the way. Because this is what makes us different than anybody else in any other religion in the world; is that, God actually lives inside of us and He wants to come out and play. He wants our lives. He wants to move through us.

What's our motivation? Here's our motivation.

TRANSFORMED IN OUR MOTIVATION

Why would we worship God? Forget style. The substance of giving our life to Him—

- Letting Him come in and take over
- Renewing our minds
- Letting the Spirit of God transform us into the image of Christ

—here it is. Are you ready?

...Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2b (NIV)

You know, a lot of people say: What's God's will? I can't tell you. I can tell you some general things about God's will. But for you specifically in your life, if you've not done these steps up to this point, you're never going to know. It's not that He doesn't want to reveal it. But if we are really motivated and say, "God, what do You want in my life?" then—

- We're going to be a living sacrifice.
- We are going to be in the Word.
- We are going to pray.
- We are going to worship.
- We are going to belong in a *Small Group*.
- We are going to serve.

Why? Because those are the ways that Christ is reflected through us. And in our walking with God, as daily we pray and do those things, the will of God is revealed to us. It's not a secret. It's not like a carrot on a stick leading a donkey.

God says: My will is good, My will is pleasing, and My will is perfect. [*Romans 12:2b* (paraphrased)] Do you know why God's will is good even though you may be afraid of it sometimes? It's because God's good. Didn't we just sing that a few moments ago when Brandon

and Kacie [Frazier, visiting worship leaders, from Nashville] opened us up in worship? I mean, God is good all the time; and God, being good, cannot do bad things. And so God is leading us somewhere and wanting us to do something and revealing a direction in our lives. It's only for one reason—You ready?—because He's good, and He's going to do good things through you.

Some of you recently lost a job. I'm going to tell you something. God is good and He will lead you to a better place. If you believe God is good, are you worshiping Him? God is good. Nothing that He wants to do for us will not be eternally good for us—always—it's going to be eternally good for us.

He never asks us to do anything that we can't accept. *NIV [New International Version]* says "pleasing," other translations say "acceptable." Now why is God's will pleasing? I'm going to tell you why God's will is pleasing: because we can do it. Because we know, no matter what the odds are, that if this is God's will and we do what God says, or we accept it as God's will, that God will do what He says.

Sometimes God doesn't do anything, not because He doesn't want to; [but because] we're not accepting it. God will never ask you to do anything that you cannot, that He does not already have you ready for, and that He cannot do it through you.

Here's an example. You remember the children of Israel?

- They're in Egypt
- 400 years of bondage
- They cry out to God

God sends Moses, get's them out, and rather than heading east out of the Red Sea—which would have been the shortest distance to the Promised Land—to Kadesh Barnea—He makes them loop around Mount Sinai for awhile.

In all the time He's showing them how good He is:

- I'll give you manna.
- I'm going to throw some birds down on you every now and then when you start complaining about no meat, give you so much you'll throw it up.
- I'm going to give you water out of a rock.
- I'm going to protect you.
- I'm going to discipline you.
- I'm going to show you that I am the true warrior that is on your behalf.
- I'm going to be a pillar—a cloud by day and a pillar of [fire] by night, so you'll know that I am always with you.

And [then] when they came up to Kadesh Barnea that they'd have had plenty of time to know God is good. His will is perfect for us. He is delivering us.

But something happened at Kadesh Barnea. At Kadesh Barnea, when they sent the 12 spies in, they came back—and they're holding these giant clusters of grapes in between them on a pole and they come back—and they said: Moses, it's just like God said it would be. It is a good land. It's flowing with milk and honey. But its inhabitants are giants. And when we saw that, we became afraid, and we became "like grasshoppers" in their sight. [*Numbers 13:33* (paraphrased)]

Why? Two of the men there said: No, this is God's will. This is acceptable. God will do this. Let's just go forward. They will become grasshoppers to us. They're not giants. All they are is just standing in the way so God can show us how powerful He is. Forty years later those were the only two adults that made it into the Promised Land, Caleb and [Joshua].

Now I'm going to tell you something. There are some giants standing before you this morning. Do you know why they are there? They are there because God has got you ready to slay some giants, that's why.

- He didn't bring you up to that point and say: See that giant? I know you couldn't take him. I just want you to be afraid right now, and run back and not do My will. —No way!
- I am God. I am good. I would never ask you to do anything that I know you couldn't do, because you can do all things through Christ. So you tell that giant, "Be thou removed" and cast him into the sea.

Forty years later there was a group of people that trusted God and they went into the Promised Land and they kicked some tail, and they took the land. (That's biblical, by the way, kicking tail. You've just got to know the Hebrew.)

What giant is standing in your way? What is it that God's asking you to do that maybe the majority of people say:

- Oh, you can't do that.
- What's going to happen to your kids?
- What's going to happen to you?
- What's going to happen to your money?

Say:

- It doesn't matter what's going to happen; God already knows what's going to happen.
- I see little chunks of time; God sees it from beginning to end and before that and after that.
- I know what today holds; He knows what everything holds.
- I don't know what all the details might be; He knows every detail and He is in control of every detail.
- Nothing is going to happen that does not first go through the grid of God's will in my life.

And so—

- If there's a giant in your marriage
- If there's a giant in your job
- If there's a giant sin in your life that you can never get over

I am telling you that God has allowed that to be there so, by His power, you can overcome. Just worship Him...just worship Him.

And church, what is it that we face together if we're all worshiping like that? Let me tell you:

- Money is not going to be a problem

- Staffing is not going to be a problem
- Doing God's will around the world is not going to be a problem

The only problem is going to be when we focus on the giants and not the good God that is in the habit of slaying giants to bring Himself glory and to do us good. Somebody ought to say “amen” right there, by the way. (If you all don't start playing with me, I'm going to keep us awhile longer; but we're going to hurry up now.)

Let me close with an illustration from Abraham [found in *Genesis 22*]. Abraham didn't know why God wanted him—God didn't tell him: This is why I want you to sacrifice your son. He just came to Abraham and said: Abraham, I want you to go and sacrifice on [Mount] Moriah. I want you to take some wood and I want you to take your servant with you and I want you to sacrifice your son. You know what Abraham did? He gathered up the wood, took his servant, [and] took his son with him.

His son said: Look here, I see the fire and I see the knife. Where is the sacrifice, Dad?

[Abraham replied:] Well, God is going to provide the sacrifice, son, don't worry about that.

And he knew in his mind—he knew that his son was going to be the sacrifice. And he didn't know how God was going to keep His promise about his son. Because his son was the promise that Abraham would become a great nation. And his great nation would be through his son. And they would bless nations. He didn't know how God was going to keep His promise, but he believed God would keep His promise.

And so you know what? They get all the way up to Mount Moriah and his son willingly had his hands bound, willingly crawled upon that altar of sacrifice. And as his father lifted up that knife, God—

- Even though Abraham didn't know why he had to do it (and)
- Abraham didn't know how God was going to keep His promise
- Abraham had faith in God (and)
- ...was willing to overcome the giant of having a tremendous promise from God slain right before his eyes

—because Abraham believed that if God needed to He would raise his son from the dead. And He did by providing a lamb to be slaughtered. And his son became a living sacrifice.

So, here's what I'm telling you here this morning. Whatever it is that you're facing, God just wants you to know—you may not know why, you may not know how, but I can tell you this—if you become that living sacrifice:

- You're not going to get hurt permanently.
- You're not going to lose anything.
- You're going to gain when you give Me your life and you become a living sacrifice in My hands.
- I intend you no harm, only good, and only to bless you.
- No weapon formed against you is going to prosper.
- Just trust Me.

And God's will is perfect—and we'll close this:

GOD'S WILL IS PERFECT

That means there's nothing else that we can do that will be any better for us than doing God's will, even when there's pain in our life.

- Some of you have lost children
- ...lost a spouse
- Lots of us have lost jobs
- Some people are watching family members die right now

And it doesn't feel good. And it just doesn't feel like God may be in control. And [we wonder]:

- How is this ever going to work out to really glorify God (and)
- What's going to happen to them in all of that grief?
- What about my retirement?

And all the stuff that we worry about—we don't have hindsight until we get through it. But every time that we have hindsight, we look back and we say: Man, look what God did through that. Look what God did. But God can't do, if you don't go through.

I love the story of Joseph. You know the story. He was sold into slavery. His brothers were jealous. God had given this great vision for his life: You're going to be ruling over your brothers and you're going to be greatly used of Me. And the next thing that he knows is that he's thrown into a pit. His brothers take his coat of many colors, they sprinkle some goat blood on it, bring it back to his dad, and said he died; sold him into slavery.

He finds himself down in Egypt. He gets sold to Potiphar as a slave. [He had] this great vision that God was going to do these good things in his life and now all these bad things are happening. He blesses Potiphar's house because Joseph is faithful. The next thing you know, Potiphar's wife is wanting to go to bed with him, and he won't do it. She finally lies about him and says, "He raped me," throws him in jail. And for two years he's rotting there in jail doing good and nobody remembers him.

And then all of a sudden the day comes and God's timing. When Joseph, who had trusted in God, finally sees this was part of God's plan and he's standing before the pharaoh and he's saving all of Egypt. And then irony of ironies: his brothers from Israel start coming back now to Egypt because Joseph saved the Egyptians from the famine. And finally after dealing with them for awhile he reveals: I'm Joseph. Go get my brothers, go get my father, and come here.

And they lived in the land and then his father grew old and died. And his brothers, remembering their sin and their deceit and how they treated their brother, came to him and said: I know our father is dead now and surely you are going to take vengeance on us. Please forgive us, your servants. And this is what Joseph says in *Genesis, chapter 50, verse 19*:

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:19-20 (NIV)

It may hurt. People may want to hurt you. But I am telling you, by the authority of the Word of God and the experience I've had in my life and countless thousands of other Christians: no

weapon formed against you will ultimately prosper because you belong to God. We should worship Him for that.

Has your life been transformed in that fashion? Now, I want to ask you again: Did you worship God today?—because you're going to need to. We're all going to need to. And can you imagine—if we get in the habit of [worshiping]—what God is going to do? What catalytic event that would be, if we all got on the same page with God in one day, what God would be able to do?

Let's pray together as our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed. If you're here this morning and you don't know Jesus, you can't worship God until you know Him.

Jesus said..., "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 14:6 (NASB)

And this morning, I'm going to ask you to pray a simple prayer and ask Jesus to come into your life. Accept His living sacrifice for you and you become a living sacrifice for Him. And if that's your heart and you want to know Christ, I'm going to ask you to pray silently as I do aloud this prayer:

Dear Jesus, I believe You died for me and You rose again to live for me.
And I accept Your sacrifice for my sin. Forgive me. Wash me clean. From this moment on, help me to be a living sacrifice for You.

Lead Pastor: Dr. Sal Sberna

The MET
Metropolitan Baptist Church
13000 Jones Rd
Houston, TX 77070

Sermon Transcript Ministry
resource@TheMETonline.org

**To them God has chosen to make known among the
Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is
Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Colossians 1:27
(New International Version)

Legend:

(words in parentheses) = spoken by the preacher *but unnecessary* to the core sentence idea

[words in square brackets] = additional explanation for clarity *not spoken* by the preacher

{words in curly brackets within indented quote} = spoken explanation *not part of the quote*