

# SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

December 10, 2017

SPEAKER

Brian Frost

SERIES

Make Him Room

PART

1

TITLE

Let It Be As You Said

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38



© 2017 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)

Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.

Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.

Well, it's so good to see you Providence. Thanks for being here on this brisk morning, and to all of our guests who are here, welcome. We're really glad that you've joined us as well. I want to ask you, if you would, Luke chapter one is where we'll be, so if you have a bible if you want to go ahead and head there. If you don't have one there's a lot of bibles in the chairs near you. If you don't have one at home we'd love for you to take that home as a gift that you have your own copy of the bible. We love the bible here and we love what it says. It's the story about Christ. It's also the story about our lives. What you find in that bible is this; It says that you and I we were all created by God in His image. It also says that we were created to actually experience, while we're here on this earth, an actual relationship with God. What that means is that we would recognize His presence and absence in our life.

Just like the presence and absence other people, other friends in our life, when they're there we recognize they're there. We're aware that they're there. We can feel them. We can hear them. When they're not there we can not feel them and we do not hear them. It's the same thing with the Lord is that God created us in His image. Second He created us to live in a relationship with Him. Third is that when we leave this place we, and our spirit, we will actually come and we will stand before God almighty and we will give an account of our life to Him. What I just talked about is our origin, our purpose, and our destiny. It says that God is the reference point for all of those three things. Most of us have a phone and that phone perhaps has a map app on it. If you put in that map Boston, all of a sudden this red dot would fall on the city of Boston. What's interesting is that, that red dot wouldn't change unless you wanted to change the reference point of where you were at in relation to that dot.

If you look at it there's a little blue dot. That blue dot, it moves all over the place, because that represents whoever's holding your phone. It's interesting that, that blue dot can move all over the place. It can get lost. It can be moving all the time. That red dot, it just stays still. It's the same thing with our life. We're the little blue dot. We're moving all over the place. We're busy, we're active, we're doing all kinds of things. Our life is full. Sometimes overfilled. What it says though is this, that God is the reference point. He's the reference point from where we came from. He's the reference point for what we should be doing right now on the earth, our purpose for being here. He's the reference point for where we're going when we get done here. That's why the bible refers to people who separate themselves from God because of sin as lost. It's because we've lost our reference point to where we came from, where we're going, and who we're supposed to be in the middle. It's interesting is that when we feel lost we tend to accelerate in life.

That's why if you don't know what your life is really about you just involve yourself in more than you probably should. You eat more than you should, and drink more than you should, you date more than you should, you buy more than you should, you join more than you should. Maybe you work more than you should. The reason is because we're looking to satisfy our soul. We're looking to get to that destination.

We're looking to be near the one who we were created to be near. What we find is this hectic life to where it creates within us this ever growing thirst for pleasures that continue to just fall short. It's because they're not God. Just the other day I was in a store and I was buying a few gifts for a family. I had two shirts, and I'm in line. Now there's three cash registers and they're all working, and there's one line. There's one person in front of me and then myself. I'm thinking this is wonderful. Christmas shopping and there's one person ahead of me. This is amazing.

Then this lady walks up. It had been a long day shopping apparently. She was a little uptight and she was breathing kind of heavy. She stands and she goes, "Oh good Lord. Look at this line." "There's only two of us." I'm just looking. I said, "If you're in a hurry you can take my place and then there will only be one in front." She goes, "No, that's okay. I just hate this." I said, "What?" She said, "I have no time for this stuff. I have no money for this stuff and I have no room for this stuff." I thought, what a reality to the world where we just keep running. We keep running. We keep buying. We keep shopping. Yet God is there and He wants to be near us forever. What I want to encourage you with is that if we do not pause and make room for God what takes place in our life is we cram our holidays, we cram our calendars, and we always do this at the expense of our joy.

There's a really neat passage. It's James chapter three. I told you Luke one. I'm going to put James four on the board. You just stay in Luke one. We're almost there. God pleads with us, those of us who make all these plans, we're busy and doing all these things. He says this, "Come now you say, 'Today or tomorrow we'll go into such and such a town and we're going to spend a year there, and trade, and make a profit.' Yet you don't even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you're like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say if the Lord wills we will live and do this or do that." His point is simply this to us, there's nothing sinful in what they're doing. They're going to work. There's a profit. There's some sort of goal. The problem is that they're seeking live their life and find satisfaction outside of a relationship with God. They're not paying any attention to Him. They're trying to create a world outside of His world.

What we find here in Luke chapter one, and what I want you to see, is simply one example of how God blesses those who make room for Him. This is what He says, Luke chapter one verse 26. He says, "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary and he came to her and said, "Greetings oh favored one." The Lord is with you." She was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary. For you have found favor with God, and behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son. You shall call his name Jesus. He will be great. He will be called the son of the most high. The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. Of His kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the son of God. Behold your relative, Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son. This is in the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word" and the angel departed from her. What I want to show you Providence, is just a few things here about plans. The first is this, is that God knows we have plans for our lives. He knows. He knows that He created us with the capacity to plan, to aspire, to dream. The story begins and it says that God sent an angel to a woman, a virgin, named Mary, in the city of Nazareth. God knew her name. God knew her address. He knew her city. He even knew her sexual past. He knew. God knows you just like He knows Mary.

Now I want you to think about this for a second. Have you ever considered, just for a moment, what Mary's plans might have been for her life before this moment took place? You know she had plans, right? She's a young woman. Some people believe maybe even an older teenager. Maybe young 20s. We're not sure exactly. She's a young woman. She's betrothed, or legally engaged to be married. Those of you who have ever been engaged to be married, or know someone that is, that is a season of their life that is ripe for dreaming and planning. You get bridal magazines and just spend time thinking about what it's going to be like. Mary, you have to understand, was no different. She was about to be married to a man. Her heart had to be absolutely packed with dreams as she laid down at night. Just like brides today dreaming about what it's going to be like to wear that dress, dreaming what it's going to be like when all the people in my community, and in this place, Nazareth small community everyone was invited.

Everyone knew her. Not only as a beautiful woman on the outside, but as a woman of character, of virtue, of integrity. She had been dreaming about having her community admire her character, admire her beauty just like, "They're going to look at me when I walk in." She'd probably been dreaming about a proud dad and a doting mom, a handsome husband. To be totally honest she probably at some dream about her wedding night. You people do that. I wonder what that's going to be like. Plans, dreams, aspirations. Who are my friends going to be? A home to build after we get married. We're setting up a new home. Where's the bed going to go? Where's the couch? Where's the chair? What's it going to be like? This was Mary, a young woman preparing to establish a home. She has friends that she wants to build great relationships with. She has places that she's maybe even aspiring, "Wouldn't it be great to go visit there." Then maybe further in her dreams there's these little things called kids. They're going to run around, and all in that order.

Suddenly an angel appears. What I want you to see is that Mary's heart is just like ours. That is that it was a factory of dreams. Every one of those dreams were built on the assumption that when I get there this is going to bring me and the people around me great good. Let me ask you what dreams are yours? What dreams cram the locker of your own imagination? What dreams do you set before you for five years from now or maybe one year from now. Maybe even your next vacation that you look at anything and you think, "Well, when we get there. That's going to be amazing. That's going to be so encouraging. That's going to be so satisfying." What dreams command your prayers? Maybe if you don't pray what dreams command your daydreams? What dreams in your life command where your money goes? What fills in your calendar? We all have them. We all have dreams and whatever your dream is, whether it's marriage, or kids, or health, or some kind of career, some job, or be done with a job and retire, and to move in next to your grown children so you can be near your grand ... whatever your dreams are, whatever they are you need to understand something. That's God knows what they are.

Psalm 139 verse two says, "You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You discern my thoughts from afar." You don't even have to say them to Him or another person for Him to know what you're dreaming about. He knows. Here's God. He knows all about Mary. He knows her address. He knows her engagement. He knows her business. He knows her dreams, just as He knows yours, and just as He knows mine. God knows that we have plans for our lives. The second thing I want you to see is that God knows His plans for our lives. He knows we have plans for our life. He also knows the plans that He has for our life. It's a subtle difference, but it's significant. It's who's doing the dream, who's making the plans. What I want you to see here is that Mary's plans, each one of Mary's plans in Mary's little world, they fell under the umbrella of God's big plans for God's big world. Sometimes I try little word pictures and they work really well and sometimes they don't. This is a risk, but we're going to go there anyway.

This little umbrella, if you think about this, Mary had little plans for her little world. They all fell under the big umbrella of God's big plans for God's big world. The fact is that every single one of us, we have a little umbrella. Under that umbrella that goes over our head, right, here's our little umbrella, we have people that we want to join us under that umbrella in our life. We have places we want to visit. We have dreams. We have aspirations. We have things where we look at and we think, boy it would be amazing if I could get to there. That would be so satisfying to my soul. Every single one of us knows what falls underneath our umbrella. What's interesting is this, even for those of us who know the Lord, in fact maybe even more so for those of us who know the Lord, who knows that there is a God who's created all things, who's personal, who wants to bless us, who says I have plans for you to prosper you. It's natural for us to look at all of our little plans under our little umbrella and we see this as the world.

They go, “This is my world and these are my plans for my world.” Then we look to God and we say, “God, would you bless my world? Would you bring that person? Would you allow me to go to that place? Would you give me resources to resource all of these schemes, all of these dreams, all these aspirations and plans so that I can actually experience in them?” Here we are and we have our little world. Mary had an umbrella of what it was going to be like for her life, and so do you, and so do I. What I want you to see is this, is that all of this falls under another umbrella. It’s a much bigger one and it’s God’s. What you find in the bible, you open up the bible, is that God too has a big plan for His big world. Under that big plan in the big world there’s all of our little lives and all of our little dreams, and all of our little umbrellas.

Here’s the amazing thing; We tend to come under our umbrella and when we look over our umbrella sometimes we can not see through our umbrella to see His. We assume that we exist to fulfill this little plan, and that God exists to resource this little plan. You have to understand something is that God knows that He created you in His image to enjoy a relationship with Him. He knows that He is given you specific abilities, and talents, resources, and time. Everything about your life is loan. Have you ever thought about that? You showed up here naked. All the people in your life, they’re all given. Your last breath was given. All the resources, your clothes, everything you have it’s on loan from somebody else. It’s so sad that so many of us, we live so much of our life totally unaware that God has a big plan for what He’s doing in the world, and that He has actually created us, specifically to play not only a precious, but an important part of what that plan is. Every one of us are written into His story.

So many of us are so distracted because all we can see is our little world and our little plans, and our little dreams, and our aspirations. We think if I could just get this I would be so happy. What God wants you to see and what God wants you to know is that your life, ultimately and entirely will be judged on the basis of how you align that with His plan for why you’re here. You ever thought that every one of your days is on loan from God? God gave you all those abilities and talents, and all the relationships, all the people that you know He’s done that for a purpose. Did you know it’s not simply to resource your plans? It’s actually to mobilize and you and resource you to fulfill the reason you are on the earth, the reason He created you in His image, the reason that He has already designated the part you will play in His big plans for His big world. We need to talk about these big plans. What are they? What is this big plan?

What I want to do, I want to show you a narrative of the bible. It’s going to be really [inaudible 00:18:29] the whole bible. Seriously. Really, the whole bible. It’s going to be really, really quick. I want to show you the parts that specifically point to what the angel says to Mary in this text. God’s big plan, it begins very abruptly. It says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Once it wasn’t there and then it was. It says that God created a man and woman in His image to live on this earth, to relate to Him. God wanted to protect the perfect harmony that they enjoyed and so God gave them an instruction. He said to them, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden.” I want you to notice the emphasis there is on God’s generosity not on what He’s withholding.

He looks and He says do you see all this? It's all yours. It's all yours to enjoy with me. Together. Perfect harmony, but to protect you He says, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Well, immediately Satan comes to tempt. He draws near to Adam and Eve. The first thing he does is he plants a seed of unbelief. He says, "Did God actually say you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?" Satan is emphasizing that God's a meiser, that He's a scrooge. Every single one of us, just like Adam and Eve, we have to make make a decision what do we really believe about God and His plan? Is God a friend who's seeking to protect something that's precious, or is He a scrooge that's seeking to withhold something that is pleasant? Tragically they believed the lie that God was withholding something that was really in their best interest. They ate, they sinned against God, and all of a sudden they unleashed a tidal wave of consequence. The earth became hard. Their relationship became strained. Their body would die. They would pass the DNA of sin to every next generation, which would only perpetuate and guarantee more sin. It's just a terrible tragic thing. Just like a wad of tangled Christmas lights life became tedious and frustrating.

It says that this garden, they were kicked out of it. Now we all live in the wilderness that's cursed with thorns and thistles. Even in this tragedy, God had a plan. The rest of the bible is His redemptive plan that you and I have literally been written into the story. You see there in the garden God promised a rescuer. He looked at him and He said, "One day there will be a son that's born of woman who's going to grow up to be a man. That man is going to crush the head of Satan and bring people back into a right relationship with Him. The bible is literally written, and it's supposed to be read as if we are on lookout for this special person, this special son. Those of us who know that the bible has something to do with Jesus, if you've read it before, and we already know it's about Jesus.

If you didn't know Jesus, and you're in Genesis, and you start reading every new character that's introduced you're supposed to read the bible asking is this him? Is this the one? Generation by generation we find no, it's not that one either. It's not that one either. We get to chapter 12 and God comes to a man named Abraham. Abraham, when God finds him, he's bowing down to rocks and stone idols because he doesn't know the one true God. God looks at him and He says, "I'm God and you're not. These aren't gods either, but this is what I'm going to do, I'm going to bless you." He says, "I will bless you and I will make your name great so that you will be a blessing. In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." There's actually four promises. He goes on and He says, "I'm going to bless you. Even though you have no kids right now I'm going to make you into a great nation."

"Even though you have no land to live in right now I'm going to give you a special land on the earth. Even though you have no kids right now, not only will you have kids, but one of those kids will be the rescuer who's going to bless all the families of the earth."

Now we know that it comes from the line of Abraham. Well, he has a son. His name is Isaac. We're all supposed to say, "Is he him?" We learn really quick it ain't Isaac, right? He begins sinning. All of a sudden he has kids. One of them is Jacob. We find out really quickly Jacob's not him because he's such a liar. God comes and He says, "You know what I'm still going to bless you. This is how I'm going to do it. I'm going to transfer the blessing." I'm going to show you where this is going and I'm going to give you a clue as to what to look for next. He says, "Jacob, kings shall come from your own body and the land that I gave to Abraham, and your dad Isaac I will give to you."

The bible, in the Old Testament, there's 43 kings. We're supposed to ask for every single one of them, is this him? Is this him? The second king, his name is David. God comes to David and He says this, He says, "I will raise up your offspring after you and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. In other words He says, "Listen, this special one that's coming, not only is he going to be a king, but he's going to reign forever." Wow, okay. Which one of these kings reigned forever? All 43 of them pass and they're not him. During that time God starts sending prophets. One of those prophets, his name was Isaiah. He gives a little clue as to what to look for. Isaiah chapter seven verse 14 says, "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," which means God with us. God is literally going to come to this earth through the womb of a virgin. Now, fast forward and in the fullness of time an angel comes to a virgin named Mary.

Mary. This little boy grows up. His name is Jesus Christ and he lives his entire life without sin. Yet, he goes to a cross to pay for our sin. He's buried into a grave and three days later he rises from the dead and he invited every one of us who hear this news of his resurrection that we can believe in him that he is the son of God, that he came for us, that he was righteous, that he died for us, that his death was to pay my penalty, that he rose from the dead, confess him as Lord. He says, "I'll forgive you of all of your sin. All of it. Every last bit of it. Past, present, future. All of it." Such an amazing gift. See 1 Timothy chapter two verse five says, "There is one God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Over here you have holy God. Over here you have sinful man. Jesus Christ came and he's able to represent both and mediate between the two.

The reason he was born of a virgin, and why the Holy Spirit ... he actually says, "Look, the Holy Spirit will come on you. That's why he will be called Holy the son of God." Daniel calls him the son of man. It's because he's going to be born of a woman. There's full God, full man. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a real woman. He's able to mediate. He's able to understand and sympathize with Holy God. He's also able to sympathize with sinful men. Not because he's sinned, but because he was tempted in every way just as we are, and yet he never gave into it. He's able, but not only is he able. The angel comes to Mary and he says, "Your son is going to sit on David's throne. He's going to reign forever. He is the king. He is the rescuer. He's the fulfillment of the promise in the garden, and to Abraham, and Isaac, and to Jacob, and every prophet. Here he is. His name is Jesus." Mary was written into this plan. Don't forget she had all her little dreams. All those wonderful dreams about plans for her life.



God came and He goes, “But don’t you see your entire life, the reason you’re even born, the reason you’re here, the reason I’ve protected you, the reason you’re a woman of character is because I have a plan for you. That is that from the beginning you are going to be the mother of my son Jesus Christ.” What an amazing, amazing reality. You also have to know is that your life has been written into this story as well. All the little umbrellas that we hold of our dreams and our plans, every single one of our lives their meant for this big umbrella. They all fit under that. All your dreams, all your aspirations, all your gifts they’re all intended for a very specific purpose. The central part about that purpose, whether you’re an engineer, a doctor, a mother, a father, it doesn’t matter what is that we would know God and make Him known. That we would literally live our life not for our glory, but for His. 2 Corinthians 5:15 says that, “He died for all. Those who might live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

What he’s saying is that those of us who believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sin, the rest of our life is not a series of attempts to get us to get God to bless our little world. We’re not living for ourself anymore, you see. He’s saying it’s for us instead to say, “God, here’s my life. What do you want to do with it?” How can you, Providence, how can we leverage our life for the glory of Jesus Christ? God knows we have plans for our lives. God knows His plans for our life. The third thing is that God blesses those who make room for His plans. He blesses those who make room for His plans. I want you to imagine that you come home from the grocery store with a big gallon of milk, and you open up the fridge, and you put it in there, and you can’t put it in there because it’s just jam packed with stuff. You don’t throw it away because it doesn’t fit. What do you do? You find something in there that maybe doesn’t smell so good, or maybe it’s a little bit old.

If there’s no room then you make room, don’t you. This is more valuable than whatever’s in there. It’s new. It’s the same with the Lord. Every single one of us our budget, our time, our calendar, our dreams they’re all packed full. God comes to us and He says, “Now this is the plan that I have for you.” I want to give you a central thesis, one thing if there’s only one thing you need to remember or I hope you remember it’s this sentence it’s this, a relationship with God includes an agreement to make room in our plans whenever He reveals His plans. This is what it means to be in a relationship with Him. Anytime that God comes and He says, “Hey, I know you have all your plans and you’re going this way,” but then all of a sudden He comes and He intersects with our life and He goes, “I know you have all your plans and they’re great plans, but actually I have a plan for this year of your life. I have a plan for this lunch meeting in your life. I have a plan for your afternoon.”

To be in a relationship with Him simply says that we take maybe something that doesn't smell so good out of the fridge of our life so that we can put what He gives us in. We're simply seeking to make room for what He gives us. Have you ever thought of the fact that every hero of our faith had other plans? Moses never planned to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Ruth had other plans. Mary had other plans. Gideon had other plans. David had other plans. They all had other plans. We all had other plans before we came to faith didn't we? Those of you who have come to faith in Christ, didn't you have other plans for your life than what you now know? Every single one of us we have other plans. Listen, we have about 250 people here at Providence who serve our children on Sunday morning. Did you know that before they signed up they all had plans for this year? Every single one of them. There's an army of people here who serve in hospitality.

Did you know that every one of those people had plans for how they could spend their Sunday morning before God intersected with their life. There's an army of people at Providence who give so generously here at Providence in order to fund the missions so that the gospel can get to the ends of the earth. Did you know that every single person who gives at one time in their life had other plans for those dollars. All of us have other plans. All of a sudden God comes and these two worlds collide. God looks at us and He says, "We're in a relationship right? This needs to fit into your life. You need to understand making room is hard. This is why it says that Mary was greatly troubled and when she heard the plan she said, "Well, how is this going to happen? I'm a virgin. This doesn't make sense. It's not logical." Sometimes the thing that God adds to your life, and He says, "This is what I want you to do," you're like, "Really? How does that fit with anything?" I want you to imagine her trouble. It's understandable.

Imagine if you've read the bible your entire life. You read Isaiah, you know there's a virgin. Suddenly you learn from an angel that you happen to be that virgin. Imagine that and imagine just the cascading wave of fear and joy that collided in her heart when she's hearing this news. Maybe first she starts she goes, "Praise God. He's sending the promised one. It's finally coming. Wait a minute. What about my dreams? What about my wedding? What about the things that I've been planning for my life? What about my dress?" Then maybe she goes back to joy, "But praise God because all this time we're waiting and now He's sending His promised one. It's actually going to take place. He says that I'm the favored one. What an amazing thing. Wait a minute what about my reputation before all the people in my community? What about Joseph's reputation?" People who don't care about the truth they always make wrong assumptions about what happened. "Will my dad believe me?" Let's just be totally real; Your kid comes home. "Hey, I'm pregnant. I'm a virgin though." Do you believe her?

This happened in real time and space, real people, real integrity issues, real cultural consequences, real eyes looking at her. "Is mom and dad going to believe me? Is Joseph going to believe me?" Notice there's no negation here whatsoever. Her statement is absolutely stunning. Verse 38, I don't quite understand the word behold because behold means look and she's talking to one person that happens to be a really big deal in heaven.

His name is Gabriel. "Behold, Gabriel look," I don't know that she pointed. I don't know how it happened. Then she says, "I'm a servant of the Lord." What does that mean? It means He owns me and He has stake over all of my days. God commands my whole life. Then she says, "Let it be to me according to your word." Imagine Mary, the servant of the Lord, gave birth to the servant of the Lord, who one day would say to his Father, not my will but your will be done.

All of these characters, all of these people, all of these individuals with real desires submitting themselves under God's big plan for God's big world. That's to bring us back into a right relationship with Him. You know Providence, the only way to respond to God in this way, the only way, is to believe that God is truly committed to our good. His plans and His promises and aspirations for our life are better than our plans and promises and aspirations for our life. Then if you consider some of the blessings that come when we do make him room obviously we don't get to be the mother of Jesus, like Mary, so it's a little different for each one of us. Just consider some of the blessings that she received. Have you ever thought about this; There are people in the bible that said no to God. Can you imagine if Mary said no? "Now we can't, because that's not how the story goes Brian. She says yes here." I get it, but she had a will to sin if she wanted to. She could have said, "No. I'm not for this."

Consider what came here way because she made room for God's plan. First honor and privileges. She had the privilege to kiss the infant cheek of the son of God. She had the privilege to be able to raise him and teach him, and nurture him. She had the privilege of cooking a meal for the King of heaven. She had the privilege, even though it was an awful one at the time, to see the two most significant events in the history of the world. That is when Jesus Christ paid for the sin of all humanity she was there. She saw him. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead she was there. She saw him. There's another privilege she had we find in Acts chapter one verse 14. It says that she was actually gathered with the other believers when the very first church was formed and they were praying to the Lord, when they were worshiping her son. It's just stunning what I want to encourage is just a few applications. The first is this; In particular if you've never trusted Christ let's make room and trust Christ with our heart.

No matter what your past is I want you to know that God can forgive you. We know this because Elizabeth had a baby and she was barren. I think that's the point. Mary's like, "How's this going to happen?" God gave another sign. Actually this is how powerful God is, and that's why He says, "With God all things are possible." God can make an old woman, who's barren, have a baby. God can forgive you of what you believe is an insurmountable mountain of sin. He could take it all away. The bible says this, it says that, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you'll be saved." Part of trusting him means repentance. When it comes to salvation what He means is this, is that all of our attempts to save ourselves must be taken out of the fridge in order to make room for a king that takes the whole fridge. In other words, for you and I when we say I think my effort, my good works, and this, and this, and this ... and God says you actually have to rely on one thing and one thing only. That's Jesus Christ.

We encourage you, those of you who have never trusted Christ, we urge you even today to look to him, to believe upon him and he will forgive you of your sin, all of it. For those of us who do know Christ I would say this is let's make room and trust Christ with our lives. Providence, we want to be a congregation full of men and women just like Mary who hear God's word and His will, and say, "Let it be done to me according to your word. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight." You have to understand to hear from God in your day you must make room in your day for God. If you need resources from Him, you need strength or courage to do His will you have to make room to be with Him. Even as a church family there's a vision that we have here.

It's a vision, it's a three year thing, where we say if we would do what we believe God has called us to do over the next three years we believe some of these things we would actually see with our eyes. It's called plant. What you see, even on the screen right here is we want to do three things. We want to plant our lives in the church. If we did that, if we actually planted our lives in the church, we believe that what we would see is that more people who call Providence their home, they would be consistent in a worship service. They would come to a life group and be involved in a small group of believers, they would be involving themselves in giving, and praying, and serving their church. You know what the only way to plant our lives in the church is to make room in our busy schedules. The second thing is to plant the gospel in our city.

We believe if we would do that as an entire church family ... and what we're hoping to see is that a thousand of us would have the privilege to lead one person to faith in Jesus Christ. Then to continue to meet with them to disciple them, to grow them, to help them to grow in the Lord just as we're trying to grow in the Lord. You know what's interesting? If we do not make room for God in the course of our day every person that God wants us to talk to we'll see not as an opportunity, but as an interruption. We won't be sewing any seeds. We won't be planting any seeds into the ground. For us to actually see this come to pass we're going to have to make room in our day for people we do not know. We also want to see and plant churches in the world. You plant the gospel and our hope is around the world someone has to go there. That means us.

Our goal is to see if we would do this what we're hoping to see is 300 to 500 people every year go on a mission trip. Literally go. The only way to do that is to make room in your year, in your budget. It's hard to do that, to go overseas, to tell people about Jesus Christ. The only way for this to be seen in our lives Providence, is if we're going to make room. What we see over and over again is that God accomplishes His big plan by working in the live of real people as they yeld themselves by making room. A third thing I want you to see is the third application is; Let's make room and pray to Him now.

We're actually going to do this now. We very rarely do this, but in the course of a service we normally plan everything out. What we wanted to do is to just put a little moment in the service to make room for you to pray to Him. If you don't know Christ the savior during this time you can use this time to actually pray and trust Christ as your savior.

If there's sin in your life, maybe you know the Lord, but there's sin in your life that's separating you, you know you're distant from God. This is an opportunity for you to talk to him. Confess your sin. If you don't know His will, or if you don't have courage to do the will that you know maybe you can use this time to pray for that. What we want to do right now is give you an opportunity right where you're at to have a few moments with you and the Lord just alone. Why don't you make Him room. Let's pray together.

Father in heaven, we acknowledge that you're the sovereign one over heaven and earth. You have authority over us and over everyone. As we've read your word we pray, Father, that you would give us the gift of belief, that we would believe what we read, that we would believe your word, that you would open up our eyes to see how our lives and our dreams, and our plans how they really need to fall under your big plan for the world. That is that we would be brought back into a right relationship with Jesus Christ and spend the rest of our life seeking to glorify him.

I pray for each person here. I pray for myself, God that you would help us to come under the authority of your plan, that you would help us to see our world and all of our gifts, and everything about us, and all of our dreams, and all of our plans. Ultimately Lord that you would help us to see that we're here on this earth in order to fulfill a very specific purpose of why you created us. God, I pray that you would encourage each one. I pray that you would help us now as we sing and even as we give. We pray as we do every week God, that you would take these gifts and you would propel the gospel forward through them to the ends of the earth. We pray in Christ's name, amen.



© 2017 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)  
Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.  
Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.