

Can really bad people change – for real?

Part 1



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary: This sermon will give great hope to those of you who have concluded you are beyond “change” – and that you’re incorrigible. This message will also challenge others of you and rock you to your core to check the amount of real love of God that flows in your heart and soul. This sermon is about the love of Christ and our Father for ALL humanity – and the same love that should be evident in the true family of God as well in simple and practical ways. Are some people too bad to ever truly change? And do some people have histories so bad – even if God is working with them – to ever accept them into the fellowship of the Body of Christ? Could God call, change and save anyone willing to heed His call to repentance? Or are there some people so bad that not even God will want to bother with them? But if HE bothers with them, shouldn’t we also? This message could change your life. If this message touches your heart – please pass it on to others you know who would benefit from the message.

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Welcome all of you to LightontheRock, where Christ is our Light and Christ is our Rock as we worship and glorify the Father, God Most High, through Yeshua – Jesus the Christ.

This sermon will have many nuances and quotes from various sources that I just don’t have the time and space to put into these notes. I strongly recommend you hear the AUDIO of this message, as you will definitely miss out on some key stories and points otherwise.

Last time I covered the fruit of the Holy Spirit. *When God sends the Holy Spirit into someone’s life, that person is completely transformed* – sometimes over time, and sometimes instantly. But transformation happens. It must happen. Peter and the apostles were transformed instantly from being cowardly disciples who fled when trouble appeared in Gethsemane to men filled with the spirit who praised God for being counted worthy to be beaten for Christ’s name sake (Acts 5:40-42).

Acts 5:40-42

“And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the

name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ [Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew “Messiah”].”

Paul went from being a torturer, murderer, frankly a terrible human being before his calling -- to being the main writer of the New Testament. Others take more time to change. For example, Paul spoke to the Galatians about how he worked with them “until Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).

But can really, really bad people who’ve done vile and unspeakable things, ever expect God will work with him/her too, and let them receive His forgiveness, receive His Holy Spirit, the very seed and nature of God, and become new persons, new creations in Christ – again, assuming God would even call such an evil woman or sin-filled man?

Some have told me God wouldn’t bother with such people! Hence the sermon! Look at your own calling: “Not many wise, not many noble, not many mighty are called” – right? God called the weak and base and nothings of this world, including you and me. You and I are the base and weak and foolish of the world.

You say, “Of course”, for you know the blood of Christ covers ALL sin, but do you really believe that is also true for the worst of the worst sinners who have inflicted suffering on so many and have shattered lives, homes and marriages? And would God even think of really bringing such horrid people into his family and to be part of the Body of Christ? Would you like to see them in your fellowship- - if they have repented...but they were these horrible people?

You see, in practice I’m not always witnessing or experiencing God’s children proving they really believe God can fully change anybody -- this by living what they profess. I see *many* of those who claim to be believers and members of God’s family – NOT willing to do what they claim their God and Savior does: forgive, reconcile, accept, restore and become one with *even those who have been really*, really bad people in the past and have done really, really bad things – in the past. Or maybe you are recognizing yourself in this description.

Start with that drunken whore you have seen downtown. Can you see God calling her to be a part of the body of Christ, to holiness and then having her walk in someday to your fellowship? And as Abba leads her to repentance, would *you* forgive and accept her as well? You would? What if she was the one

who shattered *your* marriage? Now how do you feel about her being among the chosen?

Even Mary Magdalene when she was called, first had to have 7 demons cast out of her. That means with 7 demons inside her, she must have been a very odd and bad person—and yet she was the first to meet the risen Messiah.

And some of you could forgive and accept some of these horrible sinners until....until they badly hurt your loved ones, your family, your children...then it gets so much harder, doesn't it?

That's the point of it all. If we could really even see ourselves, we would recognize we each had a lot to be forgiven of – and sometimes we still stumble. But can we see beyond the “bad” and see the potential they have in Christ, just as you do.

That's what was so striking about a couple of parents of those massacred in Orlando's LGBT club “Pulse” recently. The parents – who had just lost their son or daughter – with tears in their eyes were saying, “I do not hate the one who did this and I forgive him. God is his judge. I forgive him”. Incredible.

Would you or I have been able to say that?

Do you –whether you're the perpetrator of the most evil of sins – or the recipient of them – believe in your heart that *all* sin, ALL every single sin can be forgiven? Really? Even someone who murders or orders the murder of millions? Really – even HIS sins? Do you think God will try to save even the worst of the worst? Many of you don't believe that.

1 John 1:6-10

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him (God), and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from ALL sin.**

There is no sin deep enough, bad enough, high enough or strong enough to counter the power of God's grace, which is deeper, higher and stronger than all sins put together – and then some!

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.** 10 If

we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

NO sin is too bad to be forgiven and cleansed if we confess them and repent of them. ALL means all. If we confess our sins to God and no longer seek sin or enjoy sin as a way of life – but are putting these sins behind us – then every sin can be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Do you really believe ‘ALL’ means “all” – and are you willing to accept that “all sin” can be forgiven and result in even the worst former sinners being accepted in our fellowship if such a vile person confesses those sins? Will you extend your fellowship to super-vile sinners who are being called? Or do you just say you would but really hope such vile people would never come to your church?

Let me be plain....

Could God call, would God call – and CHANGE -- even abortion doctors, heartless terrorists, or serial adulterers who rip families apart? How about rapists, serial liars, voodoo shamans, merciless murderers, sex offenders of all the various kinds? How about drunkards? How about sodomites? How about idolaters and extortioners? Or are some people just beyond the scope of God even wanting to have anything to do with such people?

Does “cleanses us from ALL sin” – include all sins, including those sins? Or are some past sins just too bad to be acceptable into the body of Christ even if one repents of them? What you may know academically may not be what you are practicing in your church.

Now let me throw a huge, huge pill – too big for some of you to swallow I suspect: IS that possible even for people who have ordered the killings of millions and millions... or are those evil, evil men beyond cleansing by the blood of the Son of God? Would Yehovah even try to call or restore them – or just send them off to the lake of fire? What do you think?

Let’s see what God’s word says. Who were among those who attended the Christian or believer churches in Paul’s day? What were the kinds of people whom Paul, Timothy, Barnabas and Peter and John worked with?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. **Neither** fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor

covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God.**

[Surely many of you hearing this would have to admit even you have committed fornication and adultery and other sins listed here... or are they doomed? Let's keep reading. That's a pretty awful list by standards of many church-goers...]

11 “And such WERE some of you.”

Now understand this! Society says that it's clear that once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic. Once a serial sex offender of the worst kinds, society says you'll always be inclined to perpetrate more sexual offences. Humanly they're right! But with God's spirit working in these people's lives, Paul says “such WERE some of you”. He says though you formerly were a homosexual, formerly were a serial adulterer or sexual predator, or drunkard, etc. – your nature can be changed into a NEW CREATION by God's spirit. *You see, God deeply loves even these sinners, as much as he has loved you or any sinner* for whom he wishes to open the door of salvation! And GOD – who is ALMIGHTY and can do things mankind can't – says He can change you and me and all sinners into righteous new creations. With God's spirit in us, all things are possible.

Either God is Almighty or he isn't. Either God can do all things – including truly transforming the most reprobate of sinners—or he can't. Either the blood of Christ can cleanse ALL sin, or it can't. I speak as a fool. Of course all this is possible with God and it's almost blasphemous to even ponder anything contrary to this.

Let's continue reading the rest of verse 11. [Note: The audio is MUCH stronger throughout this section. Please hear the audio.]

“But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified [declared righteous] in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

Are you and I hearing God here? EX- Thieves, sodomites, homosexuals, drunks, fornicators, extortioners, adulterers, and covetous people – were accepted members of the church in Corinth! Let that sink in. *God has a place in his heart and in his kingdom apparently, even for sodomites and extortioners, liars, adulterers and thieves.* Now add “murderers” to that list because Paul himself was a murderer! He himself admits he persecuted the church to the death! King David – face it! He was a person who shattered lives, took innocent lives. He premeditated the murder of one of his top commanders after stealing that man's wife and committing adultery with her.

Will you accept King David in your church? Would you have accepted Paul? Now what about a “regular” brother who has done the same thing?

Do *you* have room in your heart and in your fellowship for such people? Some of those folks shattered lives, no doubt. Adulterers and others certainly have.

Some of you will find this sermon today very, very rough and hard to listen to – because you're not “there” yet with Yehovah, who is calling people from all walks and backgrounds of life.

MY QUESTION AND MY MESSAGE TODAY IS SIMPLY THIS

“Will you have the heart and desire that our GOD has –to wash, see as sanctified, and to see as righteous (justified) these very same kind of sinners who attended in Corinth, if they respond to God’s call, repent and at put *away* the horrible sins of their past? Will you accept them as friends and brothers/sisters? Will you let them come to your fellowship and church?”

Or will you work your hardest to be sure those scumbags (as you might see them) never attend a fellowship of believers because you’re going to be sure to tell as many people as you can about their sordid past? And you do that because you have come to believe some people can never really change.

Perhaps you believe what indeed is commonly believed and taught -- “once a drunk, always an alcoholic. Once a sex addict, always a sex addict”. But this denies that our God is Almighty and can do anything. Nothing is impossible with God. **One of his greatest miracles is changing someone from being an absolutely detestable human being for all his/her sinful life – into someone beautiful and an AMAZING** child of God. Changing a sinful sinner into a holy child of God is a greater miracle than the parting of the Red Sea.

And who will be the greater sinner if you do spread all that gossip around about them? The horrible sinner whose sins you are spreading, whose sins are now washed in the blood of the Lamb – or you, or whoever is the one spreading the gossip, for being a *current*, unrepentant sinner by your gossiping to as many as will listen?

Are you listening, brethren? Let your heart listen too. Ask God to open your heart to this message.

Let me ask you some questions:

- Is God truly Almighty – and is nothing impossible for God (Luke 1:37) – including changing the very vile of humanity if he chooses to call them and work with them?
- Some of us want to believe some people cannot change. The things impossible with men – like a serial sex offender changing, or a drunkard losing all desire for alcohol forever – are possible with God (Luke 18:27). Or do you wish to deny God that power? I'm challenging you in this sermon to believe God can do whatever God wants to do – even in the lives of once horrible sinners!

Beware lest you accept there can be godliness – yet “deny the power thereof” – of GOD to do in a man or woman's life what seems impossible to mankind. **2 Tim 3:5.**

EVEN Apostle Paul was once a vile murderer and torturer

Even the amazing Apostle **Paul called himself “CHIEF sinner”** and unworthy of the calling he had. But God called him and used even him mightily.

Actually let's read it.....as it is so rich with meaning and has so much to do with today's sermon.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 **And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.** 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.** 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might *show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.* 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Verse 16 – Paul is explaining that through Paul, God is saying “look, if I can save and convert Paul after all his murderous sins, I can change you as well.”

WHO IS THE REAL ENEMY?

Let's remember one key point: humans are not your enemy. They are not. Humans, regardless how bad they have been, have been taken captive by Satan at the Garden of Eden. Yehovah Elohim – Eternal God, the great I AM, has a program of restoration and restitution of all things, and for all people *who* will heed his call. If you are in jail listening to this, please listen. If you aren't in jail, but resisting the urge to forgive someone of some vile deed – please listen. (Much more on the audio...)

The enemy is Satan – the Adversary. That's what his name means. And Devil means Accuser. So—don't become an Accuser yourself, as that makes you a little devil in your own right. HE'S the enemy. Don't be like him. *When you – or anyone else—spreads bull dung far and wide about someone's repented-of sins, you are working for the enemy and you have become a little devil for Satan the Devil (accuser).* If you listen to, or read that crap – you are working for the Adversary as well. (Paul said “dung” as well in Phil 3). You become an accomplice in the sin of the original person preparing and spreading the horrible gossip of sins long repented of.

We must see all humans *as potential brothers and sisters in the family of God* if they heed his call and repent and turn from their wicked ways – just as you had to. Just as Paul had to. Just as King David had to. Just as I had to.

YOUR sins made the Son of God have to die no less than the sins of a rapist or murderer or extortioner who repents and turns from her or his evil ways – and no less than I or every other sinner has caused: the death of God's son. So none of us is in any position to think we're any better.

*Besides, a lot of sordid humanity don't have your upbringing, your parenting or the love you experienced. **Most of us frankly have a lot of brokenness** in our lives. We have histories that have broken something good inside of us. And all of us have some amazing attributes too, if people would just stop to look past the sad brokenness that most of us have on display. And especially in Christ, formerly horrible sinners can become amazing saints – in time. Give them time. Even Paul spoke of working with the Galatians “UNTIL Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19)*

So now that we've laid some groundwork, let's get started.

DO you have a place in your life, in your heart, in your church, in your fellowship – for the worst of the worst of humanity that Yehovah is calling to repentance, to restoration, to salvation, to holiness... yes even they are being

called to a new holy life in Christ Yeshua. And believe he is calling some of the worst of the worst. I know this for a fact.

CORRIE ten BOOM's amazing challenge and revelation

Let me start with this next story from the best-selling 1971 book "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom. I heartily recommend you buy and read her book. She died some years ago at around age 90. In her book "The Hiding Place" she explains why it's so hard to forgive and accept some people. When someone is so vile and whose actions have shattered so many lives, all of us are naturally repulsed and many of us wish that person be dead. Especially if that person is a repeat offender of his evil deeds. (And by the way, all of us are serial sinners, repeat offenders. Hmm, have you ever thought of that? Have you not repeatedly gossiped at times? Or broken the sabbath, or coveted, or lusted, or lied – not quite telling the absolute truth?)

Corrie ten Boom lived in Holland during World War II. Her dad, her sister Betsie and she protected, housed, hid and fed Jews and resistance workers for a few years. They honored the 7th day sabbath, probably to honor their Jewish guests. All this was fine until someone ratted on her – and she and her sister Betsie ended up in jail and then in a German concentration camp where they suffered horribly from the guards there. Her sister Betsie died in the camp.

After the War, she began a home for refugees of the Nazi concentration camps as well as for Nazi sympathizers – teaching them about the love of God, his forgiveness, and the need to forgive one another. Now let me read from her book the Hiding Place (PLEASE – those of you reading the notes, please listen to the audio... as I simply do not have the time or permission to copy directly from the book. But you have to hear this, as it makes such a great point...)

In the audio I tell the story of how in one of her talks on forgiveness, the former guard at her concentration camp, who had done so much violent evil, came to one of her talks and came up to her to shake her hand... and what transpired. And what lessons she passes on to us. Could she forgive even him? Please hear the audio.

But SHE had to learn from all this. And so do we.

And most of all I want to convey that you – however bad your sins have been – you are not forgotten in heaven. In fact, God may very well be spending more time on YOU than on the very righteous. He needs to redeem you and knows it. Your name comes up in the heavenly conferences and meetings, I promise you. You have been assigned angels to watch over you and bring you to

repentance and back to him. You listening to this may be a lost sheep – and your Shepherd is out looking for you and will bring you back home. He wants to call you to HIM... not to a religion or even a corporate church – but to him, and when you come together, he will hold you close to his chest and carry you back to the fold where you belong. So please hear me out today.

What I'd like to do now is start with some foundational beliefs that guide this sermon. If you find fault with any premise, please advise me where. The point of these next few points is to use the BASIC theology we've all come to believe and LOVE – and now apply it to all for whom it *applies* – EVERYONE God calls who responds to his call!!

FOUNDATIONAL PREMISES of this message

- 1. ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).** Compared to God's perfect righteousness, EVERY human has sinned a LOT, including you and definitely including me.

God says "there is NONE righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10-11) – especially compared to God's perfect righteousness, which is the standard for the kingdom of God. That's why it says "Seek you first the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33). *ONLY God's righteousness will be good enough* – and you and I don't have it. It has to be offered to us and accepted by us.

Romans 3:9-11

"What then? Are we [Jews] better than they [the Gentiles]? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are ALL under sin.

[And you and the worst scumbag sinner you know are also all under sin too until God begins working with you – or them!]

10 As it is written:

"There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

Romans 3:21-26

"But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified [made righteous] freely by His grace through the *redemption that is in Christ Jesus*, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate HIS

righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

V 26b—“that he would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.”

So though your own sins may not seem as bad as some of those vile “scumbags” some believers may not want in their fellowship, no one is good enough except by faith in Jesus Christ and HIS perfect righteousness. **We’re all in the same boat.** We have all sinned – whether a lot or a little – and we all need forgiveness.

2. ALL SIN, EACH sin, and EVERY sin – all caused the same penalty to be invoked in order to be forgiven: the death of Yeshua, the son of God Most High.

Romans 6:23b- “...the wages of sin is death”. Not eternal life being tortured in hell fire. The wicked will end up as ashes under the feet of the righteous (Malachi 4:1-3) when everything temporal or wicked is burnt up. That includes the universe as we know it. God will collapse and dissolve everything out there and then start over with a brand new heavens and earth where there will be no record or trace of any previous sin. **2 Peter 3:10-11.**

3. God wants to forgive EVERY SINNER of his/her sin and so made a way possible through the offered life of his sinless Son of God.

Your sin caused you to be guilty of the death penalty –your death, and so did my sins cause me to owe my life, for the wages of sin is the death penalty. That’s why Christ – when he took on our sins – DIED. He didn’t just have separation from God, he DIED. But we had a Saviour whose life was worth more than all of ours put together since he is very God and was sinless – and he died FOR you and me, if we accept it. But for now- the point is -- your sin caused exactly the same eternal penalty as the worst sinner you know.

So thought he wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a), the last part of the verse says, “But the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Eternal life is possible only in Christ. There’s no “DIY salvation” (Do it Yourself) here. It’s through *his* life and *his* resurrection that you can have life.

4. God does not want ANYONE to perish for their sin if at all possible, but wants everyone to come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved.

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that ALL should come to repentance.**”

1 Timothy 2:3-6

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4 who desires ALL men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the **Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for ALL**”

ALL and ANY means anyone and everyone whom God calls. Even the worst of sinners. Even you. Even me. Even the worst sinner you can think of – if God opens the door to salvation to that person and calls him/her to repentance and a righteous life, a changed life, who are you and I to feel anything but JOY for that saved sinner?

He didn't die just for “good people” because there were none righteous anyway, no not one. Now notice for whom Christ died:

Romans 5:6-11

“For when we were still without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.** 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for US.**”

Who did Christ die for? It says “for US”—and the “us” means even while we and others were still sinners. Christ died for YOU, and for me, and for the worst “dirt-bag” human being you can imagine, if that person would accept it. I don't think Yeshua is about to “waste” his sacrifice on someone who is a waste of time... but will do all he can to bring all to salvation. Continuing:

9 Much more then, having now been justified [made right again] by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And

not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Remember Yeshua also says that he did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13).

And who were his Friends? Was he not condemned for having so many friends who were known sinners? He was even called a glutton and a winebibber – as our Lord obviously enjoyed a good meal and drink – and often with hated tax collectors who ripped people off and kept the money! Remember how Yeshua told the much hated Zacchaeus that he wanted to be his friend, and that “today I MUST come to your house” (Luke 19:1-10, especially v 5, 10)

Luke 19:8-10

“Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

9 And Jesus said to him, “***Today salvation has come to this house,*** because he also is a son of Abraham; ***10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.***”

In the Hebrew, Jesus’ name is Yeshua. It means Salvation. Yes indeed, Yeshua – SALVATION – had come to that house and even the worst of the worst was saved. For Zacchaeus represents the primary mission of Christ: to seek and save the lost (accomplished by Yeshua’s crucifixion and resurrection).

Remember he told the people of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee that they were going to have a rougher time of it in the judgment than the cities of Sodom and the others – “for if the mighty works that have been done here were done in their cities, they would have remained to this day” (they would have repented, in other words). Imagine that: a better time for Sodom is coming than for Capernaum!! (**Matthew 11:23-24**). God loves even sodomites and liars and sexual offenders and adulterers –IF they repent and accept His saving grace. If they don’t repent, and continue to practice their sins, they have nothing but the Lake of Fire to look forward to.

My point is: The Anointed One (Christ) doesn’t want anyone to miss out of his kingdom. In fact he says that all whom God the Father gives him, he will lose no one. You and I will feel exactly the same way – but only if we have the mind of Christ!

John 6:36-40

“But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

[You who feel you've sinned more horribly than others... take heart. You will not be rejected if you come to Jesus.]

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Did you get that? He won't cast you out if God is calling you to the Messiah. And if you're feeling that call, and hearing sermons like this, you are being called – and he won't reject you. He wants you to respond and HIS true children will be of the same mind, accepting you if you repent and change.

Horrible sinners don't enjoy sinning, especially once Yehovah starts to work with their hearts. YOU and I experienced that, didn't we, while we were practicing sinners? We didn't like ourselves. But God didn't give up on us. His children shouldn't either. There's a brokenness inside people when they sin, when God is working with them. God wants us to be happy. That comes from repentance and having Yeshua live in you, and you in him. That open door to Christ is *also* for sinners of the worst kind, as well as good-looking church goers.

Much more on this in the next sermon. I think so many believers know these verses but find it hard to practice on people who have hurt us badly, who have been horrible sinners, who have shattered lives.

So are we getting it? God is not willing that *anyone* should perish but that all come to the knowledge of the truth in Christ – and come to Christ to be forgiven and yes, even the worst of the worst sinners, if they respond to Messiah's call to repentance and a life in HIM – can have everlasting life.

And WHO are you – o frail man or self-righteous keeper of the doors of your church – to keep out such people God is calling and using to further the name of Yeshua the Messiah – Jesus the Christ – our Saviour and son of the Highest.

We'll continue next time. Please be sure to hear the next sermon about the love of God and his incredible power to love and accept

and change even the worst of the worst. And if that represents the mind of Christ, then if we have that same mind, we will think and react just as He does: *we will love and accept* repentant sinners.

(Closing prayer on the audio.)