

### Transcript of Sermon Given November 12, 2005

. . . because most of you sitting in this room, with some very notable exceptions, have been in the church for a long, long, time; just like me. So take advantage of that, because I am going to bring across some things which you may not have thought about in quite the same way, that I am going to bring now.

This is the type of sermon which is not for the faint of heart to give. This is the type of sermon which you need to listen very intently. So, I am asking that up front. Please listen very intently. Not because, it is complicated, because it is not. I want you to listen intently, because, what I have to say, is something that I can only express, at best, 10%, of what needs to be said, or what should be said. It's not complicated. It is just that you need to think while I talk.

Now that goes along without saying, because, I can talk at a speed, and I rattle along at however fast I can talk, and your mind, your racing; thinking about what happened at work yesterday, and all sorts of things. And the problem is that statistically, you will only retain about 20% of everything that I can say. At best. In other words if we give you test tomorrow of everything I said, you will only get about 20%, or less. So, therein lies the reason why I would like you to really concentrate, and listen to me intently. Because if I can only say 10% and you are only going to capture 20%, that's not a very good percentage. Alright, but this is extremely important information, extremely important.

I want you to, as I talk, I want your mind to race forward and think of the 90% of the things which I should be saying, but I am not. Think of that 90%. So, I am going to express ideas to you, and you, please, think about everything else in-between.

Let's tie together a few scriptures, to make the backdrop of what I am going to be talking about. By the way, the Title, just to give you a little clue, is: "You are Living to Become God's Unique Manager". You are living to become God's unique manager. I am going to expound upon that.

Remember I told you I am going to take advantage of something. I am going to take advantage of the fact that most of you have already seen these scriptures, probably, 50 times. So, I am just going to reference them, and you can look them up later.

Colossians 2:17: talks about, do not let any one judge you for keeping the Sabbath, and the New Moons, and the Holy Days. And it goes on to say for these are a shadow of things to come, but the reality is Christ. What I want to bring across to you is that is not what the Greek says. You can look it up in any lexicon. This is not new information. The word in Greek is something we do not have in English. We do not have an English word counterpart to this word "reality", is Christ.

If I can hold my hand up here, and you can imagine a shadow behind it. We see the shadow, the Sabbath the Holy Days and the New Moon. We see these as a shadow, but in order to make that shadow happen, I have to be holding my hand in such a way that you see the shadow, those five fingers. The Greek word for "reality" is the word which talks about that object which is making the shadow. So the object making the shadow is Christ. What does that mean? He has to be doing them, in order to make the shadow. Now does that turn the sentence around 180 degrees. Now, it is not saying don't keep the Sabbath, Holy Days, and the New Moon. Now it is saying just the opposite! Our Lord Christ is keeping them. Because, He is the one casting the shadow.

Now let's go to another one, we are going to tie all of these together.

2-Peter 3:18: you are to grow in grace and knowledge. Well, you can check this out with Larry, and you will find that there is a little bit of nuance in the Greek language with those two words, "Grace" and "Knowledge". They are in the 'anarthrous'. Which means that it is not talking about "Grace", it's talking about "Graciousness". And it's not talking about "Knowledge", but it is talking about the qualities of "Knowledge", it is talking about "Wisdom". So we, are to grow in "Graciousness", and "Wisdom". Well, that changes the sentence a little bit, doesn't it? Now we have something to do. Grow in Graciousness. We can practice that every day. Grow in Wisdom. Friends, you've got to be studying. You've got to get some knowledge before you can have Wisdom. Grow in Wisdom.

John 14:2: well, we know this one. In my father's house there are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you that. Interpret that the following way please. We're not in competition with each other. I get the job and so you don't, is another way of saying it. We're not in competition; there are plenty of jobs to go around.

The word there for "mansions" is "abode", and it can be anything. It does not have to be a tent, it doesn't even have to be an apartment. It is just where you are. It's your position in the house. And if you look at the word "house", from the point of view of "in the House of David", "in the House of Judah". In God's House, in His Kingdom, there are many things to do. There are lots of things we can be doing. So, we are not in competition. Don't treat each other like you are. You see, I will do what I can do best. And you do what you can do best. We will have an abode in the Kingdom.

Of course we know 2-Tim 2:21. That's the one where we are fashioned into a good vessel, a vessel of honor. There are different kinds of vessels, aren't there? There are different kinds of things in our house. But we want to strive to purify ourselves, as it says, so we can be a vessel of honor. Now just think in terms of you being a vessel of honor in the Kingdom of God. Can you scratch your head, and let the dandruff fall, hard enough to where that makes some sense to you? Can you imagine yourself in that position, a vessel of honor in the Kingdom? Well, that is what we are striving for. That's what we are doing, in this life.

Revelation 5:10: I'm almost out of scriptures, you can look them up later: we are going to be Kings and Priests in the Kingdom. Oh good, I like being a King. A Priest doesn't relate to me that well. I just don't relate too much to being a Priest. All of the rote, and the regiment, and the procedures, and things. But being a King, that sounds a lot better. The wine and the grapes, etcetera. No, okay, strike that. I'm going to use the word "Manager". I think that from the point of view of Luke 22, from the point of view of servant leadership, from the point of view that we are not to rule to be the benefactor, but rather to benefit others. I am not going to use the word King and Priest. I am going to use the word "Manager". Thus, you are living to become God's unique "Manager".

Can you think of yourself as a manger? Well, start, if you haven't already. Because you've got a lot of things to manage in the Kingdom. Actually, if you think about it, you've got a lot of things to manage right now, don't you. And therein lies the key to this sermon. You are being trained to manage.

Of course we all like Luke 19:17: we are going to be good enough and worthy enough to rule over ten cities. Let's use the word manage. We are going to manage ten cities. Well, hopefully we are doing this life well enough to think about managing ten cities. Have you ever gone down to

the protesters, down town, and tried to manage them? Managing ten cities could be a little bit of a task. Are you ready for it?

Now we probably share the same concept of the Kingdom of God, the millennium, the 1,000 year reign of our Lord Jesus Christ. We probably picture that in pretty much the same way. I want to remind you that in the Kingdom, ten cities, you are going to have people, you are going to have the same situation that you have right now. You're dog chased my cat, up a tree, bit its tail off, and you owe me. Right? Keep right on going. Remember I want you to think of the 90% of the things I cannot say. I'd be up here all day, all night! Same problems folks. Your kid hit my kid, in the mouth, and broke his teeth, you owe me. And you are managing the city? You can laugh but these are real world things, right? These are things we have to put up with in this world. And guess what folks? If there are people living, if there are nations living on into the 1,000 year period, you have the same problems. They have to go to the bathroom. You have to have latrines! You have to have a sewer system. You've got to do it. Somebody does. Who's the manager? Uh-oh, I think one of the scriptures says that I am. Uh-oh. Well, how can we be ready for that? That's what I want to talk about.

Let's go back, go back to the original problem. Now here, I don't want to be blasphemous. Please don't take it as thus. But I want you to picture yourself as being God, before the Garden of Eden. And you are planning this out, and you are figuring things out, and you are God, and you are saying to yourself: "I am going to have a real paradise!" I'm going to make tigers and lions and birds and plants and corn and fish and this and that. And it's all going to be in harmony. And the plants will grow and there will be bugs that eat that, and the birds will eat the bugs, and everything is going to be what? Well, it's going to be perfect. That's what we like to think, right?

Let me introduce a thought to you? We look at paradise, and we picture a Garden scene, and we are lying on the grass and we are looking up at the blue sky, and the clouds are whisking by, and we are happy, and we are relaxed, and not stressed, and all those thoughts. When is the last time you found a patch of grass like that in the wilderness? Have you ever gone hiking? If you find a patch of grass what is usually associated with that patch of grass? You are not going to lie down in it. It is mud.

Point: I suggest to you that the Father had to figure out something first. Just letting everything go, will not produce my Garden. It won't. It will produce marshes. Too many bugs over here, too few pets over there, too many birds over here. You know, if everything is by randomness, it will turn to chaos. Right? Think about it. But of course it will. If it is random and not intelligently managed, it will turn to marshland. It will turn to desert. Something is going to happen that is not what you want.

So what was the purpose of Adam and Eve? Think about it. God created everything and everything has God's purpose for existing. We all agree with that, yes? Adam and Eve were made and created and told to do what? Manage my Garden! Manage my Garden. Don't let the bushes overgrow. Do some things with it. Manage it. Name the tigers, name the lions, do that, etcetera.

God can create these things, and he can create grass and flowers and birds, but can he create an intelligent manager? Let's say yes. I don't want anyone to think I am saying blasphemy here. But let's say yes for a second. But, if you don't give that individual creature free moral agency, the ability to create independently, with independent thought, and freedom to choose, what do you have? Just another kind of robot. So God decided to give Adam and Eve free will.

Go ahead. I want you to be creative. You want to do the Garden this way, Great! Oh, by the way, I don't want you to go down this path, because it leads to destruction. It's a bad path. Good and evil. Don't do that! And lo and behold, as we all know, guess what? They went and did that. What do you think the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, is a metaphor for something else? It doesn't matter. Whatever it was, they disobeyed. They started to go down the wrong path. They exercised their free moral agency to choose something that God would prefer that they not do. Well, where does that then leave us?

How long has it been, 6,000 years later? And remember this: when I say you, I mean me too! I am not trying to talk down or anything.

But We, You, I, are offered eternal life. Adam and Eve were also offered eternal life. Remember that. We live a life with, well, can we say with aches and pains? Would that be fair? Could you write that down in some history books that my life, for however long it's been, has had some aches and pains? Can I make that as a generality? Of course I can.

This life has aches and pains. Our bodies deteriorate. My hair is now grey, it's not brown anymore, etcetera. Adam and Eve were created to live forever. So there is a discrepancy, you understand, between what they were able to do with their body, and what I can do. Well, in theory, I should be able to live forever too, in the flesh, as Adam and Eve did. In theory. But I am decaying, and I am going to die.

Do you remember when you were first baptized? All these thoughts you had to think about when you were first baptized. Adam and Eve, creation, salvation, I want to live forever, God, please, forgive me of my sins, resurrect me, please, I want to be baptized into your church. Why? Why did you do it? Well, let me summarize. You wanted to keep going. I want to be resurrected. I want to live forever. I, Me, Me. Who is Me? Well, Me is standing in front of you. And who are You? Well, right now You are standing in front of Me. You Exist!

I was telling Benjamin a few weeks ago. The only thing you really know, for a certainty, is that you exist. After that, things start to get fuzzy. You only have your five senses to tell you everything else. But you know that you exist. And you were baptized because you wanted to continue on forever. I want to keep going. I don't want to go on into oblivion. I want to live forever.

Now, another thought. Can you remember, I know that I can, how eager you were, and how excited you were, the day you were baptized? The week after you were baptized? I used to drive three hours to church, one way, every Sabbath, and thought nothing of it. Nothing of it. I was delighted, eager to learn. Wow! Don't get me around someone who wasn't baptized. I would chew their ear off. Oh, I was zealous! I made a lot of people mad at me. Oh, Wayne's here, Uh-oh, more religious sermons. I remember those days. What were you eager about? You were eager you going to start learning something. You just entered into eternal life. You were excited and happy about it.

Here is the question. In putting this all together, please think of all of the thoughts that go with this that I can't say. There is so much I could say. When you were baptized, why didn't the preacher just kill you, right there? Think about it. If he did, he would have saved you a lot of aches and pains, right?

Now don't laugh. During the inquisition, one of the philosophies they used for torture, so that the jail-people who did the torture didn't feel quite so guilty about doing it, was the following: they wanted to make you go to heaven. They were doing you a favor. So, they would torture you into confession into the church, sprinkle you with water immediately, and before you had a chance to do any sins, they would then kill you! You know, with no sins, where are you going? Straight to heaven, right? They are doing you a favor!

Now, that is a big question. And the question is really the fundamental point of this sermon, the answer to it that is. Why not just kill you? Why go through all of this? It's a lot easier just to die, right? I've heard that said so many times. Especially when you start talking about the troubles that's coming, and all of the troubles of Jacob. Ah, just kill me. I don't want to go through it. Better off just to die. We used to joke about living in Sunnyvale. One tenth of a second later there is nothing to worry about. Just nuke the place in Sunnyvale and there is nothing to worry about, right? It's a great place to live.

No. I'm going to tell you something and, I want you to judge this. If salvation were the goal, if salvation from the point of view of the one saving you, our Father in heaven, the one who is going to resurrect you and let you live forever. If salvation were the sole goal, then the answer to my question is: "Well, why not?" You've got them saved, send them on!" Just like the old fisherman, got them hooked, then real them in. No. That is not the goal.

Judge this. What I am about to say, one sentence: The goal is not salvation, the goal is for you to become someone worth keeping forever. And, that's why you don't just die when you are baptized. Because you've got a lot to learn. If you want to be managing ten cities, We, I, You got a lot to learn. And so you have to live a life to learn it!

Okay. 90% of the things I am not saying. Hear goes a list of them: You wake up in the morning and you've got to choose which toothpaste to use. That is management.

Every decision you make is a management decision, from a point of view. Every decision you make has a pro and a con to it. A good and evil associated with it.

If you use the wrong toothpaste your teeth will fall out. If you don't use any toothpaste at all, your teeth might fall out. You've got nothing but choices. Management choices.

Every single moment of your life, you are making these decisions. Big decisions, small decisions. How many cookies do I eat? There is a big decision, small decision, right. How many cookies do I eat? Well, I got to weigh the factors, if I am depressed and I want to be happy? Versus I don't want to be depressed later. All of these are management decisions. You are learning how to manage, with free choice, in that everything you decide has pros and cons, goods and evils associated with it.

Why would you want to meditate? To evaluate how well you've done during the day? Think about it. If you never learn from what you decide, then are you growing in Graciousness and Wisdom? If you never learn from it? Of course not.

It's only the folks who are trying, and trying to learn, trying to do it right, and are learning from their mistakes, that is of interest to keep around forever. That was one sentence.

Judge that. What do you think about that? Learning the difference of good and evil. How many sermons have you heard about that? Goes without saying, right? Sounds easy.

Think of this from yet another point of view. This is the one that really makes me "Smile". Anyone ever see the "Powers of Ten" movie, where it moves out into space, and you can see all the galaxies, and then it goes down into the cell, and you can see the inner atom? You can see this in the planetarium. How awesome, and how little we are. We are a speck on a speck on a speck in the universe. And yet the Father is interested in us. He knows every hair on our head. Every grey one there. He knows them. The number, etcetera. He knows us. Why? DNA folks, come on. Once the DNA is there, you are you, from the point of view of the physical flesh. What do you need to add to that physical flesh? A person who can judge, and manage, righteously. Otherwise it is not of interest forever, is it? In fact, think about it, you don't want it around forever if it doesn't do that. You don't.

The earth is spinning, we are revolving around the sun, and I want you to think of the word "Uniqueness". Because it is absolutely key to "The Smile". Every single moment, is absolutely unique, from the previous moment, and all future moments.

A lady just got through going outside, to walk the hall. This is an example of this, so I will use it. The circumstances by which she did that will never ever be exactly the same. The kids won't be in the same position, we won't be sitting in the same places, and in 20 years the building may not even be here. Understand, it is all changing. The situation and circumstances are changing, moment by moment, second by second.

Therefore, extrapolate, think of the 90% that I can't say, should say, want to say, but think as your mind is racing ahead. What does that mean? That means that every time you make a decision, that management decision is absolutely unique throughout all time.

You can't duplicate that situation again, those circumstances again. You make a decision that turns out to be bad, you've got circumstances, and you've got situations. Did you learn from it?

Every one of us, therefore, has the potential of introducing into God's Kingdom . . . Let's just say there are 40 of us here, and let's just say us 40 all make it through to the Kingdom. We are all resurrected and we all live forever in the Kingdom. And we all have ten cities? No let's just go with one city. Let's lower the scoop a little bit here. We all have our city.

Is our city going to be a rubber stamped baseball, or tennis ball, coming out of the manufacturer's chute? Every one of them is going to be unique, and different. Just like You are. Now think about that! That's the whole reason for Adam and Eve grooming the Garden.

If you wanted a robot, if you wanted to just put a cow out there, who knew how to mow the lawn, or a goat that knew how to trim the shrubs, He could do that.

But there's no intelligence, there's no creativity, there's no randomness. There's nothing exciting about it. Not really. It's just a Garden that just happens to have mowed lawns. But where's the lawn? That takes intelligence, and it takes management. Where did you put the lawn? Is your lawn blue grass? Did you use Roses? Azaleas? Petunias? What type of flowers did you plant, in your little city?

I want you to imagine, having your own city, but I want you to lower the scope, and just want you to manage the city park. I'm not lowering the scope because I don't think that anyone can do it. I'm lowering the scope because I want you to try to focus, and thinking in terms of our uniqueness, and why our Father would want that in the Kingdom. If He wanted rubber stamps He could have made them. He doesn't. He wants the uniqueness that we can give.

I want you to imagine your own city park. Let's give you ten square miles. Right now its kind of, yucky looking. Make it better. I want your city park to be better.

Okay, what management decision are you going to make? How are you going to get the water from the river to flow to your different places in your Garden? That's creativity folks, right there. You are going to think of a way of doing it. But then you are going to say: "Yah, but if I do it this way then it's going to be a little bit neater, or a little bit prettier. Or if I do it this way then it will make different sounds. If I plant the petunias over here, and I plant the corn over there, and I walk this path, I will get a fragrance combination that's going to be awesome.

Just think of all the things that you can do with your city park. It's going to be absolutely fantastic, is it not? Your archways will be slightly different than my archways, I can guarantee it. I will have to think about even if I'm going to have archways. Just think about it.

Every one of our city parks will be absolutely unique. Why? Because You are, You, are unique.

Which gets back to the management. Every time you made a decision, you changed slightly, if you learned from that decision, right? That makes you, make decisions in the future, slightly differently than you did just ten seconds before that. And compared to me, we are worlds apart in the way that we would make our archway. And that is beautiful! Something worth keeping. Something worth keeping forever. As long as what?

Can you imagine our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ assigning someone who is a despot, to manage the city park? Can you imagine that? It's not going to be happen, is it?

A tyrant? Let's put a tyrant in charge of the city park? Well, he's going to start charging fees, and start over charging for the popcorn? What's it going to be? It's going to be a mess! That's what we have now! Who wants that again? So, as long as what? So what's the answer to my question? As long as, the person that He is keeping around forever, which is you, is a righteous person! That's what it is.

It's not just salvation. It's not just about dying, and being saved. It is a matter of learning, to manage, and judge right from wrong, so that you, are so totally unique, and so totally precious in the eyes of God, that you are worth keeping forever.

We can go on and on about the city park. But I want you to imagine one thing. Do you remember your children, and for those of you who don't have children, just imagine little kids in kindergarten, how eager and happy and excited they get, when they want to show you, the parent or the teacher, something which they just got through drawing. Something they just got through creating.

"Look at my picture!" And they are so proud of this thing!

Now, I can't even tell what it is, Okay? Well its round and green and, Oh, is that a flower. Oh, that's a flower! Right! No, they're excited and happy. They cannot wait to show it to you. They get so excited when you say: "Good! Oh, that's so pretty!" They are just as happy as they can be.

Now, you're not going to be happy to show your city park to travelers and people who come by? But, of course you are. It's part of being in a Paradise. Being happy is the goal! You can be happy, being a little bit proud of what you have done. You think about that.

Next year, a new batch of roses. I'm going to move the rose bushes over here. I'm going to change these trees over there. I'm going to change these trees into giraffes. Every year, is a new drawing.

Are you going to get bored? Well, before you say: "Yeah, eventually, after a billion years of this I might get bored." Before you say that, I want to give another thought to you. Take any one of those items, the rose bushes, the trees, lemons, and birds, whatever you want. You can study those items, and become a unique expert in exactly that field. How many billions of things does that make you to study? How long will it take you to become an expert? You've got a lot to do. I don't think you are going to get bored, not unless you want to try getting bored.

There is a lot to do. You can learn a lot. You can become an expert at cooking this kind of dish, using these lemons. You know there are different kinds of lemons. There are different kinds of this fruit, and there are different kinds of that kind of barley. There are different kinds of everything. You can become an expert at preparing them. You can become an expert at using them to make glue. There are thousands, no, millions of different things you can do. And I'm still in your city park.

Now, expand your thoughts. Now I want you to imagine that our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father, is paying your city park a visit. They want to see what you've done. How excited are you going to get? I don't know about you, but it makes me happy just thinking about it. Uh-oh, actually, I kind of hope the roses turn out better this year. But, you see, the whole concept is there.

But of course. God is going to walk the Garden, just like He did with Adam and Eve. Who's Garden? Well, its all His Garden, right? But, who is managing it? Well, in your section, **You are managing it**. You created the waterways, you did it. You will be able to then therefore say: "Hey [can I just say 'God'] God, come over here, and look . . ."

Look at the way I did this ditch. I get the water of the river, into my Garden, and I don't block the paths. And I did this, and, and, come over here, come over here, look at the fish I used in this pond. Look at this, look at this, is the great! Can you smell the almonds, walking down this path? How excited are you going to be? How excited I'm thinking I'm going to be? I'm excited just thinking about being excited. It's going to be fantastic!

The Kingdom is going to be so fantastic. So awesome, so wonderful. It really is beyond words, I can't even express it. Please, think of the 90% I cannot say. It's just going to be fantastic.

And now, expand your thoughts back out. Un-de-scope. It's not just the city park, it's the whole city! You are managing the city. You've got sewers, you've got streets, you've got lamp posts, you've got all of the things you got to manage.

And every time you make a decision, to put an overpass here, an underpass there, whatever the project of the day is. Whatever it is, all has pros and cons. Every decision you make will have a good and a bad associated with it. If you put a street here, you will block the cows there. That is the real universe.

But you, every day of your life, are learning how to make these decisions. How to judge. Is it better, or worse, to do it that way?

Every time you think about of this: "Why am I still alive?" Because, every morning is another day of training. Like spiritual weight lifting. Another day you get to train yourself, to get a little bit better at it.

Now listen. We all make mistakes. Is that really the problem? If you learn from the mistakes? David made mistakes, Abraham made mistakes, and Paul made mistakes. Who in the Bible didn't make a mistake? Well, our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, the point being made is that we know that we will make mistakes. This goes without saying. Learn from it. Meditate upon the mistakes. Learn that: "**I know, now, for all eternity, that I, will never, ever, do that again.**" That, friends, is something worth keeping forever.

Because, you learned it. You don't have to now experiment. Well, let's try this way. How about just a little bit here. No! I went down that path, been there, and done that, and I'm never going to do that again.

Every one of us will approach those decisions, from our unique position, our unique point of view, and between all of us put together, there is not going to be sin and evil in the Kingdom. We will not allow it! We are going to say: "No!!! Don't go down that path! I've been there! I know what that does!" And we can say it with conviction.

Do you see how strong that was? In the Kingdom there is not going to be that problem. We already have been there. Been there, done that. Don't do it again. That is something worth resurrecting, and worth keeping forever, in the Kingdom.

In Service To The Brethren,  
Wayne L. Atchison, an Elder in the Body of the Messiah

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