

When Jesus Goes to Sodom
Genesis 18
September 6, 2009
Peter Hiett

Song: "Smells Like Teen Spirit"

Load up on guns
Bring your friends
It's fun to lose and to pretend
She's overborne and self-assured
Oh no, I know a dirty word

Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello
With the Lights out it's less dangerous
Here we are now entertain us
I feel stupid and contagious
Here we are now entertain us
A mulatto an albino
A mosquito my libido
yay

I'm worse at what I do best
And for this gift I feel blessed
Our little group has always been
And always will until the end

Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello
With the Lights out it's less dangerous
Here we are now entertain us
I feel stupid and contagious
Here we are now entertain us
A mulatto an albino
A mosquito my libido
yay

And I forget just why I taste
Oh yeah I guess it makes me smile
I found it hard it's hard to find
Oh well whatever nevermind

Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?

*Hello, hello, hello, hello, how low?
Hello, hello, hello, hello
With the Lights out it's less dangerous
Here we are now entertain us
I feel stupid and contagious
Here we are now entertain us
A mullato an albino
A mosquito my libido
A denial*

You ever heard that song before?

Mom, have you heard that song? Yeah, I didn't know if you would.

Unless you are my Mom or totally out of touch with the 1990's you know that that song, "Smells Like Teen Spirit," really defined a generation. It was written and performed by 24-year-old Kurt Cobain. The album was "Nevermind." It sold 10 million copies and Cobain made something like \$550 million. Cobain spoke for hundreds of millions of young people in the United States of America when he sang "I feel stupid and contagious, here we are, now entertain us." You know Kurt Cobain had all the sex and drugs and alcohol he wanted. He had all the power and influence that he wanted. Power, money, fame, entertainment, licentiousness, avarice--the life style of Las Vegas and Sodom.

How do you feel about Kurt Cobain? Are you jealous? Do you think he should be punished, or both? You're jealous and so you'd like him to be punished. You know? He didn't have any more fun than you.

From our last sermon in Genesis you'll remember that in Chapter 18, three men come to visit Abraham and Sarah. Three men that are also angels or messengers and one of them is addressed as *Yahweh*, the Lord. He's the God-Man. Well, they inform Abraham and Sarah that the Promised One will soon be born.

Genesis 18:16-21 "Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom [*When I say the word "Sodom" what comes to mind? Probably all sorts of things, right?*] and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?" [*ALL the nations, well that would include Sodom and that's what the Lord is telling him.*] For I have chosen him [*literally, "I have known him"*] that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. [*Literally in the Hebrew "to see if they have made a complete end."* There is an end to their sin, to see if they have made a complete end.] and if not, I will know."

I will go down to Sodom. I'll get close and I'll see.

Well, what was the sin of Sodom? I hope you won't get offended at what I'm gonna show you. I'm just asking the question. What was the sin of Sodom? Was it this?

Clip: "The Awful Truth"

[People, presumably Christians, are holding up signs that say, "Ye are of your father, the Devil", "God still hates fags." Fred Phelps is seen in the crowd. An old RV careens around the corner. It is painted pastel pink and is plastered with pro-homosexual rhetoric and signs. Michael Moore calls it the Sodom-mobile.]

NARRATOR: Well I thought it was about time that Fred, my friends rode in the Sodom-mobile.

[Michael talking to Fred Phelps.]

MICHAEL MOORE: Well, we brought along, you know, some of our friends who are traveling across the country so you could talk to them. This is the Sodommobile. I thought you could come on board and give it a shot.

FRED PHELPS: No, I'm not comin' on board.

[People come out of the Sodom-mobile and approach Fred to talk to him.]

FRED PHELPS: Don't get too close or I'll have to call the po-lice on ya'.

[The occupants of the Sodom-mobile, obviously homosexual, began talking to Fred all at once and displaying affection towards each other.]

NARRATOR: I thought it was time for a free and open exchange of ideas

FRED PHELPS: You guys are headed straight for hell in a faggot's handbasket—there's no need to get this close

Well, I'm sorry about the word he used, but really that's nothing compared to the theology that he used. That was Pastor Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church having a run-in with Michael Moore and his Sodom Mobile. Now I did a lot of editing, but did you see some of those signs?

"God still hates. . . . They'll burn in Hell."

The first one said this: "You are of your father, the devil." John 8:44. I mean that's kind of an interesting verse for them to put on a sign. Cause in John 8:44, John isn't speaking to a group of professing homosexuals. He's actually speaking to a group of religious people that appear to be really ticked off that he just forgave a woman that was caught in the act of adultery.

Well, some seem to think the sin of Sodom was what we call sodomy. It's clear in the next chapter that something like that is what the men of Sodom want from these two Angel-Messenger guys and yet they also appear to want Lot's daughters. So you see it wasn't simply what they wanted, but that they

wanted to TAKE whatever they wanted. And that's rape. Sodomy is actually an English word, not a biblical word. The Bible uses the word "arsenokoitns" for acts of male homosexuality, but it really has nothing to do with the word "sodomy."

When scripture spells out the sin of sodomy, this is actually what it says. Okay, listen to this.

Exodus 16:40 "Behold this was the guilt of your sister Sodom. She and her daughters had pride, excess of food and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and the needy. They were arrogant, haughty, and committed an abomination before me."

They were proud and so they took what wasn't theirs to take, took it for themselves.

In the next chapter when the men of Sodom bang on Lot's door, they say this: "Bring out the men (the angel men) that we might know them, that we might know them, that we might KNOW them. I mean that's an interesting way to say it, isn't it? Does it remind you of anything, Eve? Take knowledge Eve, take, take, take, take the fruit of knowledge.

Check this out. God knows Abraham and it's righteousness, justice, and blessing. Eve and the Sodomites take knowledge and it's evil. It's pride. Well the lifestyle of Sodom is taking whatever you want. So like I was asking, are you jealous of Sodom, jealous of those who can just take whatever they want. Jealous of the self-indulgent, rich, and powerful. Constantly entertained. Are you jealous of Kurt Cobain? "I feel stupid and contagious, here we are, now entertain us." "And I forget just why I taste, oh yeah, I guess it makes me smile. I find it hard, it's hard to find, oh well whatever, never mind."

April 5, 1994, according to the coroner, Kurt Cobain stuck a shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. Are you jealous of him?

Do you think he should be punished? Or do you have compassion on 24-year-old Kurt Cobain?

Now I know what some of you are thinking, "Hey Peter, not every self-indulgent rock star gets depressed, sticks a gun in his mouth, and pulls the trigger." Yeah, that's right. I think Kurt Cobain was extra sensitive to reality.

1 Timothy 5:6 "She who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives."

Dead while she lives, but she must not know it.

Ephesians 4:19 "Having lost all sensitivity, they've given themselves over to sensuality."

You know, an addict denies their own addiction and traps themselves in hell, a living death. "A denial, a denial, a denial, a denial" --and you see I think Kurt Cobain kinda saw it.

And so do you have compassion?

Julian of Norwich (the medieval mystic) wrote this:

"I was shown no harder hell than sin, because for a well natured soul there is no hell, but sin. Sin is the sharpest scourge that any chosen soul can be struck with."

You know if you've ever really seen your sin, which I think I have maybe on two occasions in my life. If ever you have really seen your sin, you know it's hell, and you just want to get rid of it.

Bernard Shaw defines Hell like this: "Hell is where you must do what you want to do."

And that would mean Kurt Cobain and the men of Sodom, whose iniquity had reach completion, were not really in danger of going to hell. Why? Because they were already in it. And so if you're jealous of them perhaps you're jealous of hell or maybe you're in it somehow.

The Old Testament word that gets translated as "hell" is *sheol*. It begins here, even if extends into the grave. *Sheol* is the grave, the deep, the pit, the abyss. And get this, that's where Sodom was located. At the very lowest point on the entire face of our planet. The deepest valley, the deepest part of a valley, that runs from Mozambique to Syria. The great Rift Valley "where the continental plates are literally being wrenched apart and the valley floor is dropping into the depths of the earth."

Sodom was located 1,385 feet below sea level on the southern banks of the Dead Sea. Somewhere, out on that plain:



That's the valley floor, I took that picture from the ancient fortress Masada a few years ago.

Well God tells Abraham that he's gonna overthrow Sodom. No, I don't think that God is threatening Sodom with living death. And I don't think that God is threatening Sodom with hell. God is threatening death and hell with consuming fire. Eternal fire, Himself.

You know in the Old Testament, people try to hide in Sheol, Hell, to escape the fire. Yeah, one day, the whole earth will be flooded with fire and glory.

Well about 4,000 years ago, with a flood of fire, the Lord was fixing to destroy a family of the earth. And yet the Lord had known Abraham that in him "all the families of the earth would be blessed."

Genesis 18:22-23 "So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. *[Get the picture? The two angel guys turn and go towards Sodom and Abraham stands in the way of the Lord. The Lord God. Wow! That's big.]* Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked."

You know, Abraham doesn't doubt that wickedness needs to be destroyed. And if you've ever encountered a group of people saturated with wickedness, I mean murder and rape and constant self-indulgence, you know that annihilation can appear to be the greatest of mercy.

But Abraham asked about "the righteous" about the good, about preserving what is good.

We learned in the start of Genesis that man is dust. He's dust and ashes, but contains the breath of God. And isn't the breath of God good?

Well Abraham starts to argue with the Lord God.

You know, many of you were taught that God made a large group of men, perhaps most men, so that he could demonstrate his justice by punishing them forever in hell without end. And that seemed unjust to you. And so you began to argue. And so people said to you, "Who are you to question God?" Well, maybe you're the seed, the seed of Abraham, the child of Abraham. Because listen to this:

Genesis 18:24-26 [Abraham says,] "Suppose that there are fifty righteous within city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be it from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just? And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

That's kind of a wild thought, huh? That he'll spare the wicked for the sake of the righteous. And get this, God is into saving groups, even nations. It's like God and Abraham know that any truly righteous person could not be happy in heaven knowing that his neighbor, whom he loved, was forever tormented in hell.

Abraham wants wickedness destroyed! He doesn't want any more of it. He wants wickedness destroyed and yet he wants all of Sodom to be saved.

Genesis 18:27-33 "Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said (again), "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord get angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." And God answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it, and then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry."

[But I don't think the Lord is angry. I think the Lord is tickled pink over the strength of his breath in dust and ashes, he is named Abraham, Father of Nations.]

"Oh let the Lord not be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there. *[What if just 10 are numbered with the transgressors?]* And God answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place."

You know people wonder, “Why did Abraham stop at ten? Why didn’t he proceed on to one. Some people say, it’s because ten was the smallest Israelite social unit. I wonder though if Abraham just didn’t have enough faith to believe that God would spare an entire nation for just righteous man because that would have to be one pretty incredible righteous man. Right?”

Well you know, even if he proceeded to one, I don’t think the Lord would’ve found one at least not that day. The prophets, the psalmists, Solomon, Paul—they all agree: none is righteous no not one.

Jeremiah prophesies, “Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem. See if you can find a man that does justice and seeks truth that I may pardon her. “

Ezekiel prophesies “And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me, for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.”

Psalms 106:23 says that Moses “stood in the breach for Israel.” The story is found in Exodus 32 and it’s really an amazing picture if you study it. God is this unquenchable fire of righteousness that is love and he longs to dwell with us. He is the Sun and we are like snowflakes that he longs to hold. And so He must dwell in the sanctuary, the temple in Israel, behind the wall so we will not be incinerated by glory.

So when Moses stands in the breach, he protects Israel from the fire that is God. In Exodus 32, Moses argues with God like Abraham argued with God. In fact God told Moses: “Look Moses, I’ll just kill all of them and I’ll make a nation out of you, just you, Moses.” But Moses says to God, “Forgive them, God, or you can blot me out of your book. I don’t want to be saved unless they are saved with me.”

Romans 9, listen to Saint Paul, he writes “I could wish that I myself were accursed, God-damned and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen, my race.” And now he’s talking about the folks that crucified Jesus.

Could you wish to lose your salvation for the sake of Kurt Cobain? How about self-indulgent rich people that don’t care about anybody else? How about Michael Moore and the guys on the Sodom-mobile. How about Fred Phelps?

Genesis 18:33 “The Lord went his way....”

He’s got a different kind of way

Genesis 19:1-3 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth and said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant’s house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the town square.” [*‘The two messengers said,’--remember there were three*]. But Lot pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked them unleavened bread and they ate.

You know Jesus said “as you did it to the least of these, my brethren, you did it unto me” and if you did it not unto the least of these, you did it, did it not unto me.” Well Lot received them.

Genesis 19:4-5 “But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.”

They wanted to take knowledge like Eve took fruit from the tree of knowledge, like the religious leaders took our Lord's life on the tree in Jerusalem. You know at the cross, we wanted to know about God but not know God. I mean we wanted his things, not his heart. At the cross we took knowledge of him by trying to kill him on the tree. And there's a word for that, isn't there?

Genesis 19:6-8 "Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, and said "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. Behold I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you and do to them as you please."

Now you see, Lot is not exactly the paragon of virtue, is he? And yet God saves him because of Abraham. God rescues Lot and his family. The angels take them out of the city.

Genesis 19:23 "The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the Lord reigned on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven."

The fire came from heaven. Maybe it is heaven, maybe it's God. You know scripture says "that our God is a consuming fire." And Scripture also says that the Lord alone has immortality, eternity. Jude 7 says Sodom suffered judgment of eternal fire.

Revelation 20:14 (listen to this) "Then death and hell were thrown into the Lake of Fire. 21:4: And death shall be no more. Death shall be no more.

But what about Sodom? You've got a Bible. You know Jesus clearly taught in several places that Sodom would be there on judgment day. And not only that, it would go better for Sodom on that day than for Capernaum, his home town. Than for any town that rejected his gospel, his good news, and that would include Jerusalem.

You know I hear religious types, like Fred Phelps, rippin on places like Sodom and into Sodomites as if Sodom was the worst byword in the book and I think "Don't you read the book? Don't we religious people read the book? Do we religious types pay attention at all? Or are we just too proud?"

Listen to Ezekiel 16: God is speaking to Jerusalem, His bride, his chosen, and this is what he said,

Ezekiel 16:47-57 "Jerusalem, not only did you walk in their ways and do according to their abominations; within a very little time you were more corrupt than they in all your ways. As I live, declares the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done."

[Did you get that? There are sins that are worse than other sins, and Jerusalem's sins are worse than Sodom's.]

Behold this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were arrogant and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it. Samaria has not committed half your sins.

[Samaria is Samaritans; We're talking about Sodomites and Samaritans.]

And I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters, and I will restore your own fortunes in their midst..."

[Did you get that? God says: "Jerusalem, will redeem Sodom and I will redeem Samaria, and then I will redeem you in their midst." Why in their midst, why?]

That you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all that you have done, becoming a consolation to them. As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters shall return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former state, and you and your daughters shall return to your former state. Was not your sister Sodom a byword in your mouth in the day of your pride, before your wickedness was uncovered?"

Pride! Isn't that the sin of Sodom? Isn't that real sodomy, spiritual sodomy? And who is Jerusalem? Well, gosh, we're Jerusalem, right? Becoming the New Jerusalem. And so you're saved but does it upset you that Sodom just might get saved? Why? That's a really, really great question. Why? Perhaps you don't have compassion for Sodom, cause secretly you're jealous of Sodom.

Well, let's be honest. Sometimes, I'm definitely jealous of Sodom. I mean I'd like to indulge in all I want, take all the power that I want, take all the naked women that I want, take all the drugs and alcohol I want, and yet all I want traps me in what I don't want and that is hell.

You see, I'm saying, that when I'm jealous of Sodom, I'm jealous of hell and maybe a bit trapped in hell because I'm losing sight of heaven. Heaven is giving not taking. It's being blessed and being a blessing. It's grace. Heaven is love and God himself is love and God is the good. He's the good I really want, but can't take. And yet he gave. God saved me when I could not save myself, when I was dead. God saved me when I was dead. That's grace.

Perhaps you don't have compassion for Sodom cause you think that you save yourself and you see that's not grace. So perhaps you don't have faith in grace and God is grace which means you don't have faith in God.

So maybe you aren't saved but trapped in hell, confusing hell with heaven. I mean why would we want to put an end to grace. Why would we desire limits on love when God himself is love. Why wouldn't you want Sodom to be saved?

"Well, Preacher, if Kurt Cobain and Sodom get saved, if sinners get saved, then why the hell am I being good? I mean then you're telling me I was good for nothin'."

Well you see, if you thought that you were good for somethin', good for some reason, well then you weren't good for good. You were good for bad, which means you were never good. In fact you don't even love the good, you hate the good. You only use the good to get the bad. You use the good and God is the good.

You know in Sodom, they used people to indulge themselves. It's called rape. But in Jerusalem, they used God. In Sodom they take people for themselves. In Jerusalem they take God and use Him for their own purposes, even hate. They use God to get his stuff. They crucify the king in order to take his kingdom, but the kingdom without the king is not the kingdom of love, not the kingdom of God, it's the kingdom of hell. Spiritual Sodom even here, even now.

Ezekiel 16:60-63 “Yet [*says God*] I will remember my covenant with you [*Jerusalem*] in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the covenant with you. I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord God.

Jerusalem, when you see how I pay for your sin, you’ll shut your mouth, and you’ll receive your sisters, and then you’ll have compassion on Sodom.

Have you ever seen how God has atoned for you? Well this is how you will know: by how you treat your sisters: Sodom, Kurt Cobain, self-centered rich people, the last and the least. How you treat Pharisees. Even how you treat Fred Phelps. Spiritual Sodomites.

I really need to tell you, I’m not well studied in this area, but I do think the testimony of scripture is that “arsenahoites” sex between men is a sin. But you see there is a sin far worse than what we call sodomy and that sin is despising Sodomites, despising sinners—that’s spiritual sodomy. It’s taking grace as your own private possession.

Well Sodom is destroyed and yet Sodom is made new.

Sodom is redeemed according to Ezekiel. I don’t know how else to read the scriptures. I mean I really don’t. And if Sodom is redeemed, there’s only one Redeemer that would redeem them. There is only way. If Sodom is redeemed, the God-Man must’ve finally visited Sodom and scripture tells us that he descended into hell. If Sodom is redeemed, the God-Man must’ve finally journeyed to Sodom.

Revelation 11:8 reveals that Jerusalem, where our Lord was crucified, Jerusalem is spiritually named—truly named Sodom. Did you know that? And so you see, the Seed of Abraham, the Promised Blessing, the God-Man did journey to Sodom.

From archeological evidence and what they know about the custom of the Roman soldiers of that time period, it’s very possible that when he did journey to Sodom—Jerusalem—he was raped.

And yet we all demand to know him on our own terms. We demand to know him and refuse to be known by him. Every time we sin, we take the knowledge of the good and pound nails into the One, who is good.

We take and he gives.

We rape and he loves.

He journeyed to Sodom and was numbered with the transgressors. He’s even the breath in our lungs crying “Abba Father.” Forgive, that’s how close he comes to us.

Isaiah 53:12: “He poured out his soul unto death and He was numbered with the transgressors. He bore the sins of many and he made intercession” crying Abba Father, forgive.

Abraham, Abraham stood in the breach and argued with God with minimal results, for there was not even one that was righteous.

Moses stood in the breach and argued with God, even offering to sacrifice himself, but with very limited results, for not even Moses was righteous.

Paul offered to stand in the breach and argue and even be damned by God, but it wasn't necessary, for it had already been done. This is the God-Man, the Seed of Abraham, being known by the people of Sodom, yet standing in the breach and interceding, arguing with God on your behalf.

Video: The Passion

[Jesus, bloody and beaten, hangs on the cross.]

CAIAPHAS: If he is the Messiah, I say, let him come down from the cross so that we may see and believe.

[The rest of the Sanhedrin shout in agreement]

JESUS: Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.

[Caiaphas turns to leave. One of the thieves on one of the other crosses shouts to him.]

THIEF: Listen! He prays for you.

Did you see the Sodomite? He was the one demanding to know "Come down that we might know." The evil and adulterous generation that seeks a sign.
And did you see the sign? It's the sign of Jonah, that's his sign.

And did you hear "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." That's the Seed of Abraham.

And did you notice it was the thief preaching the gospel to the priest at the end. This is what he said "He prays for you."

He prays for you. He intercedes for you. He stands in the breach for you.

Do you see him?"

I believe this church has been called for this time to stand in the breach with Jesus because we see Him.

For on the night that he was betrayed, he took the bread and he broke it saying "This is my body given to you." Take and eat. Do it in remembrance of me." And in the same way after supper he took the cup saying, "this is my blood of the covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it all of you and do it in remembrance of me." Do you see him? Then let's pray.

You're sitting in front of him. He's standing before you. He has given everything for you. And of your own, you have given nothing for him. He made you. You exist entirely and solely by his grace. And when you take from him, he gives to you. When you take from him, he dies for you. What I mean is that he has forgiven you.

I don't care who you are right now, if you're thinking to yourself, "there is no way that he can forgive me" stop being so arrogant. Lay down the sin of pride. The Lord God is big enough for you and he died for you because he adores you. Kurt Cobain, the guys on the bus, Fred Phelps, see his compassion for you.

And now I want you to think of a group or a person that you hate. I mean, that you just really hate. Perhaps they are a person or a group that is self-indulgent. Or perhaps they are a person or a group that's really religious and so they indulge themselves in judging the self-indulgent. And maybe it's you. Maybe you're looking at yourself.

But do you see that person that you hate? Is there wickedness there?

Oh yeah.

Does it need to be destroyed and burned away? Do they need the hell burned out of them?

Oh yeah.

But have you seen God's compassion for you? Well then right now would you stand in the breach for them and argue. Right now in the silence of your own heart argue for them before God, like Abraham argued for Sodom and Moses argued for Israel and Jesus argued for you. Just say, "Oh, Father, I forgive them, would you please forgive them." Argue with him and as you argue and look in his eyes, you'll see that there's really no argument for your Father has been waiting for you to say these words from the foundation of the world. It's his breath in you. Jesus the Christ in you. The fire in you, for you are his sanctuary. In Jesus' Name receive the fire. It's called Pentecost. It's the Spirit of the Lord. And it will flood the earth and it's beginning with you.

In Jesus' Name. Amen

Dark cups are wine, light cups are juice. Both fire. Come forward, tear off a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup and believe the gospel that you might be the gospel.

Communion

Benediction

And so Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." That means the church is supposed to storm the gates of hell. What hell? Well, we can't get to the one under the earth. We don't even know exactly what's going on there, but there's hell all around you. In the people around you that are trapped in yourself. And you have been called to storm the gates of hell and that's what this means.

You see it means that you can walk up to anyone in this city. You can walk up to anyone and you can grab 'em and you can say "God doesn't hate you. He loves you. Oh yeah, he hates your sin. He's gonna

get rid of it, but it's because He loves you." That's the gospel and when you speak that, you speak fire, the fire of God.

And so believe the gospel and speak the gospel to everyone.