

**Left Behind**  
**Matthew 26:57-68**  
Pastor Peter Hiett  
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[A movie clip is shown from Left Behind.]

[Buck is on an airplane and notices an elderly woman in distress.]

Buck: “Ma’am, is everything okay?”

Woman: “It’s my husband. He’s disappeared.”

Buck: “You know what, I bet he just slipped off to the restroom while you were asleep.”

Woman: “Would you mind checking, please?”

Buck: “Okay. Sure.”

Woman: “And take this? [She hands him a blanket.]”

Buck: “Ma’am?”

Woman: “I think he’s gone off naked.”

Buck: “I’ll be right back.”

Buck checks in the restroom, and no one is there.

[Elsewhere in the plane... ]

A younger woman: “Honey, have you seen the kids?”

Husband: [Groggily replies... ] “I’m sleeping.”

Younger woman: “Where are they? [Starting to panic... ]  
Where are my kids?”

[All over the plane people begin looking for loved ones in a panic.]

[Next scene: Outside of a school there’s pandemonium as people are looking for their children.]

Panicked woman: “My baby! No! My baby... did you see him? He was in his car seat. His clothes are there, but he’s gone!”

[Back to the scene on the plane. Everyone is panicking.]

Pilot: “We are at 37,000 feet. Nobody just walked off this airplane. If I can get you to just take your seats, we’ll handle your problems one at a time. Please. [To flight attendant] We have got to get these people back into their seats. Start emergency procedures.

Flight attendant: “What happened? Rayf, I’m scared.”

Pilot: “Just do it. I need you to do it.”

Pilot: [To Air Traffic Controller] “May Day, May Day. This is Pancon Heavy 907. May Day. Greg, what is going on?”

ATC: "Concord 5701 I assume you're missing passengers, too?"

Pilot: "That's affirmative, Concord. What's going on?"

ATC: "I don't know, but it's everywhere."

Pilot: "Say again."

ATC: "Lost air traffic controllers, missing flight crews. Flights down all over."

[Next scene: Many people in the airport are watching a television broadcast reporting on the disappearances.]

News anchor: "Black or white. Rich or poor. Both here and abroad. The death of the president adds to the list of world leaders lost or missing. Nicholae Carpatheon..."

Nicholae: "The phenomenon, unfortunately, appears to be worldwide. While nations deal with the chaos within their borders, the U.N. has taken a leadership role in stabilizing the world. At this time, we do not know how many have disappeared. But what we do know now is that peace is paramount. We must help our neighbors, forget our differences, and we must do it now."

Well, even though the President of the United States mysteriously vanished, don't listen to that U.N. dude telling you to "help your neighbor" 'cause he's the antichrist. Those are scenes from the movie Left Behind.

Those folks you saw in the clip have been "left behind." Left behind to endure the 7 year tribulation until

Christ returns to establish His kingdom on earth such that “all authority not only in Heaven but on earth will be granted unto Him.” Such that the prophecies will be fulfilled.

Psalm 110, “The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand.” For Jesus will sit at the right hand of power as prophesied in Psalm 110. The Son of Man will come on the clouds of Heaven unto the Ancient of Days and receive glory, power, and dominion just as Daniel prophesied. Then Christ will reign on earth with resurrected saints in a reconstructed Jerusalem for a thousand years.

Then after the thousand years, God will raise all the bad people so He can judge ‘em and damn ‘em with the second death. Well, whatever you think, it’s clearly a drag to be “left behind.”

Once, on vacation in California, we left Coleman behind at a Lucky’s grocery store. What a nightmare. I still remember my pre-schooler in the rearview window, running after the mini-van. His entire life was leaving him behind.

We’re all afraid of being “left behind.” I bet that’s why we’re so into fashion, politics, current events, the news... We need to know what’s happening in the world so life won’t leave us behind.

I wonder if the Israelites were scared of being “left behind.” They were a pilgrim people (always seemed to be moving). That’s what the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles was about. That’s what the Passover was about: God liberating them from the Egyptians. Whoever didn’t place the blood of the Passover lamb on their door was, like, left behind (they were either dead or their firstborn was dead).

Immediately after the Passover came the exodus. The Lord led them in a pillar of cloud and fire, a glory cloud. The Lord would come to them in a cloud and lead them. He was leading them to a promised land, a kingdom. But even so, prophets like Daniel prophesied this, like, eternal kingdom—not a thousand years, but forever.

Well, they were a pilgrim people, and you didn't want to get left behind, though at times it was tempting... tempting to go back to Egypt, the world they knew.

They were a pilgrim people. Even the temple was originally designed to be mobile. It was a tabernacle (a tent). When Israel would stop, that glory cloud would rest over the tabernacle and sometimes it would enter the tabernacle. In Jerusalem they built the stone tabernacle (the temple). When they dedicated that temple, the glory cloud came and entered the temple.

Well, it's fascinating to read in 2 Samuel how God got perturbed with King David over the idea of building that stone temple to replace the traveling temple (the tabernacle). He tells David that He Himself or this mysterious "Son of David" will build His temple, and the throne of this "Son of David" will last forever.

I wonder if the temple He builds is mobile or made of stone. 'Cause God gets really perturbed at David over that stone temple idea all because He likes to "move about" with His people. I mean, it's like *God* is scared of being left behind.

Once Jesus was "left behind." Remember? His family had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover. On the way home Joseph looks into the rearview mirror, and they realize they lost Jesus.

That's big, losing the Messiah.

For three days He was lost, and then on the third day... *the third day*, they found Him in the Temple (acting like He owned the place).

Well, I've read 8 or 9 books from the Left Behind series, yet I found this book Right Behind even more interesting than Left Behind. In Right Behind, people that are raptured keep their clothes as long as it's 100% cotton. However, appendices are left behind as well as dentures, breast implants, and nose jobs.

It clears up the child thing, as well. As a newsman reports, and I quote,

As you can see in this home video clip, only the child who is actually celebrating his birthday remains. He is the oldest child at the party and is turning twelve. All the eleven year olds were gone in a twinkling, including the one falling out of the tree in the background. Experts have explained this particular age discriminatory phenomenon as something called "the age of accountability." Apparently, the eleven year olds were unaware of the consequences to their sin, while now that the birthday boy is twelve he is tried as an adult and gets to stick around for the Tribulation.

Well, Left Behind and Right Behind express a particular view of the end of the age. A particular form of dispensational premillennialism<sup>1</sup>. Very popular today, yet

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<sup>1</sup> Pre-millennialism—which is the belief that Christ will return prior to a 1000 year reign on earth was the position of some of the early church fathers. It didn't include a pre-trib rapture and all the emphasis on the

it's interesting to discover that this idea of a pre-tribulation rapture is nowhere to be found in all of church history until sometime after 1830 in the writings of a fellow named John Darby.<sup>2</sup>

It's presented as the only Biblical option, but the Catholic church, the Orthodox church, and most protestant denominations reject it, and almost all of the church fathers and great theologians never even heard of it, let alone endorsed it. That doesn't mean it's not true, but maybe we can ask questions.

Well, we can argue various theologies and what they mean, but we can each testify to what they mean to us (their effect on our heart). I don't know about you, but a lot of that Left Behind, Late Great Planet Earth, Omega Code kind of stuff, and all those end time DVD's you find on the cheap rack at Wal-Mart, they make me feel:

1. Like *Jesus isn't here* 'cause we're waiting for His glorious and powerful arrival.
2. *His kingdom isn't here* 'cause He hasn't yet received it.
3. And so, *He's not in control* 'cause we're waiting for Him to take authority in the millennium.
4. And *He's mean*.

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nation of Israel. Millennialism was condemned as superstition at the third ecumenical council at Ephesus in 431 A.D. (Millennial Maze, Stanley Grenz, p.44)

<sup>2</sup> Augustine taught that it was unbiblical and carnal — that is worldly. (Millennial Maze, Stanley Grenz, p.60)

Jesus in gospel movies is nice, and Jesus in end times movies seems mean... like His character changed to unfair, capricious, and mean.

I mean, eleven year olds get in, twelve year olds get the great tribulation. And to get in you need to understand bizarre eschatological details, avoid strange tattoos and decipher weird Bible prophecies<sup>3</sup>.

And above all you gotta pay a lot of attention to the details of this world's global politics, especially in the nation state of Israel.

You see, it's this whole eschatological scheme that led Pat Robertson to say, "Ariel Sharon had a stroke because he withdrew troops from the Gaza strip." Never mind that he showed mercy, willing to bleed for love, as if "blessed to be a blessing." That Jesus seems capricious and mean.

When I was a teenager, I figured the end times stuff was designed for scaring teenagers in order to keep 'em in line. Some adult was always saying, "You sure wouldn't want Jesus to catch you doing that when He comes back."

I was a youth director in California and when there was a lull at group, my assistant and I found that humor and fellowship could always be found with a little bad gas.

My pastor boss disagreed.

He confronted me in our staff meeting about the moral implications of passing gas at the beach and then laughing about it.

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<sup>3</sup> "Those that had relegated this kind of teaching to the literalists, fundamentalists, the close-minded evangelicals had been left behind." (Tribulation Force [second book of Left Behind series], p. 67)



Red in the face after intense theological debate, he finally exclaimed, “Well I certainly wouldn’t want to be doing that when Jesus comes back.”

I froze. I didn’t know what to say. I thought, “Well, wasn’t He there? Doesn’t He know about my gas? And if I lived in fear of His coming back when I have gas, I could develop serious digestive issues.” I better discern the signs of the times before I eat foods high in fiber, and why would the early church say, “Come, Lord Jesus. Maranatha.” ‘Cause I’m not sure I want Him to come. He’s scary, and He freaks me out. Like the bumper sticker says, “Jesus is coming back and boy is he pissed.”

Well, fear may have its place for

“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom,”

yet

“Perfect love casts out fear”

and

Jesus is the manifestation of love.

He is the embodiment of wisdom.

So you might fear Him from a distance (or if you were blind) but if He came,

and if you truly saw,

*wouldn’t that vision of love cast out fear?*

That’s all confusing. Let’s look at our text. For the last six chapters in Matthew, Jesus has been talking about:

- The destruction of the temple.
- The coming of the Son of Man.
- The close of the age.

In our last sermon, we preached on the two swords:

The sword of steel that can cut flesh  
(which Jesus tells Peter to put away).

The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God,  
who is Jesus, which is body broken and blood  
shed, which is God's mercy, which can cut to  
the division of soul and spirit, setting captives  
free into the eternal kingdom of our Lord.

Matthew 26:57,  
*Then those who had seized Jesus led him to  
Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes  
and the elders had gathered. And Peter was  
following him at a distance, as far as the  
courtyard of the high priest, and going  
inside he sat with the guards to see the end.  
Now the chief priests and the whole Council  
were seeking false testimony against Jesus  
that they might put him to death<sup>4</sup> but they  
found none, though many false witnesses*

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<sup>4</sup> The charge they were looking for was blasphemy. For Leviticus 24:16 says blaspheming (Nowkawb) the Lord merits death. Blasphemy means to curse. Literally, "to pierce" or "pierce through." In a few hours they will literally pierce Jesus, the Messiah and curse Him with a cross. Nowkawb (blaspheme, curse, pierce) can also be translated "express" or "name." Hebrew is a very fluid and colorful language. So Isaiah 62 states, "For Zion's sake [for Jerusalem's sake] I will not keep silent till her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see . . . and you will be called by a new name." In Hebrew a new Nowkawb, a new blasphemy or "piercing through." The church—Israel of God—is identified as all those who confess to piercing the Messiah on a cursed cross. That's what you say when you say He died for my sins.

*came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'"*

They were false witnesses for they were false, but what they said was pretty true. In John 2:19, Jesus says,

Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

In Matthew, Jesus has just finished prophesying the destruction of the stone temple and the signs preceding it. In three days, the new temple of His body will raise. On Pentecost the glory cloud will fill that temple. Paul practically explodes in 1 Corinthians 3:16, saying "Don't you get it?"

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

As 1 Peter teaches us, not only are we "A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" but we are "His temple built not with human hands."

And if that's the case, why do we get so worked up over stone temples in the desert in Palestine? Maybe because we don't believe the Word of God but believe our five senses:

empirical reality,  
carnal reality,  
politics,  
power,  
and earthly glory.

We value steel swords and worldly kingdoms, and we scorn the kingdom of the heart and the power of the

Word that cuts.

*And the high priest stood up and said,  
 "Have you no answer to make? What is it  
 that these men testify against you?" But  
 Jesus remained silent. And the high priest  
 said to him, "I adjure you by the living God,  
 tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of  
 God." Jesus said to him, "You have said  
 so." [How have they said so? Well, maybe  
 with that temple talk. For the Messiah would  
 receive the kingdom, build the temple and  
 "purify the sons of Levi."] Jesus said to him,  
 "You have said so. But I tell you, from now  
 on you will see the Son of Man seated at the  
 right hand of Power and coming on the  
 clouds of heaven."*

"From now on..."

That's not just a verb tense, and the Greek is clear

"Apo arti"

"from now"

You know, you take the Bible literally,  
 not empirically.

You take it spiritually,  
 not carnally.

You take it on faith  
 and not by sight.

You believe the Word  
 before you believe CNN,

And I think you would conclude that at that moment, *now*,  
 Jesus was *"seated at the right hand of power and coming*

*on the clouds of heaven.*” And they were seeing it, even if they couldn’t perceive it.

It’s like Jesus already said in Matthew 13,

Indeed in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this peoples heart has grown dull.”

So, if we take the Bible literally, Jesus was seated at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven on Passover Friday, along about 33 A.D.

Holy Schnikey, have we been left behind?

Like Caiaphas, have we seen and not seen?

Have we heard and not heard?

Caiaphas and the Jews didn’t see because  
 they were only willing to see a messianic kingdom  
 in an earthly Jerusalem  
 in an earthly Israel  
 where they’d rule alongside the Messiah  
 with worldly glory  
 and worldly power,  
 expelling the infidel Rome  
 from their worldly kingdom.

So they saw but didn’t see, and heard but didn’t hear... Love (who stood in their midst). They were blind and so I guess they were left behind.

*Then the high priest tore his robes and said,  
 “He has uttered blasphemy [Blaspheme in*

Hebrew literally means to “pierce through”].  
*What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”*

They blasphemed the Lord and pierced Him through. The penalty for that is death and yet He was dying *for them in their place* in order that they would see His love... and not be left behind.

Remember this is the Passover.

Immediately following the Passover comes the exodus. You cannot follow the Shekina glory (the glory cloud) if you can't see the glory. Maybe the glory of God is revealed at the cross, and the power of God is released at the cross. And maybe we don't know what glory and power really are.

Listen again to what He says to Caiaphas v. 64  
*“From now on you will see the son of man seated.”* Over and over the New Testament says Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

In John 12, Jesus said,

“The hour has come for the son of man to be glorified. Now is the judgment of the world, now is the ruler of this world cast out and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all men to myself.”

He was talking about being lifted on the cross, writes John. It's as if lifted on His cross, He is lifted on to God's throne.

In Revelation 5, all of heaven suddenly sees a Lamb standing on the throne of God as if it has been slain and all heaven worships. He was taking His place on the throne that day, in front of Caiaphas. But Caiaphas couldn't see the glory of love. He was left behind. *"I tell you from now on you will see the son of man seated at the right hand of power."*

Maybe we don't understand glory or power.

As we've mentioned in the past, and Andrew spoke on just recently, scientists now say all things are like the vibrations of meaning on super strings that exist in at least twelve dimensions. So all material reality is best described as the manifestation of meaningful vibrations—that is a *word*, like a vibration on a string.

We find it revolutionary, shocking, disturbing... but our Bible said it all along. Jesus is God's Word—meaning, logos, reason—by whom and through whom all things were created and do exist. All it takes for some created thing to cease to exist is for, like, God to stop speaking—to hold His Word, not express it, not express Him, Jesus.

So I don't think the angels are impressed with the powers that impress us—power over earthquakes, armies, nations... power over matter.

Imagine if I was the creator and wanted to impress you with my power. So I make people. [Peter makes paper dolls.] Now I will demonstrate my power [Peter rips the dolls, crumples them up, jumps on them.]

Are you impressed with my power—  
power to destroy?

Yet, we say, “Jesus is coming back, then you’ll see  
His power. He’ll kick your butt.”

Well, is that the revelation of God’s power?

Imagine if I cut myself, bled into one of these paper  
dolls, and he came to life and grew in my image and loved  
me.

That would be power!

Scripture says the word of the cross is the power of God.

It’s the power of love  
the power to lay power down.

The power of the blood  
the power of God’s mercy  
the power of the Lamb  
the power to infuse us with Himself,  
(uncreated life) and make us in His image.

Caiaphas would not see the power of love (it was a  
foreign power). He would not see the power of love and so  
he was left behind.

*“I tell you from now on you will see the son of man  
seated at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds  
of heaven.”* That’s an absolutely explicit reference to  
Daniel 7 and a whole world of fulfilled Old Testament  
prophecy.

Daniel 7,

...and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man, and he  
came to the Ancient of Days and was  
presented before him. And to him was



given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
 that all peoples, nations, and languages  
 should serve him; his dominion is an  
 everlasting dominion, which shall not pass  
 away, and his kingdom one that shall not  
 be destroyed.

That Friday the Son of Man was receiving His kingdom  
 as He was beaten by the High Priest's servants  
 and hung on a cross  
 and bled His blood (His eternal life)  
 into creatures like you and me.

There He receives His kingdom and cries, "It is finished."  
 Finished.

Matthew ends with the resurrected Christ saying,  
 "All authority... [That word also means power.] All  
 authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me."  
 The Son of Man received His kingdom and Caiaphas and  
 the Sanhedrin *saw* but didn't *see*. They couldn't perceive  
 the kingdom of love, and so were left behind.

I wonder if we Americans are so enamored with  
 money, power, politics that we've lost our ability to see the  
 kingdom of love and so are left behind. The kingdom is  
 moving over the face of this globe. But do we see? Maybe  
 we've been left behind like the church of Laodicea to  
 whom Jesus says, "You say you're rich, prospered and  
 need nothing, not knowing you're wretched, pitiable, poor,  
 blind. I counsel you to buy salve to anoint your eyes that  
 you might see."

See what?

The kingdom...  
the kingdom of love.

All through Matthew Jesus has preached, "The kingdom of  
heaven is at hand."

It's made up of the poor and persecuted.  
It's like a grain of mustard seed,  
like leaven hidden,  
like treasure hidden in a field,  
like a net in the sea.

He gives us the keys,  
but tells us children enter  
and the rich have a terrible time.

It's like a wedding banquet,  
like a vineyard,  
where the last are first.

It's taken from the religious elite  
and inherited by those who love the King  
in the "the last and least of these His brethren."

He preaches the kingdom of heaven is hidden, yet at hand.

Then He gives us His life  
body and blood,  
dies on a cross  
for the sins of the world,  
conquering Satan, death, and hell.

Then He rises, saying,

“All authority in heaven and on earth  
has been given to me.  
Go... and lo, I am with you always  
even to the close of the age.”

So then we preach to the world, “One day the kingdom will come ‘cause one day Jesus will come and kick your tail, and then you’ll see. Then you’ll see the Son of Man, seated at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven. Then you’ll see.”

Maybe *we* don’t see now,  
and so maybe we’ve been left behind.

Now, Jesus *will* come with fire,  
and the fire is judgment.  
His cross is judgment.  
His blood is judgment  
judgment which is mercy  
that burns you or redeems you.

But even though we drink it,  
maybe we don’t believe it.  
Maybe we don’t see,  
so maybe we’ve been left behind.

But if we’ve been left behind, it’s not as if we can’t catch up. Paul tells the Thessalonians not to fear that the day of the Lord has already come (as if they missed their chance).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> In fact, Paul goes on to say that the antichrist will be destroyed with the breath of Christ’s mouth — like a word and “the manifestation

Jesus has come. Twice in Matthew He has said His parousia would be in “that generation,” and He told Caiaphas His coming was happening right then, from then on. So ever since that day, eternity is continually invading time.

One day time will end, and Jesus will come a last time, in time, for you and for all creation, but now Jesus is *still* coming, *still* receiving His kingdom. In eternity, it must be one event. In time, it must seem continuous.

*“From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”* That’s Daniel 7. He’s receiving His kingdom, and it’s not too late to avoid being left behind.

But you need to see

the glory of love,  
the power of love,  
and the kingdom of love.

You need to see Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

He is the glory in the cloud  
the One we follow to the new creation.

So, you need the eyes of your heart enlightened, unveiled. Apocalypse means revelation which means unveiling.

Revelation 1:7 says, “Look, He is [present tense] He is coming with the clouds.” Then the book describes how He is coming.

In Revelation 19, heaven is opened, the cloud parts, and behold He comes on a white horse and conquers the

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(epiphany revelation) of his Parousia.” He’ll be destroyed when He sees “Jesus has come.”

nations. In the heavenly realm, you would see this rider and a sword coming from his mouth. He is called “the Word.” And in this earthly realm (in flatland) you might only *hear* a word, but He is conquering the nations.

No greater power has ever been unleashed than the power unleashed that Friday. It’s the word of the cross—the Gospel, power of good unto salvation. If you don’t want to be left behind, hear that Word and speak that Word... the Word of the cross. Stop pursuing glory, power, and politics, and give a child a cup of water in Jesus’ name. Speak the Word. Tell your kids you love them. And the kingdom comes. Don’t get caught up in lesser things. Seek the kingdom.

In Revelation 14 an angel, a messenger like a Son of Man comes on a cloud and harvests the earth. In Matthew 24 Jesus said the Son of Man would come on the clouds with His angels to harvest the elect, in that generation.

So, in this earthly realm you might see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

In the heavenly realm you might see, the Son of Man harvesting grain, the fruit of the Spirit.

In this earthly realm you might see a man forgiving his enemy, a father bleeding for his son. You might see mercy.

In the heavenly realm you might see the Son of Man harvesting grapes and trampling the wine press of the wrath of God.

In this earthly realm you might see a beggar die and in the heavenly realm the Son of Man gathering the elect,

His very own body and blood, His wheat and grapes, His bread and wine, His body broken and blood shed.

If you don't want to be left behind maybe you should stop building survival bunkers and stone fortresses trying to protect yourself from great tribulation. Instead, let yourself be body broken and blood shed—let yourself be crucified.

At the end of the revelation, the New Jerusalem and temple descend to earth. It's made of people, and it contains the glory.

The gates of the city are always open, yet outside are the murderers, idolaters, and all who practice falsehood. They're left behind. They don't go in. Though the doors are always open, they don't go in.

Why don't they go in?! They must not be able to see the city of God—that is the kingdom of God, the kingdom of love.

Hebrews says that we've already come to the new Jerusalem. The whole New Testament says we *are* His temple. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor and persecuted, of such consists the kingdom."

If you don't want to be left behind maybe you better not leave "the last and least" behind. Who are the last and least? Iraqis, Jews, Palestinians? Would you kill the New Jerusalem to capture the Old Jerusalem? If you don't want to be left behind, don't leave Jesus behind. You will find Him in His temple.

I don't think I'll ever forget the story I heard Tony Campolo tell on several occasions. He was waiting for a small plane on a landing strip just outside the Dominican

Republic in Haiti. As he stood there waiting for his exodus a woman approached holding a baby. The baby was emaciated. The arms and legs hung limp. The belly was swollen four or five times its normal size.

She held up her starving baby and said, "Take my baby! Take my baby. Please, mister, take my baby. If you don't my baby will die. Take my baby!" He explained he couldn't, it's international law. But she still begged and pleaded. When the plane finally came, he ran to it. But the woman ran after him screaming, "Take my baby!" He jumped in and told the pilot to get him out of there. The woman ran alongside this piper cub, banging on the door, screaming, "Take my baby!"

Campolo says he was half way back to Porta Prince when he had a revelation... an apocalypse. Suddenly, the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 hit him, "In as much as you did it not to the least of these, you did it not to me." Suddenly he realized who was left behind... Jesus. He left Jesus behind on the runway.

Well, Jesus is the center. Jesus is the point. Jesus is the Word. Jesus is the light of the world. If all things are relative to the speed of light (like Einstein said), and Jesus is the light, it really wasn't Jesus that was left behind. It was Tony. He'd been left behind.

Yet Jesus is so gracious, He comes again and again and again. From that Friday forward, He's been coming on the clouds of Heaven. And the world is full of the sign of His coming—body broken, blood shed.

The question is,  
     though you see,  
         will you see the light?

Though you hear,  
     will you hear the Word?  
 Will you perceive  
     the glory of love,  
     the power of love,  
     the kingdom of love?

Several years ago a friend here at Lookout began to receive a progressive vision. It ended in November of 2000 during a service as I was preparing to preach on the Revelation. She saw Jesus sitting on the throne. His robe glowed with light. He appeared gentle, kind, and loving.

Then suddenly, she saw Him standing in the same robe, but now huge, standing in a field, ripe for the harvest. His eyes were like fire. He's the Son of Man.

She heard, "Jesus is pouring out His glory on all the earth. And He is asking Lookout to join Him. Some willingly enter His glory, some stand looking."

She saw people. She watched as some entered his robe of glory and others remained standing. She heard John 12, "Now glorified...now judgment...now I will draw all men to myself." Then Jesus drew her to himself, turned her around and showed her the faces of those who were left behind, looking.

She stammered, "They are blind. They have no sight. No eyeballs at all. Lord, give them sight."

Then she heard, "Those with eyes *will* see."

Would you like to see? Would you like the eyes of your heart enlightened? Jesus said He came to give sight to the blind.

So on that night at the Passover meal, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to the disciples



and said, "Take, eat. This is my body." And He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you for this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of the vine until that day I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Do you see  
     the glory of love,  
     the power of love,  
     the kingdom of love?

Then come to this table in faith and how could you be left behind? For  
     the glory fills His temple,  
     the power fills His temple,  
     the King fills His temple.

He is not distant.  
 His kingdom is at hand.  
 He's already conquered and is in control.  
 He is not capricious.  
 He is not mean.  
 He is love.  
 He is your Passover lamb, and  
 He is your exodus pillar of fire and cloud.

See Him and follow Him.  
 You won't be left behind.

Tear off a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup. Black cups are wine; purple cups are juice. They're both fire, judgment, love... the blood of the living God.

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Close your eyes wherever you are. Just close your eyes. Maybe you're stuck in that vision, and you feel left behind. You're thinking to yourself, "These people... they're singing about all this stuff, and I don't think I see anything. I don't think I hear anything."

Well, then would you just say this prayer quietly? You can whisper it, "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, I surrender my temple, and I want you to lead me."

Well, if you're like me, maybe you still feel stuck in that place sometimes. Maybe you think, "Other people see visions, and I don't see visions." I don't think I've ever seen a vision. Some people hear words, and you don't hear words.

Once in my life I heard some words. But you don't have to have words of knowledge.

So maybe you're standing there. You've been to the table. You prayed that prayer. Now let me ask you this, do you ever smell love? You think that's just an idea? Love is not an idea. It's a person. Turn that direction and start walking. He is giving you eyes to see

the glory of love,  
the power of love,  
the kingdom of love... your home.

In Jesus' name, believe the Gospel and go. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, teaching them all that I have commanded you, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them all I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always."

In Jesus' name, believe that. Amen.

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Relevant Texts and Quotations (from bulletin)

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’ ”

*Matthew 26:57-61 (ESV)*

Go and tell my servant David, “Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ . . . Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

*2 Samuel 7:5-7, 11b-13 (ESV)*

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

*John 2:19-21 (ESV)*

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

*1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)*

When the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD,

“For he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever,”

the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

*2 Chronicles 5:13b-14 (ESV)*

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. . . . And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. . . . Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

*Exodus 12:21, 13:21, 40:34-35 (ESV)*

And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

*Matthew 26:62-64 (ESV)*

I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages  
 should serve him;  
 his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
 which shall not pass away,  
 and his kingdom one  
 that shall not be destroyed.

As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. “These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.”

*Daniel 7:13-18 (ESV)*

(See also Daniel 2:31-45, 9:24-25)

What if literally from this moment on, while Jesus is being beaten down physically and spiritually, in mockings, scourgings, and trials, his opponents really do unwittingly see the Son of Man *in power*? What if “power” is redefined, as Jesus has been redefining it since his first acts of ministry—his baptism and temptations (3:13-17; 4:1-11)—as lowliness and suffering? Jesus’ claim to victory is validated in the very manner of his dying. . . . What appears as weakness and failure from a purely human perspective is recognized as authentic power from the perspective of faith.

*Donald Senior, The Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew*

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. . . . Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs [of them] is the kingdom of heaven. . . . Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs [of them] is the kingdom of heaven. . . . But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. . . . The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. . . . The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened. . . . The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of

fine pearls. . . . Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. . . . I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. . . . Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. . . . Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. . . . For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. . . . So the last will be first, and the first last. . . . Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. . . . The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. . . . But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. . . . Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. . . . Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . . . I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' . . . Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." . . . And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

*Matthew 4:17, 5:3, 5:10, 12:28, 13:31b, 13:33b, 13:44-45, 13:47, 16:19, 19:14b, 19:23b-24, 20:1, 20:16, 21:43, 22:2, 23:13, 25:1, 25:34-35, 26:29, 26:64 (ESV)*

Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

"You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive.  
For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed,  
lest they should see with their eyes

and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.”

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

*Matthew 13:14-17 (ESV)*

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

*Revelation 3:17-18 (ESV)*

Peter, This vision began appearing to me in mid October. From its inception I had the sense in the Spirit it was for Lookout Mountain Community Church. The vision kept repeating over the last 5 or 6 weeks, but I never sensed it was finished until Saturday night, 25 November 2000, during the worship time. . . . ~ Vision, Scene 1: Jesus is sitting on His throne. His throne is very simple with a brilliant inner glow. Jesus is covered and dressed in majestic splendor. . . . ~ Scene 2: The scene suddenly changes. Jesus is now standing. He has on the same robe. However, the liquid within the robe is moving at a faster pace. He becomes brighter, fuller and much larger. He now stands about the height of a ten-story building. As he spreads his arms out to the side, the robe increases in every direction. The liquid within the robe begins to flow out from his Presence. It covers all the area around him and continues to flow out. He is no longer in the throne room, but is now in the middle of an expansive field of wheat, and other grains, ready for harvest. Jesus' presence is no longer of a gentle nature. I hear the name Messiah. The tenderness in his face has disappeared. There is a powerful white-blue light radiating from his being. His eyes are a piercing red color. He is looking toward heaven as if he sees his Father. ~ This is where the repeating vision would end for several weeks. I kept asking, "Lord, What are you telling me?" ~ The answer I received was this, "Jesus is pouring out his Glory upon all the earth. And He is asking LMCC to join him." ~ My weeping response, "Where is

Lookout? Show me. Show me, Father.” ~ What I heard was: “Some willingly enter his Glory, some stand, looking.” ~ All I see are the backs of the congregation. As I watch, some enter into the colorful liquid robe-like Glory, but others remain behind, just standing like statues. ~ The verse I received was John 12:12-32: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. . . . Father, glorify your name. . . . Now is the time for judgment on this world. . . . But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself.” . . . ~ Scene 2 continues: Jesus is standing in the middle of the harvest field. This time he draws me to his side, turns me around and shows me the faces of those who remain behind. I am shocked as I stammer, “They are blind!” They have no sight! They have no eyeballs at all. Their eyeballs have been gouged out. Where eyes once existed are only caverns, holes of darkness! On the verge of nausea, I cry out, “Lord, will they ever be able to see? Lord, give them sight!” I hear, “Those with eyes will see!”

*Marcia Hinds, Vision received 15 October – 25 November, 2000*

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

*Revelation 1:7 (ESV)*

For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” . . . Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,



until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

*Matthew 16:27-28, 24:30-42*

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

*Revelation 14:14-20 (ESV)*

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

*Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)*

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Ephesians 1:17-23 (ESV)*

“Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

*John 12:31-33 (ESV)*

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

*Revelation 5:6 (NKJV)*

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

*Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)*

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