

Title: **Foundation Stones Part 1 (The Original Pattern)**

Duration of Original Recording: **1:13:08**

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Jesus of Nazareth the carpenter has been in the town of Nazareth since He was 21, being a carpenter. And this is how He has chosen, or how the Father has chosen Him to be prepared for the ministry to be a worker. Now then, uh those of you who are watching this on videotape, you may not have heard about this unless I go back and, and make a tape just for you because this didn't get taped. But we talked about at the age of 21, there were three men living in Nazareth who were all 21 years old. One was Jesus and the other two I made up. Now tell me what their names are. Zephan and Myaphas. Myaphas went to Jerusalem to prepare to be a scribe. Zephan went to Jerusalem to prepare to be a priest. Jesus also spent the next nine or 10 years, as was Jewish custom, preparing to be a worker, the first Christian worker. All three of them went.

Well, today if you get saved at 17 or 18, graduate from high school or college at around 20 or 21, you tell your pastor that you feel like you've been called to preach, he's going to ship you off to a Bible school or a seminary, for sure. For sure. The difference between a Bible school and a seminary, making it very general, is if you didn't graduate from college, you go to a Bible school. If you've a college graduate, you go to seminary. It's cheaper to go to a Bible school. Of course, it's not as good as a seminary, because everybody in the seminary has a doctor's degree.

All right. Now then, Myaphas has gone at the age of 21 to have the temple experience. And Myaphas is going to learn to quote the entire Pentateuch and large sections of what we call the Old Testament. And for every passage he memorizes as a scribe, he has to learn every interpretation known concerning that passage, and he has to be able to quote it perfectly, and he has to be able to quote it without any error according to the way the interpretation has been written down. He is a walking Bible and a walking Bible commentary. Now he will have, by the time he reaches the age of 30, have learned an awful lot. And I want you to know something else. He like anybody who learns a lot of scripture, memorizes it, is going to be very proud. You can't keep from doing that. I remember when I memorized four verses of scripture, I was already getting proud. You can imagine how I thought when I had a thousand.

Zephan is going to study for the priesthood for 10 years. He's going to learn how to dress in a certain regalia, he's going to learn the meaning of every one of the kinds of the clothing he wears, the symbols of it. He's going to learn all the chants, all the correct words to say, how to stand, what offering to offer up at a cert, and at what moment in the chant to say it. He's going to have to study hundreds of different kinds of offerings. When they are given, what day they're given, what time of day they are, uh they are to be offered.

The morning sacrifice, the evening sacrifice, the music that is to go with it, the trumpets that are to be blown on certain days, festivals, the entire Jewish calendar, what time of day in each one of them, what he's supposed to wear, what has to be slaughtered and killed, where it's slaughtered and killed, how its intricacies are to be cut out. He's got years of study and practice,

and he's got to learn certain rituals and motions. On certain days, at certain hours, he will lift like this. At other times, he will do like this. At other times, he will do like this. And at other times, he will do like this. He has to learn when to bow and when to do this and that and the other.

You will be spared of that. I was not spared of that. Now, although I am not a Jewish priest, I am a Baptist preacher. And uh it comes down to about the same thing. You learn how to do these things. Did you know that when I was uh 20 years old, you're not going to believe this, when I was 20 years old, and this is everybody in the seminary, I had to work up an entire year's calendar of ministry. I had to prepare 104 messages according to the Christian calendar.

You don't understand what I'm talking about, do you? There is a Christian Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and of course, there were a lot of days in there I just got to preach whatever I wanted to. I'm not sure, but I think I even had to present an outline of what would be spoken of, on Wednesday night, maybe not an entire year's preparation of sermons. So that's what I did at the age of 21. Actually, I started at the seminary earlier than 21. I got out at 22 and I started pastoring at 20 or 21. Can you imagine how dumb you can be at 21 and be a preacher at the same time? Now, brothers, listen to me because this is important. Is there anyone in this room 21? All right. We have two brothers who are 21. You have a choice to make, what you're going to do at age 21, whether you're, whether you're going to go work or not, that's irrelevant right now. All of us, as we're young, have to make a choice as to how we are going to relate to our God.

Now, we have over here sitting on this side of the room, people who have passed their prime. That's right. They are. What? Oh, wow. Can you see the sparks fly? Uh, there's no one here 21. Or if so, they're aging fast. Uh, let's say they had gotten converted at 19 or 20 or 21. The chances are, you would have gone to a convention. You would have gone to a retreat, another convention and another retreat. When you came out of there, you would have been given definite direction. The direction you would have been given was you must master the scripture. You must memorize the scripture. You must study the Bible. You must pray every day, and I want you to know the kind of prayer you got taught would have been, you know, I don't disbelieve in prayer, I do believe in prayer. I really, really believe in prayer. But I tell you, I wouldn't give you two cents for almost all the prayer being prayed today by us Christians. It's pretty peaked. God bless Mama. God bless Daddy. God bless Uncle Joe. God bless Aunt Nelly. God bless my little puppy. Take care of all the boys who are in the armed services and protect them from the Ayatollah Khamenei. Uh and all those other pagans over there, and God take care of our president and Aunt Jane and we pray for all of our missionaries everywhere in the whole world. And God bless mommy and God bless daddy and God bless Uncle Joe and Aunt Nelly and all the servicemen. That's not far from the kind of prayer we got armed with. Is that not true? Is that not prayer more or less for most of us?

Well, I press this point. The Lord is setting a pattern for you and for me in Nazareth. Zephan has chosen the temple experience. Jesus has chosen the Nazareth experience. I would really encourage you to look at the Nazareth experience because He is going to duplicate the Nazareth experience with a group of 12 or 20 people. And you're going to find out, I'm going to call that the Galilean experience. And there is virtually no difference between the Nazareth experience of the Lord between the ages of 21 and 30, and the experience in Galilee the Lord more or less introduced to those 12 disciples.

I'm going to call them 12 disciples, but there were really about 20 people. Is it okay? Every time I say 12 disciples, will you, will you think 20 people? There were five or six sisters and there were at least 15 men present. So 20, 21, 22. He is going to have an experience with those 20 people in Galilee, almost identical to the experience in Nazareth. The difference being the Nazareth experience was between God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and 20 people. And do you remember what I said? A pattern is being established here. I want to press the point. There is a distinct pattern developing. I'm going to go through it again.

In the Godhead, there is the fellowship of the Father, the eternal Father, the eternal Son, and the eternal Spirit. The Son is beholding the Father. He is hearing the Father. He is responding to the Father. The Father is loving Him. He is loving the Father back with the love where with He Himself was loved of the Father. He is obeying the Father. And most of all in all of this I would say, He is living His life by the life of the Father. He is living His life by the life of God. He comes into time and into space in Bethlehem. He moves to Nazareth. As a little boy, He begins to learn to rebuild that relationship as a human being. By the time He has reached 12, He is keenly aware of a past relationship He had the with the Father in eternity. By the time He is 21, He is now being prepared to be a Christian, a member of the church as a human being, and He's being prepared to be a worker. And in order to do this, He goes to Nazareth to be a carpenter. And two other brothers go to the temple to get professional training. I don't doubt they will know more Bible than He knows. Maybe I'm wrong. By the time they reach 30, but the three of them reach 30 at the same time.

John the Baptist is out in the, in the wilderness causing all sorts of a stink with his wild preaching, eating unclean food. Jews can't eat locust. Hebrews are not allowed to wear a camel skin. It's an unclean animal, you don't touch it, here he's got it for his tuxedo.

The Lord, your Lord, is about to call 20 disciples to live very closely with Him. What has He got to offer them? You remember the other night I told you the first thing He had to offer them was an incredible humanity. An incredible humanity. By having the Nazareth experience, He was able to give them the example of an incredible humanity. You and I were not born with a living spirit. He was. We were not born with a body that knew no sin. He was. Therefore, as He grew up, He grew up truly spiritual. As He matured physically, He matured spiritually, as He matured humanly, He matured divinely. They were all growing up together.

But I want you to look at how God views a Christian, a member of the church, and a worker. Here's a pattern. Here's the organic way God does things. And I am overwhelmed with the fact that God, in preparing the first Christian worker, God's been a Christian for all eternity. It's been mostly a history in the realms that are invisible. God has broken into time and space. He's about to introduce the Christian life, the church, which He's had for all eternity, and the worker whom He's been preparing for all eternity.

He's about to introduce these very principles into time and space and a pattern is consistently developing. And I am awestruck over the fact that the first Christian, the first Christian worker and the first member of the church that you can find visibly, is suntanned, has splinters in his hands, is incredibly unreligious, has something almost no preacher today has. You know what he's got? He got a job. He's got a skill. The two gentlemen who went to the temple, they have

become so religious that the possibility of being spiritual is almost out of the question. Did you understand that? Does that make sense to you? They have become so religious the possibility of being spiritual is almost out of the question. They pass a harlot on the street, and they are mortified. That's right. Well, why are they mortified? It looks like because they're so self-righteous. The fact of the matter is, they're really down deep inside, they're still two kids who are scared silly about their own fleshly weaknesses. And well, they should be, because religion cannot save them.

The Lord is perfectly at home with ordinary people. Thieves, are thieves ordinary people? Well, let's see. How many of you in this room have never ever stolen anything? Do you realize that I am addressing a room full of thieves? If one of you had raised your hand, then I would have asked the question, "And how many of you have never lied?" He knew humanity. He knew human beings. He knew ordinary people. He was at home with them, the dreadfully sinner, sinful person. He was not frightened by them. He had a high humanity. He was at home with them. He is about to pass this on to some illiterate fishermen who will be the first Christians, visible Christians, the first church members, and the first workers. Praise the Lord.

Now, that's the humanity He brought to them. Now, I told you something, there was a lot more I told you, and you've forgotten it all. But there was one other really blessed thing I told you. You all kind of responded to this. Do you remember how you responded to that? I said there was one wonderful thing about that. This wonderful humanity He is about to put before them and stage before them, show and illustrate and exhibit to them for the next four years. Something really wonderful about that humanity.

This divinely controlled humanity. This humanity that is subject to divinity, this humanity that is living by divine life. Do you remember when I told you? Well, I'm going to tell you now, don't you ever forget. When the Lord woke up in the morning, He woke up by and lived by divine life. I wake up in the morning, I live by human life. He got up in the morning, He lived by divine life. It's His business to make sure that I can learn to follow in His train, to wake up in the morning and live by a life not my own. But something else I told you. All right. It was organic. Come on. There was something you all went, "Wow." All right. But I'm going to tell you, when Jesus Christ saved you from your sin and He came into your being as the indwelling Christ, He brought not only His divinity into you, but He brought into you that high and glorious humanity of His.

He brought His total being into you in spirit. You know, He didn't visibly cut you open and step inside, but He came into you by spiritual means. He brought His full divinity into you. He also brought His full divinely humanity into you. Ain't that wonderful? And isn't that encouraging, that when you draw from the Lord Jesus Christ within you and the life He gave you, you draw His divinity, but you also draw on the sinless and perfect humanity. Praise the Lord. And this is what He is about to offer 20 men. Ain't this getting exciting? This is really wonderful. No, brothers. He's on His way out into the hot burning desert. He's closed up his carpenter shop. He's going out and getting baptized.

All right, we'll go over that part. He gets baptized. He goes to leave. A couple of fellas are really interested in this strange young Man, John has just baptized, unusual person to say the least. What are their names? Anybody know their names? We know their names. Philip and

Andrew. And Philip will go get Nathaniel. And Andrew will go and get Peter. All right. These two men, they're going to live with Him for the next three and a half to four years.

Boy, I want you to think about this. I want you to think about Zephan right now. Can you think about Zephan? Here he is. He's just about to graduate from the temple. God is like this. I'm telling you, God is like this. And there lifeless over there. And God is like this. And you better not sin. Oh, they're really pickle pussies by now. They're unhappy. Now, my effort is in a big black robe. Zephan is all dressed up in his little trinkets and colorful garment. He's a real parade when he walks around Jerusalem. And they have been intellectually studying about God, to learn what God is like. You know what? If they had any sense, which they don't, they could leave the temple, walk out of Jerusalem, go to Galilee, and have breakfast with God if they wanted to and really get to know Him.

Now, my point in saying that was, here are two brothers who are about to get to know God in a visible physical form. They're going to live with Him three, four years now. Then, is my Lord going to change His habits? Habits that He established in eternity past, that's several zillion years at least, at least that long, isn't it? Plus, that time of reestablishing His relationship between the ages of His birth and 20 and now His growing divinity, His fellowship with the Father, His growing humanity underneath His divinity, subject to His divinity, His fellowship with the Father. Will He now suddenly change this relationship as He draws 20 people to Him? Is He going to suddenly demand of them the temple experience?

You 20 young men and women, get your nose in the Bible. You've got to know the Bible. I know the Father. You know the Bible. I want you to pray for Aunt Nelly and Uncle Joe. What is He really going to present to them? That's important because whatever He presents to them is what they are going to present to us. Is that not true? Well, I know some questions have come up here, so I'm going to deal with them just a moment. Did He really did teach them the Bible, didn't He? I don't think so because most of them couldn't read and write. Ain't that wonderful? Isn't that encouraging? If I am to read what is written in Acts correctly, then I have to believe that Simon Peter was a man who could not read a single word. To call a person unlettered literally means he doesn't know what a letter means. And that, that's not a letter like stationary. I mean that's a letter like H, T, Q, P.

He was an unlettered man. He was illiterate. That's wonderful. God trusted an illiterate man with His gospel. Say praise the Lord to that, that is just really wonderful. Then that shifts, that shifts my Christian life from knowledge to an indwelling God. My Lord is 30 years old, and He's used to an indwelling Father. This is where He has put His everything. He has staked His all in a God within, the indwelling eternal Father.

Well, what about prayer? I do not doubt that they did a little praying, but I doubt it was much. And I'm sure it wasn't the kind of praying that we pray today. Oh, Gene, haven't you ever heard the apostles prayer? Our Father, which art in heaven hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread....and... it's repeated all over the world and has been in Christendom for what 1600-1700 years from now. That is the biggest waste of time imaginable. Don't you believe in the apostles prayer? No, neither do the apostles.

It astonishes me that we would be praying that prayer today. They came up to Him and said, "Lord, we are impressed with Your relationship to the Father. Will You teach us?" And He said, "Sure, you pray this prayer." What kind of a God do we have? Do you think at the end of 2,000 years He hasn't answered that prayer yet? Listen to that prayer. Our Father in another realm, hallowed be Your name. Get that kingdom out of that realm and bring it to this realm. Amen. We're living in common with the Lord Jesus Christ. We've left everything. Just give us something to eat. We don't have anything but the shoes on our feet and the clothes on our body. Just make sure we have something to eat. As Your will is being accomplished in our Lord, accomplished in the same way Your will inside us. God, we're sinners. Forgive us. If You will forgive us, we will forgive for we have been forgiven.

Your kingdom come. Your kingdom. Get out of that realm into this realm. Your will be done. As it's being done in our Lord, so it be done in us. For Yours is the kingdom. And the rest isn't even in the Bible. We invented the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. Oh, listen brothers. 12 men prayed that, and on the day of the resurrection and on the day of Pentecost, that prayer was fulfilled and answered, it's a good prayer, but it's been answered. His kingdom got out of that realm and came into this realm. The Father provided for them their food, and on the day of Pentecost, when they got stuck with 3,000 people who didn't live in Jerusalem, they knew exactly how to take care of them because they had been cared for the same way in Galilee. And we see the pattern continuing.

I am telling you this that the reason they came to Him and asked Him to teach them to pray was because they were overwhelmed with the uniqueness of His praying as over against the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Scribes and the Baptists and the Methodists and Christians in general because of what they saw in His life in the way of spiritual fellowship. I'm going to say it again. I'm after everything. I'm here to destroy in order to rebuild. I want to impress you with a new relationship that's as old as eternity. My Lord did not sit around with His nose in a book. He did not sit around praying the kind of prayers we pray. He did not sit around speaking in tongues.

Well, Gene, He did witness. Yes, I agree. He witnessed. He witnessed the Father. That's right. He was the witness, the only physical witness to the existence of a Father that we have. Well, Gene, those 12 apostles, they really witnessed, didn't they? They prayed, didn't they? They studied the Bible and preached the Bible, didn't they? Let's go through that. I'm ahead of myself, but first of all, no, they did not preach the Bible. They preached what all preachers should preach. They preached the Lord Jesus Christ. And somebody wrote it down and it became our gospels. But you and I need to remember that it wasn't the gospels that we worship. It's not some deification of the Bible, but it is Jesus Christ who is the center of those four books. Those are the messages of apostles. And the apostles' message was Christ. Did they witness? You bet your life they witnessed just like the Lord Jesus Christ went around Galilee witnessing, but they only witnessed after Pentecost, not before.

I want you to be overwhelmed with the fact that they spent four years learning Him, and they did not serve. And I want to tell you something else. By all records known, by all traditions established, the apostles spent virtually their entire ministry in Jerusalem and within 40 miles of it. Only in their old age did they begin to leave. Their witness was incredibly established mostly in Judea and Galilee.

I want to come back. That was thrown in as a parentheses. What did the Lord Jesus Christ have that He was about to give 20 people? This is what He had. Please hear me. He had an unbroken habit, an unbroken line of experience, established in eternity, bought into time, He had the fellowship with the Father, and I am really awed, I am awed sisters and brothers as to what He talked about, this relationship, what He said. I am also awed by the fact that we don't ever dare talk about this. It is so...that is almost frightening to speak of. But if He talks about it, whatever He says must be the thing utmost in His mind.

We're looking at chapter five of John. John 5 is the first clear time He ever spoke of, clearly of, His relationship to the Father. It is mindboggling what He says. Do you know what He says? This is what He is about to bring to 20 disciples. He says, "I see the Father." I see the Father. I'm going to ask you all to just repeat that. I want you to be impressed. This is incredible. I see the Father. And I have to ask myself, did He see Him physically? No. We're going to take a poll because none of us know. Did He see Him with His physical eyes? I think maybe at times He may have physically seen Him. I don't know. But I can, I'm absolutely sure and I think all theologians would agree that when He speaks of seeing Him, He speaks of the eyes of His spirit literally beholding that which is invisible.

He had the capacity with His spirit to see the invisible. And He saw His Father and His Father was always before His face. He saw the Father. Now, Gene Edwards, are you standing there pretending to be a rational man? All right. I'm 53 years old. I'm about to make the boldest statement I've ever made in my life, and it's on tape. Are you about to turn around and tell me that Jesus Christ, now 30 years old, all this you've been talking about behind Him, is about to say to 20 people, I am passing on to you this that they will see the Father.

Are you about to tell us to read the Bible? And I'm believe in reading the Bible, but I'm trying to make room for something else. Do I really believe that He's saying to them, "You will see the Father as I see Him each day." Is He going to pass this on to another generation? All right, I want you to say it real clearly. Everybody who believes it's the answer is yes, say yes. Those of you who believe no, say no. Boy, I heard out there in video land, thousands of people say no. Well, now wait a minute. That's a bold statement. Land it. Put it on the ground. Make it practical. Put it in my life, would you? Put it in yours. Can you do it? Can you do that? If you can do that, come tell me how.

How can you and I see the Father? All right, but I want you to know I have never preached a gospel I could not make practical. And if you're going to agree with me that they can see the Father as He saw the Father, you got to tell me exactly how. And I mean when I say you got to show me, you got to show me practically. You can't give me this semi practical word. 1,2,3, show me how. I'm not from Missouri, but I'll move there for the, for the sake of the point. Surely. Okay. I'm not going to ask you to do that. Well, He did.

All right. Secondly, He said He heard the Father. He saw Him and He heard Him. These sound like the ravings of a madman, do they not? Be, be honest with me. Is this, does this not sound like the ravings of a madman? Well, you wouldn't say that. Well, that's the way mad people, religious nuts talk of them. I saw God and He told me to go out and kill that guy. And you know, they go out and do it. That's schizoids. They lock people like that up. If you ever have take a test,

if you ever get in trouble and they give you a little test and they're trying to figure out about you, you go find some questions down there. Do you hear voices? Do you hear people telling you things who are not visible? You know, this is really, really tough.

Recently, a very well-known Christian minister was being interviewed by a nationwide television program. Well, it was an hour before the meeting and the MC, the master ceremonies came in and sat down with him and he said, "Now, Reverend, we want to give you an opportunity to talk about what you want to talk about. So, tell me the questions to ask you." He said, "Okay, well, ask me this question and ask me this question and ask me this. What is God telling you these days?" Well, the minister, the MC went and everybody around, what? They thought they had someone nutty. What is God telling you these days? Well, to a Christian, you know, that means something totally different from the world. But I want you to know I have the very definite feeling that it, it meant even more to your Lord, to my Lord.

He said He saw Him and He said He heard Him. And an old, old man said, "That which we have seen and heard, declare we unto you, that you may have fellowship with us, and our fellowship is with the Father, whom none of us has seen, and with His Son Jesus Christ, who rose from the grave and ascended into the heavens, 60 years ago. Oh, when He wrote that, that was true. 60 years the Lord had not been seen on the earth. And yet, here was this old man saying, "I'm declaring what I've seen and I'm declaring what I heard that you might have fellowship with Me and my fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. " Hallelujah." Praise the Lord.

Where the Lord makes a statement that generally is referred to as the resurrection. I don't believe that this is chapter five of John. This is not chapter 20 of John. He is talking to the Pharisees and He says, "But you cannot hear His voice. But the hour comes, and now is, when there will be those who will hear and you cannot hear because you do not. Now, how's the rest of that verse go? You do not memorize verses of the Bible. You do not because you haven't memorized scripture. You don't know the word well enough. You do not because you do not have, no, no, not here. I mean, that's a, that's a verse that's true, but, but here he said, I read it to you. You do not have the word abiding in you. Don't tell me that that's Bible verses. Those guys could quote more Bible than any of us in this room could.

You do not have the word abiding in you. He was speaking of the speaking going on inside of Him that abided in Him, abode, had a hold in Him. The hour comes, and now is, when there will be those who are dead who will hear. That is not the resurrection. I mean that's not the resurrection from the dead when the Lord raises all the dead people in the world.

That is His resurrection, when He will put His life in you, just as the Father's life was put in Him in Mary's womb. You are dead inside. But the hour comes, and now is, when you will hear the voice of the Son of God. Do you realize what He's saying? He's saying it's going to keep on happening, that which was in eternity in the Godhead, that which was in eternity in the Godhead, and that which came into Bethlehem and into Nazareth in Me, the Father speaking in Me, the word abiding in Me, I, the Son of God, now shall speaking will come to a new generation and you will hear. You will hear and you will see.

All right. Three things. The seeing that I see, watch it. The hearing that I hear, watch it and hear it. Come live with Me for three and a half years. And watch Me hear, and watch Me see. Just watch and I will speak. The hour comes and now is when I will speak and raise you from the dead and My word will abide in you as my Father's word abides in Me. Praise the Lord. Is it better that you go to the seminary and have the Jerusalem experience or is it better that you have the Nazareth experience? Really, you shouldn't have the Jerusalem experience, and the Nazareth experience is not for you, but I would really recommend the Galilean experience. I'm gonna get a little ahead of myself, but I want y'all to know what this God who lived in eternity and a pattern established in Him and this God who lived in time and the pattern established in Him. I want you to watch what He done did. I want you to watch what He did. He gathered 20 people around Him and said, "Live with me." I am dumbfounded. Here are two things that dumbfound me.

One is that the Lord did not start passing out tracts when He was 21 years old. That just shocks me. He didn't mind wasting His youth. I want to tell you again, the best years for you to serve the Lord are between the ages of 21 and 30. Cuz you got spit, ..., vim, and vigor. You're great for passing out tracts on the street and buttonholing people and talking to them about the Lord. That's the Baptist experience. That's the evangelism experience. But your Lord didn't do this. He went to Nazareth and grew in the fellowship of His Father.

This was the church. If you wanted to find the church on the earth, you had to go to Nazareth and to Nazareth alone and watch the Son fellowship with the Father and the Spirit within His being. That's all the church there was on this earth. If you wanted to watch the Christian life, then you had to go to a carpenter shop and watch a man 20, 25, 28, 29, stand there and work and behold His Father and live in His Father's presence and hear His Father's voice and respond to His Father's voice and feel His Father's love and love His Father back and obey Him in perfect concert with everything He saw and everything He heard. That was the only Christian life. And the only worker there was a worker in preparation who was doing nothing. He was not serving. He was a young Man knowing. He was a young Man experiencing. He was a young Man getting to know His God. And He was a worker in preparation in His 20s. He was not a worker. And he was letting a world go to hell that He might learn His Father and fellowship with His Father and see His Father and hear His Father and feel His Father and love His Father, and be loved by His Father. And that's how He spent His 20s. And there was Christian life. There was the church. And there was the worker in preparation. Praise the Lord. That is wonderful. And that is revolutionary. Say amen. Just say amen. This is exciting.

Well, now then see Him. He's going to get us some men around Him and He's going to say to them, "Forget all that. I got to lay that aside. We're going to get under a grove and I'm going to teach you the Bible. You guys, you got to get out here and you got to save people and heal people and you got to work hard and you got to serve and so forth and so forth and so forth. You check the Gospel records, and you will discover, that in the three and a half years that those 20 people lived with Him, and specifically the 12 who went out in pairs and actually you know there was probably more than 20. It was around 70 by toward the end. Those 12 spent two weeks serving God during three and a half years. That's all.

One week the 12 went out, came back. They went out in six pairs. The demons are they were just so excited. And the Lord was excited that they were excited. Then later He sent out 70.

That's 35 groups, 35 pairs. 12 of those had already been out before. He sends them out and they go out to the villages, and they come back. The demons obey us. They're just mind boggled.

Two weeks out of three and a half years. What do they do the rest of the time, Gene? They watched the Father fellowship with the Son. That's what they did. And they watched the Son fellowship with the Father. They lived with God. They lived in the presence of God for three- and one-half years. And they followed Him and they heard Him and they watched Him. That's what they did.

Now, if you wanted to see the church of Jesus Christ and the Christian life and a worker in preparation during the Lord's age between 21 and 30, you had to go to Nazareth. If you could get in a time machine and go back to the first century and if you wanted to see the church, if you wanted to see the Christian life and if you wanted to see a worker during the time the Lord was 30 through 33 and a half, are you following me? Am I being clear? If you went back and you wanted to see the Christian life, you wanted to see the church and you wanted to see the worker between the time the Lord was 30 and 33 and a half years old or 34, then you had to go not to Nazareth. He left there, but you had to go to Galilee. And what would you see? 20 men, 70 men memorizing verses of scripture, people speaking in tongues, going to Bible school.

I am asking you to establish for me a pattern. I am asking you to be truthful with scripture. I am asking you to look at the word of God and see what's there. You would have to go to Galilee and find some men sitting out in broad daylight on a dusty road. That was their concept of the Christian life, the church and a worker and workers preparation. What would you see? Aristotle under the grove of academia reading his notes while his students took notes? If you wanted to see a Christian, you would see the Lord Jesus Christ in fellowship with His Father. And now He's beholding it, and He's fellowshiping with 12 men. God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, and 12 guys who couldn't read and write. That's the Christian life. That's what you'd see. The church mobile. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and 12 men watching.

Now, you know I need to really impress upon you what 12 men had the impression that the church was at that time, and I'd like to Simon Peter is that right? Yes. And John uh son of Zebedee. All right. James, is that right? James the Zealot. All right. Uh Simon Peter, what do you consider the assembly of God? The church. That is the ecclesia. Remember Simon Peter look up and say, "Never heard of it." Well, you heard the Lord mention it once. Oh, yeah. That's right. He did say something about the ekklesia of the assembly. What is it? What is that? Well, here it is right here. Uh, it's just us sitting around here listening to the Lord, watching Him say, "You watch Him."

Now, there is something to see. You watch Him. You know what He's doing? He's listening to His Father. He told us the other day that He never does anything except what He sees His Father do. That's all He does. Uh, well, is He a Christian? What's a Christian? Uh well, is He, He's the Christ, right? And you're a follower of His? Uh-huh, what would you say, uh, Christ is like? What do you mean what's He like? Well, what would someone be like if they were like Him? If someone were like Him, what would they be of they were like Him? They'd hear voices. Uh, they would, uh, if they were like Him, they'd hear voices and they'd see their Father and they'd obey Him and they'd love Him. And it's incredible. You all should sit down and watch?

All right, John. Maybe I can get more sense out of you than I did Simon Peter. Uh, John, what do you consider the ekklesia? The ekklesia? You mean the assembly? The assembly? We don't assemble. I mean, we assemble now. Would you like to have some roasted lamb? We're sitting here eating roasted lamb and some wine.

Mary Magdalene has some water over here. You'll, she's a dear little gal. Uh this morning we got up and sang together. Oh, we had a wonderful time. The Lord sang with us. He was in our midst singing. It was great. What else you want to know? What's a worker? What's a Christian worker? What's a Christian worker? I don't know what a Christian is, but what's a, what do you mean what is a worker? What is someone who really serves the living God? Well, I don't know of anybody doing that but Him. Well, how did He get prepared doing that? I don't know that He had any preparation. He's a carpenter, you know. But you mean He never went to Jerusalem to the temple, but He lives with His Father.

If you wanted to see the church, you had to look at 12 men and the Lord Jesus Christ and an internal experience He was having with an indwelling God. If you were to find the church, then we would have to find God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit in Christ fellowshiping with 12 men. And that was their concept of the church. And that's what their concept of the church was. The day they got into that little group and the day they died, it had not changed. And their concept of a preparation of a Christian worker was what they knew their Lord had gone through and what they went through.

Okay, how did the Lord prepare them to be Christian workers? I'm going to ask again. Did He do it the way Aristotle did it? That's the way we do it. Aristotle and his grove of academia is basically our today's seminary. Well, what did the Lord Jesus Christ do? I just get, this is where I get so steamed up. He got 12 men around Him and He showed them how to live by the life of the Father for three and a half years. He showed them by His own personal illustration. That's how He prepared them to be workers. He prepared them to be workers by three things. He showed them the Christian life, which is what He is. He showed them the church by their fellowshiping together and with Him. And He prepared them to be workers by living with Him, living in His presence, and teaching them what the Christian life was.

Now my dear brother, I land this now. I am telling you young men, what you ought to do to prepare yourself to be a Christian, you ought to see the same Father He saw. And you ought to see Him seeing the Father. You ought to listen to them fellowship. And you ought to get in the church. That's the second thing you ought to do. You ought to get in the church where other people are listening and watching and hearing and sharing what they listened to, watched, and heard, and together are living by a life not human, every once in a while, and sharing those moments together when you get assembled. That's what you ought to do.

Now, I don't know that there's anyone in this room. Okay. I don't know if anybody else in this room has been called to the ministry, you know what you ought to do? You ought to be clear. You ought to get in the church, in a body of believers, who are watching, hearing, living by, and sharing what they live by. You got to do like the apostles. You'll spend your life, your 20s, watching the Godhead in fellowship with the Godhead in the church.

That's what preparation for the Christian ministry is. Now then you say to me, can, will the pattern hold? Will the pattern hold, or does it stop with the 12? And this is, I'm telling you, you better believe me. I wouldn't be standing here. I'm gonna show you the pattern.

From the day the Lord started ministering until the last worker in the New Testament was raised up, the pattern never changed. It remained unbroken. What the Christian life was, what the church was, and the way workers were prepared. And then after they got prepared, what they went out and did is unbroken all the way from the Godhead to the last knowledge we have of workers being raised up. And I would say to you brothers and sisters, that you and I need to return to the fellowship, and we're going to have to learn how to do that outside of time and outside of space just like the Lord did. And then maybe we can bring a little of it into time and into space.

Gene, you're either crazy or you're mad. Which is it? No, it is possible to restore that fellowship. That's all I can say to you old folks. I can't help you with the church. For one thing, I'm not a, I don't live in Ontario. I was about to say I'm not a Canadian. That's not true. I don't live in Ontario. I don't live where you live. But I can tell you this. I can tell you what kind of worker you need if you ever have the church there. And I can tell you what the church is. It's the fellowship of a group of people around the fellowship of the Father and the Son and the Spirit. Oh, it's a lot of other things too because we're fallen. We have no visible Christ with us. But that's where the church begins there and works out. And the only thing I'd say to you about workers is, if you see any young men who've been called to the Lord, tell them what I just told you, would you? They need to find somebody who can show them that fellowship and that church, that Christian life and that church experience and that preparation.

Now, this is one of the most important messages that I can bring on this earth. But I'm not through. I am going to impress you and reimpress you and double impress you. And because this room is sealed off, I have the feeling it's 10:00 at night, don't you? But it's afternoon. Is that right? All right, I'm not picking on the Bible, but I know more about the Bible than you. Unless you are one rare bird. And I know the Bible has been sold as the secret to the Christian life and it works for a few people. I know that prayer has been sold as the secret to the Christian life. It works for a few people. I know that witnessing is sold as the secret to the Christian life. It works for a few people. I know that tongues has been sold as a secret to the Christian life and it works for a few people. But there's some of us by disposition who are not interested in the Bible. Some of us by disposition are really not turned on by tongues. And some of us by disposition are not turned on by prayer. And some of us by disposition literally cannot witness. And it is not the eternal pattern.

If we are to have what we're supposed to have, we have to start looking further back. And we find something very divine going on long before earth was created. And we see it again on the earth before any of us are involved. And we see it again being exhibited, not, not any more than that, just demonstrated to a group of people, a small group of people who are standing there with their mouths open. And then we see this eternal pattern, this divine organic way passed on finally to fallen men and women like you and like me. And I'm not even guaranteeing you that it is the ... nor it is the victorious life. I am only telling you the fact this was the original wellspring. This was the original fountain head. This was the original foundation of your faith. And whatever else is added, this has got to be the foundation upon which your life as a Christian, your life as a body of

people, and your life as a worker must be built on. We will begin here, or we will begin in the wrong place. Be impressed.