



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

[Introductory video shows a typical suburban home with a minivan in the driveway then moves to multiple scenes, presumably occurring throughout the day:]

[Wife says to husband:] What are you doing just sitting around and reading? Don't you realize you need to do the vacuuming today? Do you expect me to do everything?

[While husband is vacuuming, teenage daughter comes in and says:] Daddy, you said you were going to help me with my homework. What do you want me to do, like fail?

[While husband is at the kitchen table, still vacuuming, and helping his teenage daughter with her homework, wife comes in with a toddler on her hip and says:] Okay, since you're already here, do you mind feeding her?

[Now husband has a fussy toddler in his lap, still sitting at the kitchen table helping teenage daughter with her homework when a younger child comes in asking:] Daddy, when's dinner going to be ready? I'm hungry.

[Husband finally sits down in his recliner and closes his eyes when his wife comes in and says:] You'd better get some sleep. Tomorrow's actually going to be a busy day.

[Video ends with today's message title displayed:] *You Can't Do It All*

Are you married to her? I don't know—uh—ever feel like your life is like that though? Yeah, I think all of us could say yes to that.

We're in a series of messages entitled: *You Can't Do It*—uh—what's the [title] for this message now? [*You Can't Do It All*] Thank you. And [joking]: *I Can't Remember It* is the name of the series [actually *You Don't Have What It Takes*].

You Can't Handle It All—this morning—is what we're going to talk about. Because a lot of us—in fact, probably all of us—have tried to handle way more than we probably should. In fact, we're going to take a survey. It's truth time. You're in church so don't lie. How many of you would say that occasionally you would be slightly overwhelmed, hurried, rushed, late—in fact, you're so rushed that you think the people that are slow in front of you actually really bother you; and you'd like to say things to them that you hope they don't hear? If that's you, raise your hand. Okay, there we go. See, that's right—tell the truth; shame the devil—that's all of us.

One of the things that is most irritating to me is coming out of *Walmart* at [SH] 249 and Spring Cypress. All I have to do— [With overwhelming agreement from the congregation, he says:] There we go, so if you're a commissioner here, get the message: widen the road! Because usually I'm trying to turn right and somebody in front of me is trying to turn left. That takes so long! And (I mean) it at least takes me another minute and a half of waiting. What about when you are

in *Walmart* or in a grocery store and it's time to check out, what do you look for?—the shortest line—

- Because you don't want to wait
- Because you don't have time to wait
- Because we are busy

In fact—

WE ARE SO BUSY WE ARE OUT OF IT

Most of the time (I mean) we really are. And here's what we're out of:

(1) WE ARE OUT OF SHAPE PHYSICALLY

Here's what we say: Well, I really don't have time to exercise, but I do have time to eat cookies and milk and eat ice cream while I'm watching TV. I just don't have time to exercise. I don't have time to eat correctly, because (you know) I live a very fast-paced life. I only have time for fast food. So I can't sit down and have a family meal, because we are taking the kids every place else and we rarely have a meal together that's not out of bag that we bought somewhere. We're out of it. We're out of shape; (we are out of sorts emotionally).

(2) WE ARE OUT OF TOUCH RELATIONALLY

We go home to people that we love that we don't have anything to give anymore; and we're just fried like an over-fried egg. All we can do is sit in front of the television and mumble and grunt. Or go through the motions of being in a family, but not really contributing or speaking into the lives of those that we love. Not because we don't love them; it's just, we don't have anything left to connect with them when it's 8:30/9:00 at night when we're dragging ourselves in. We're out of touch relationally.

(3) WE ARE OUT OF SORTS EMOTIONALLY

Emotionally (I just told you about relationally) let me tell you about emotionally. My mother had a favorite saying and it goes like this: If I had time, I'd have a nervous breakdown. She just didn't have time; she had too much to do she couldn't even have a nervous breakdown. That's why you're on edge and angry. The slightest little thing sets you off; because you're in a hurry and you've got to go places.

You're out of sorts emotionally, you're out of [touch] relationally with your family, and we're out of sorts spiritually.

(4) WE ARE OUT OF ORDER SPIRITUALLY

Here's how I know—because we believe in God—we just don't have time for Him. We can look and see. On your to-do list is there?—(oh, yeah)

- I want to spend some time with God.

- I want to serve somewhere.
- I want to connect relationally with people so that we can do life together.

Because if it's not on there—guess what?—it doesn't get done, because you don't have time to do it.

You call yourself a believer, but how many times do you come to church on the weekend? (I mean) really we believe—as we look over the patterns of our church—that if you come twice a month you are faithful. Even though there are some people that come every week out of every month, so many of us have so many other things going on—that we have these other commitments that we have to make—that the easiest thing to give up is God-time; it's church time.

(I mean) I can predict. It doesn't take much to get people not to come to church [with] all the activities your kids are involved in.

And (by the way, let me just say something as an aside), if your kids are involved in that many activities that you're gone away months from church—because your kids are involved in some kind of soccer league or baseball or whatever it is—let me ask: Do you think that's really right? (I mean) because this is what we're teaching our kids—ready?—we're teaching our kids: Sports is bigger than God. God gets fit in when we can have time to fit Him in; but we can take time to spend hours—I've gone to some of these tournaments—hours all day long on the weekend; but we can't take time bringing you to church. Now, I know I'm talking/preaching to the choir (because you all are bringing your kids to church) but pass it along to those people that haven't.

Now, here's what I mean by that: What's the most important thing?

I used to be an athlete (underscore *used to be*). I cannot take those things that I've learned in athletics and continue to do them, because you grow old and you don't have the physical ability any more. But whatever value and moral training and spiritual training that I received, I still have with me and it grows.

It's easy to—(I mean) sometimes I just think we're just so burned out that [when] we have a free weekend we choose to sleep in, don't we? [It's] because we don't see the value of what we would receive if we came to church anyway.

(You know) I can tell you this: It doesn't take much. I can look at the weather on Saturday night and tell you how many people are going to be in church—I really can.

- Oh, it's going to rain; we'll be down [in attendance]
- Oh, it's going to be cold; we'll be down [in attendance]
- It's going to be a beautiful day; we'll be down [in attendance]

I'm telling you, I have watched it. Oh, it's a pretty day [you say]: Let's not go to church; we're too burned out for that; let's stay home and lay by the pool. All that did was get you sunburned.

Scripture never says: God wouldn't give us more than we can handle—and I've heard people say that a lot: Well, God won't put anything on you more than you can handle. That's a misquote of Scripture. "God...will not allow you to be tempted [beyond what] you are able..."

[*1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)*], but He'll let you do just about anything that you want to do. So when we think: God won't give me more than I can take—no!—yes, He will. And He will till you finally get to the point where you understand:

- I can't handle it all (and)
- I need to give this to God (or)
- I'm going to have other people help me with it

Let me tell you how busy our lives are and the fact that we can't handle it all. Many of you have prayed and given your life to Jesus Christ. You did it at a service just like this—maybe several months ago or even years ago—and you still can't find the time to sign up and get baptized to show that you're a follower of Jesus Christ. That's way too busy, way too busy.

Now, let me tell you a couple of things that will help us in our problem with time. Our time will be straightened out when we take time for a "Come to Jesus" meeting.

TIME FOR A "COME TO JESUS" MEETING

If we take time for a "Come to Jesus" meeting, then our time will be straightened out. Now, it's not the "Come to Jesus" meeting that "You're in trouble" meeting. It's a "Come to Jesus" meeting so that you can find your soul again. In fact, this is what Jesus says in *Matthew, chapter 11, verses 28 through 30*: "Come to me..."—it's a "Come to Jesus" meeting:

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,... {Anybody here like that? You just said a few moments ago—tell the truth; don't lie; put your hand up in the air—I'm burdened. I've got too many things to do. I can't handle all this stuff. He said: Good, come to Me.} ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find {say this with me—ready?} rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

Oh, sweet music to my ears! You're not going to be anxious. You're not going to be burdened down. You're not going to have that long list of to-do stuff that you can never get to. We're going to find that we are living life in harmony and in rhythm with the will of God that Jesus Christ wants to live out inside of our lives.

I'm going to tell you what; if we're not productive in our society we think: Well, that can't be good. So we feel guilty about it and we go and we find more things to do so that we can prove our value and prove our worth. I'm going to tell you: You are more worthy and valuable than you can ever possibly know—not by what you do, but because of what has been done for you—because God so loved you that He sent His Son to die for you [*John 3:16* (paraphrased)] and nothing can give you any more value than that. We need to stop trying to prove our value with our productivity and we need to do what Jesus said.

The word *yoke* simply means—it was that piece of wood or metal that holds two oxen together. The reason they did that is so that they would walk in rhythm with one another so—

- One wouldn't be faster than the other (and)
- One wouldn't be slower than the other

They would have a tool to help them do their work better together because they were together.

Now, if we don't spend time with God; if we're not yoked or joined together with Jesus, then we're probably going a whole lot faster than we should; and we're probably doing a whole lot more than what we should be doing. Now, you study the life of Jesus and you will find that He was busy, but He was never hurried. Busyness is all this stuff out here that people want you to do. When you start listening to people, you're going to be in a hurry all the time, because they're going to put demands on you that you are not supposed to listen to. And that's what this world does.

In fact (this isn't going to come on the screen, but you need to jot it down) in *Mark, chapter 1*—some of my favorite Scripture about Jesus—I'm going to tell you: There's nobody else like Jesus—

- He's just different
- He's like us, but He's so unlike us (and)
- He lived life the way that God designed us to live life (and so)

At one time at the beginning of His ministry, He had cast out all of these demons. People were coming to Him and being healed; and word got around about how good and productive Jesus was. So His disciples get caught up in that and after a long day of ministry, this is what happens in *verse 35*:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house {Now how many of you all get up before dark? While it's still dark, you know what you do?—go to work. Don't you? Before Jesus went to work He did something that determined what His work would be; and this is what it was:} and {He} went off to a solitary place, where he {what?} prayed.

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

He prayed there and He said: Father, the day is before Me; it's getting ready to dawn. What is it that's most important that I should be doing today? Well, obviously His Father spoke to Him, because here's what His disciples did:

³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Mark 1:36-37 (NIV)

Now the language there is they are excited about the fact that everybody wanted a piece of Jesus. The words "looking for you" [are] used when somebody hunts down an animal. They are specifically watching and want you. And this is what Jesus—this is why I love Him so much. This is how Jesus responds—everybody wants You and everybody has needs and they're all looking for You—and here's what He says:

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else— {I love Jesus! Everybody wants Me; everybody—good, we're going to go somewhere else. Why?—here's what He says:} to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

Mark 1:38 (NIV)

If you don't know God's purpose in your life—

- You're going to do everything that people purpose for you (and)
- You are not going to have any time (and)
- You are going to be fried as an overdone egg (and)
- Relationally you're going to be out of sorts (and)
- Emotionally... (and)
- Spiritually... (and)
- Physically...

Because it's not your life any more; you're not living under the lordship of Christ.

Jesus demonstrated—

- Get up
- Pray: God, this is what's on my heart and life (and)
- God will give you clear direction on what to do

How's your schedule? Literally, how is your schedule?—well, it's really busy right now but in a month or so things will slow down. How many of you all have ever said that?—(I mean) I say it all the time and my wife's (kind of): Honey, when are we going to plan and go do something? Well, (you know) it's real busy right now, but it'll slow down pretty soon. I've been saying that for 30-some-odd years.

It's really busy right now. It's really busy, because I let it be busy. It's really busy for you, because you let it be busy. It doesn't have anything to do with God and value and productivity; it has everything (for us) to do with us listening to the wrong voices. We listen to the voice of the world and not the voice of God.

Here's what you do when you have too many things to do—you ready? You want to know how to do less things and get more done? Here it is—number one: Some things need to be shared.

TOO MANY THINGS TO DO

(1) SOME THINGS NEED TO BE SHARED

Moses is leading the children of Israel through the wilderness. If you learned anything about the Israelites, they're notorious complainers. Nothing is ever the way that they want it and they're always fighting with each other. And so Moses allows them to come to him every day and bring—

- Their complaints (and)
- Their problems (and)

- What they don't like (and)
- Their disputes (and)

His father-in-law Jethro shows up one day and he's watching this happen. He calls Moses to the side after one of these days and here's what he says:

¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. {You're doing too much Moses.} ¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone."

Exodus 18:17-18 (NIV)

Life is too heavy. You can't do it all. The Bible—look—here's Moses, whom the Bible says God spoke to like He never spoke to anybody else, like none of His other prophets; because Moses He spoke with face-to-face. Moses glowed when he came down from the mountain with the power and presence of God. But He said: Moses, you can't even handle it all.

What makes us think we can handle it all? Some things need to be shared. It might be you're totally willing to help other people, but you're not willing to let other people help you. If somebody came up to you and said: Hey I've got two hours of free time, can I help you? What would you tell them? Well, uh, well I don't know what to tell them. It's because you do it all. There are things that you are doing that you are not good at and you're suffering because of it.

Let me give you an example. I had a mechanical bypass at birth—that was a joke! (Obviously you had a comedy bypass at birth.) I had a mechanical bypass, which means I don't have the ability (that God gave some people) to fix things or put things together or read a schematic or those things that (you know) guys normally do. Something's wrong; it didn't happen with me. In fact, when I try to fix something, my wife comes in and says: Step away from the item now. She knows I will break things trying to fix the thing that's broken.

And so several years [ago], a guy here in our church said: Look, I want to help you. He said: I can fix things. In fact, his business is fixing things. He has a great business fixing things. Every now and then he calls and says: Hey Sal, is there anything that you need that I can help you with?

At first I just [said]: Well, you know, I hate to bother you.

And he said: You're not bothering me, I want to help.

[I said]: Well I don't—I know that you...

[He said]: Hey (you know) just—what is it?

I said: The garage door is broken and for a week my wife has had to lift it up and down.

He said: Well, I'll come over and fix that.

I said: (You know) I've got lights that are out that I don't—(you know) something's wrong—I put the bulb in (you know).

He said: I can do something about that.

And so every month or so he calls and says: You got anything for me?

So if you're here in this service and you're the guy I'm talking about, this weekend I developed a leak under my sink and the ice maker's not working, dude. So if you've got some spare time, call me, please—please. Now why would I say it?—because I can't fix that. And here is somebody that's said: I will do that for you.

There are some things in your life that need to be shared. Many of us are carrying the burdens on our own. It's just not those kinds of burdens, there are spiritual and emotional burdens that you're not made to carry on your own. You're made to live life in a community of people who are sharing your burdens with you; that when you get together you can pray and you can read Scripture and you can talk about your lives. And that helps you grow closer to God.

You need to decide: What are the things only that I can do? Everybody else can help share in these other things. I want to tell you this: you cannot handle your burdens alone. You need to let Jesus and others work with you to bear those burdens. That's what *Galatians* says [in] *chapter 6*. Listen to what he says:

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

There is nobody in this world that can do it all, including you [and] including me. All right, some things need to be shared and some things need to be stopped.

TOO MANY THINGS TO DO

(2) SOME THINGS NEED TO BE STOPPED

Now Jesus is going to His friend Lazarus' home. Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, lived in a home. They'd often open it and have Jesus over and minister to Christ and supported His ministry. So this one time they have a big dinner. You know how it is, ladies:

- You've got to make a big dinner.
- You know all of these people are coming over
- ...how the house has to look
- ...all of those things.

Well Martha is on that task. Now she's a little bit mad because her sister Mary isn't doing what she is doing—not helping her. So she goes and complains to Jesus. Basically, in a modern translation: Tell my lazy sister to get herself up and come over into the kitchen and help me. Here's what Jesus said:

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," ... "you are worried and upset about many things, {Can I get a witness on that?—I'm worried and upset about so many things.} ⁴² but only one thing is needed. {And your sister} Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."
Luke 10:41-42 (NIV)

In other words: Look, you've made some wrong choices, Martha. The time now is spent to be with Me; not to be cleaning up and worrying about a bunch of stuff that's only temporal.

You see, Mary made a choice. In fact that's what Jesus says, "Mary has chosen." You are doing what you do because you did it. Nobody came up to you with a blow torch and held it to your hiney and said: You'd better do it.

I have a friend; I was in his office years ago and I was telling him of all this worry and trouble and burdens and stuff that I had; and about the church and la-da-da-da [undisclosed details]. He stopped for a minute and said: Sal, listen. That blow torch that you feel on your hind-end right now, (he said) I just want you to turn around and look and see who is holding it. And you're going to find out, my friend, you're the one that's holding it to yourself. There are some things you just need to stop, because there's nothing that you can do. And you need to choose to trust God.

Martha could have chosen the same thing, but she chose to worry and to be troubled about things.

Fill in this blank—ready? If I only had more time I would...what?—Pray. Yeah, pray. What else would you do?—spend time with your family? What would you do if you had that blank? That's what God has been wanting you to do. But you have not made the choice to do that.

- I'd spend more time with my kids.
- I'd go to a *Life Group*.
- I'd volunteer somewhere.
- I'd write a book.
- I'd help coach my kid's *Little League*.

Something of value that God's placed on your heart and—you know what you say: When I get some time I'm going to do that.

You have the time but you're doing wrong things with the time. **You are choosing what is lesser rather than what is better.** We are doing what our sick world tells us to do and we're like rats in a maze with the rest of them that don't even know God. That's why both of you work your fingers to the bone so you can have stuff that you think is going to make you happy:

- A nicer car (and)
- A nicer home (and)
- A bigger pool (and)
- A nicer vacation

Those aren't wrong in and of themselves. But if that's what you're living for and is causing you your worry and your grief and your concern, choose smartly. Choose what God has for you.

I love what *Psalm 46:10* says, “Be still, and know that I am God” [repeated for emphasis].

Listen, if you’re a believer and you have not experienced a fresh touch from God in a while—

- [If] you have not experienced that intimacy and the power of God’s presence in your life
- If you’ve not experienced God doing some things that you could have never done on your own
- If you’ve not just experienced the joy of knowing your salvation and it’s been a long time

[Do] you know why?—because you don’t have time for God. You say He is important, and I say He is important, but our actions show differently.

That word [translated] “be still” is the word *raphah* [pronounced raw-faw’] in the Hebrew language. [Do] you know what it means?—to slacken, to allow to sink, to let drop. The modern translation: Drop it! Drop it, there are some things that need to be stopped. There are some things that need to be dropped.

Look at your to-do list. Have you ever had a to-do list that actually got smaller? If you did have a small to-do list that day—I guarantee you—the next day magically more stuff jumped on it. The more that list got going, the more things got added to it. Your list always accumulates. Your responsibilities accumulate. We add, we add, we add, and we rarely subtract.

So let me give you a new list and this will free you up—you ready?—it is your to-don’t list. This is **my to-don’t list**; number one is: not to get a long to-do list. There are some things I’m not going to do anymore because there are more important things. I’m going to quit choosing the lesser and I am going to choose the greater.

What do you need to add to **your to-don’t list**? I’m going to stop doing some certain things so that I can start doing these things—

1. I’m going to start building into the lives of my kids the importance of God and not the importance of other things that the world says are important.
2. Maybe we’re going to get a smaller home,
3. Maybe we’re going to just cut down on the number of cars that we own.

Or whatever it is that we have to do so there is some sanity inside of our family again and we’re not driven by the value of this world.

TOO MANY THINGS TO DO

(3) EVERYTHING NEEDS TO BE SURRENDERED

Everything needs to be surrendered. *Psalm 62:1 [NIV]* let’s say the first part of this verse together—ready? “My soul finds rest in God alone...”

Stop, stop; that was good. I just wanted you to do that first part. Do you know why? It doesn’t say:

- My soul finds rest in a promotion.
- My soul finds rest in more to do.
- My soul finds rest in a nicer home.

- My soul finds rest when my kids are number one at their sport.
- My soul finds rest when I have nicer clothes.
- My soul finds rest when I have a vacation.

No, "My soul finds rest"—where, Church?—"in God alone."

The one thing that we don't make time for is the one thing that could only take care of all of this other anxiety and time stuff that we have in our lives. Salvation only comes from God.

Psalms 55:22 [NIV], "Cast your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you..." Peter puts it this way: Place "all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." [*1 Peter 5:7 (NRSV)*] That word ["cast"] is *shalak* [pronounced shaw-lak in Hebrew] which means: cast or hurl, to throw. We need to take that which burdens us and throw it onto God; but most of us don't.

It's kind of like the story of the guy walking down the road with a 50-pound sack of potatoes on his shoulder walking from farm to market. And a guy in a pickup truck comes by and he sees him. He says: Hey you want a ride? Why don't you jump in the back?

So the guy has the sack of potatoes on his shoulder, he gets back in the pickup truck and he's sitting on the rail of the pickup truck. The guy who's driving keeps looking back and this guy still has this 50-pound bag of potatoes on his shoulder. So he slows down and he opens up the [sliding window]—you know the pass-through [window]—and says: Hey, why don't you put those potatoes down?

He says: Oh I couldn't do that. You were so nice to give me a ride; I don't expect you to carry my potatoes as well.

Now we do the same thing. Oh God, You were so gracious to save me, I'll take care of this. You can't take care of that—you can't.

- Your anxiety tells you: I can't take care of that.
- Your busy schedule tells you: I can't take care of that.
- Your lack of rest says: I can't take care of that.

But you go around with this false belief that God won't put anything on me that I can't handle. Yes He will; so He can prove to you: You can't handle it all. You weren't designed to handle it all. His design [was] for you to come to Him to allow Him to minister to you and to allow others to minister to you.

Earlier on I said look, those of us who are stressed and overwhelmed raise their hands—remember that? Let's all raise our hands again—we're stressed and overwhelmed—ready? Okay, so this is the take-home point—ready?—here it is: **What radical change are you going to make so you're not stressed and overwhelmed?** What are you going to do? Because if you don't do anything, when you walk out of here, you're still going to be stressed and you're still going to be overwhelmed. Now it's not small changes that need to happen because you're smart enough to know about small changes; and you would have made them by now.

There are some radical things that you need to do. What is it?

- Is it job related?

- ...family related?
- Is it money related?

Do you just need to get out of debt and quit spending money so you both don't have to work yourselves frazzled so there's no time for the kids when you get home?

Do you need to adjust what you're doing with your kids and show them what the important values in life are? It's not everything you see and touch and what you can do physically, but it's spiritually—it's about character; it's about serving. Are you showing your kids this is how you serve? Do you actually serve somewhere; or do you need to make a radical choice?

Some of you have not even been baptized yet. What are your kids going to think about that? They're going to think that church is a joke; because that's the way we treat it. Radical changes need to be made.

Now I love what Jesus said and I'm going to remind you again.

You know what?—some of you do too much at church (by the way). You do too much at church and you're burned out and you're angry because of it. And you're hurting people more than you're helping people. If you're serving somewhere; if you're serving in too many places and all you can do is be negative and critical, you are just as guilty as the rest of us. You're doing too much. Back off—

- For your sake
- For the sake of the church
- For the sake of your family
- For the sake of your kids

Just back away—you know what?—other people need to serve; but they can't if you won't.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and {heavy} burdened..." That's the majority of us. Come to Me, all of you who are weary and heavy burdened—when we do that, Jesus will show us: these are the things you need to make—if you raised your hand a minute ago with me, I'm telling you that we need to make change in our life. But the only one Who can change us is Jesus; that's why He said, "Come to me." If you've had enough of yourself, "Come to me," and I'll give you a life that's worth living.

So let's make a commitment to Jesus today. I'm going to pray for us. I'm going to pray for those of us who are believers: that we would make a commitment to make major changes in our lives so that we choose the right things and we're not burdened down with all of this stuff and anxious about everything. Then I want to pray for those of us that need to come to Jesus for the first time and give your life to Him. So would you bow your head and close your eyes with me as we pray?

Father, speak to us. Make us different. God, help us to recognize we're not of this world. And so God, we don't want to live for this world. I pray that we would be overcome with Your truth, Your values; that we could live in such a way that would honor You. God, I pray that You would shake us so

that we could see Jesus make some changes in our lives that would better honor Him.

If you're here today and that's your heart's desire and you are a believer, silently pray this prayer with me as I do aloud, and it goes like this:

I want to be yoked to You Jesus. I want to do life according to Your rhythms. I recognize something's not right and I want to seek You for the direction of change that You want to make in my life.

If you just prayed that prayer would you just—as our heads are bowed and eyes closed—will you just raise your hand [saying:] I just prayed that prayer. God bless you. God bless you. God bless you.

You know what? That's about a tenth of the hands that were raised that said: I am overburdened and anxious. That is why I am telling you, if you are not serious about God today, you will walk out of this place and you will not be different. And you will be anxious again, overburdened, overwhelmed and not good for yourself, to God, or anybody. Do you see how difficult it is without Jesus to make that change? And how pride slips into our lives?

So Father, I pray that each one of us [who] struggle with pride, that You would just continue to break us; because obviously we're not ready yet to come to You to have rest and to be unburdened. So I pray for my brothers and sisters [who] can't do that Lord, that You would be gentle with them until they come to the point where they are broken before You.

And there are some of you this morning [who] have never-never-never known Jesus personally. Oh, you know about Him and you come to church every now and then, and you hear about Him. But you've never made a true commitment that's actually changed your life.

- You've added Jesus to your life (or)
- You have come to church (and)
- You know a little bit about the Bible

But you don't know Jesus personally, and today you need to do that. You need to come to Him. Because our problem is sin and if we do not take care of the sin problem, then we don't know God. And the way God has designed to take care of the sin problem is that He sent His son Jesus to die for us so that you can be born all over again without that sin problem. That's what it's called: *becoming a believer* and *a follower of Christ*. If that is you, I want you to pray this prayer. As I do aloud, you do silently, and it goes like this.

Dear Jesus, I'm not at rest today, but I want to be at rest. And so I ask You to forgive me of my sin, to cast all my sin away, to make me brand new, help me live a supernatural life and hear from You, Lord. Would You take my life over? Will You be the leader and Lord of my life? And I'm asking You to do that because You want me to.

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, just lift your hands up real high, let me know you did that—God bless you. Yeah, all over the room—God bless you. Thank you, you can put them down.

And Father, thank you, God, that this can be a place where we can say to You and we can say to one another: I'm struggling there and I need some help. And we can pray and You'll hear our prayer. And I thank You for those who raised their hand just a moment ago and said: I need to give my life to Jesus and they prayed that prayer.

And as Kris [Harrison, *Kids Lead Pastor*] comes in a moment to lead us in our next steps, help them to follow through, Lord. And as a church, help us to do the things that You only want us to do with You as we are yoked together. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Lead Pastor: Dr. Sal Sberna

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

Sermon Transcript Ministry
resource@TheMETonline.org

**But people are counted as righteous,
not because of their work, but
because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.**

Romans 4:5

(New Living Translation, 2004 edition)

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*