

- **Jerry & Dolores Burdette - NEWLY MARRIED, were WALKING together on a BEACH in North Carolina.**
- **They came upon a 4 PEOPLE DROWNING.**
- The **1st** person had been **CAUGHT** by the **undertow**; **one by one each of the others** had jumped in to help.
- **Now, all 4 were FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES.**
- When **Jerry saw** their predicament, **he dove in** as well.
- An **excellent swimmer**, Jerry reached the closest person & **brought him safely to shore.**
- He then **dove back in** & rescued the **2nd** & the **3rd**
- **Completely exhausted**, but seeing the **4th** drowning person, Jerry, without regard for his own safety, **swam back out & grabbed hold of the last person.**
- Though Jerry was able to **get the final victim close enough to shore** to make it **back on his own**, he himself was **so exhausted** he was **unable to continue.**
- Jerry **sank out of sight** as his precious bride watched, having **given his life for 4 complete strangers.**

- We see this **same principle in the life of Jesus.**
- He gave **His life for each of us.**
- Even **MORE THAN THAT... He took our punishment for EVERY SINFUL THING we have EVER DONE.**
- On the other hand, if you were **SHORT ONE PENNY** & the **SALES PERSON** said, **“Go ahead, take a penny,”** would your **eyes well up with tears** for his generosity?
- Would you then say, **“I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE!”**
No, it was just a penny.

SLIDE - To the extent we have been rescued, that is the extent we should be grateful.

- I was **RESCUED FROM CERTAIN DEATH...I am EXTREMELY GRATEFUL.**
- It's my **STRATEGY FOR LIVING.**

SLIDE – MESSAGE TITLE:
BLUEPRINT – Strategy for Living - PT. 1

- In the **Gospel of Luke**, an **immoral woman** came to a house where Jesus was staying &, **kneeling beside Jesus, weeping, washed His dirty feet with her tears**
- As those around her looked on in astonishment, she **wiped His feet with her hair, continually kissing & anointing them with expensive perfume.**
- Seeing this **shocking display of affection**, one **hypocritical Pharisee spoke to himself**, saying,

SLIDE – Luke 7:39 – One Pharisee thought,
“This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”

- This Pharisees walked by someone drowning & thought, “**Serves her right! She deserves what she gets!**”
- **JESUS**, like Jerry Burdette, the man who saved the four people, **DOVE IN to SAVE HER.**
- **Jesus, knew the Pharisees thoughts & then said,**

SLIDE – Luke 7:47, Jesus said,
“. . . her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

- The **ROOT CAUSE** of **INGRATITUDE** is **LACK** of **TRUST**
- A **TRUSTING HEART** is a **GRATEFUL HEART.**
- **SHE TRUSTED & WAS GRATEFUL.**
- **SHE KNEW HOWMUCH SHE HAD BEEN RESCUED**

SLIDE - Interactive Question #1

Q. Do you believe that you are a BIG sinner?

- A. No I am not
- B. No, I don't believe in the whole concept of sin
- C. I've done some things wrong, but I'm not that bad
- D. I am definitely a BIG sinner

- Being a **little SINNER** is like being a **little PREGNANT.**
- **Either YOU ARE, or YOU'RE NOT.**
- If you only have **SINNED a LITTLE,** then you only need a **LITTLE SAVIOR . . . a MICRO-JESUS, MINI-SAVIOR**
- **Paul the apostle, the man who wrote 40% of the NT.**

SLIDE – I Tim. 1:15 – Paul the Apostle said,
“I am the worst, or chief sinner.”

- **Paul saw his SIN MORE CLEARLY,** because he **saw his SAVIOR MORE CLEARLY.**
- **We live in a WORLD that is BLIND to their SIN.**
- **Let's see what JESUS had to say about this.**
- We've been **studying** the **GOSPEL of MARK.**

SLIDE – Mark 10:17

As He (Jesus) was starting out on a trip, a man came running up to Jesus, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what should I do to get eternal life?”

SLIDE – Mark 10:18

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good.”

SLIDE – Mark 10:19

But as for your question, you know the commandments: *‘Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not testify falsely. Do not cheat. Honor your father and mother.’*”

SLIDE – Mark 10:20

“Teacher,” the man replied, *“I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was a child.”*

SLIDE – Mark 10:21

Jesus felt genuine love for this man as he looked at him. *“You lack only one thing,”* he told him. *“Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

SLIDE – Mark 10:22

At this, the man’s face fell, and he went sadly away because he had many possessions.

- He was **POSSESSED** by THINGS, more than GOD.
- He had the wrong BLUEPRINT for LIVING.
- He was HIS OWN Savior.
- That’s WHY HE WAS DROWNING.
- If you try & SAVE YOURSELF, you’ll always DROWN
- If you **DON’T FOLLOW GOD’S BLUEPRINT FOR LIFE, your life will eventually FALL APART.**
- Earthquakes in L.A. *“If a house moved off its foundation, even a few inches, it had to be torn down.”*
- A few years ago, TED KOPPEL of ABC News, was speaking at a Graduation Ceremony at Duke Univ.
- He was talking about a massive FLAW in our culture

SLIDE – Ted Koppel- Duke University Graduation Ceremony

“We have actually convinced ourselves that slogans will save us. Shoot up, if you must, but use a clean needle. Enjoy sex, whenever and with whomever you wish, but wear a condom. “No!” The answer is ‘No!’ Not because it isn’t cool or smart or because you might end up in jail or dying in an AIDS ward, but ‘No’ because it’s wrong.

SLIDE – Ted Koppel- Duke University Graduation Ceremony

“In place of truth, we have discovered facts. For moral absolutes, we have substituted moral ambiguity. We have reconstructed the Tower of Babel, and it is a television antenna: a thousand voices producing a daily parody of democracy, in which everyone’s opinion is afforded equal weight, regardless of substance or merit.

SLIDE– Ted Koppel- Duke University Graduation Ceremony

“Our society finds truth too strong a medicine to digest undiluted. In its purest form, truth is not a polite tap on the shoulder. It is a howling reproach. What Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai were not Ten Suggestions. They are Ten Commandments.”

- I’m going to ask you guys a **series of questions**.
- We are going to briefly go thru the “**10 Commandments**”
- **They are some of God’s BLUEPRINT for LIVING.**
- I want you to **THINK OF HOW MANY OF THEM YOU HAVE EVER BROKEN.**
- I know because you are **GOOD CHRISTIAN PEOPLE** that a **Lot Of These Areas Wouldn’t Apply To You.**
- But just imagine, **without raising your hand**, how many of these commandments **you have PERSONALLY BROKEN**
- **KEEP a COUNT in YOUR HEAD.**

SLIDE– Commandment #1 - Ex. 20:3

You shall have no other gods before Me.

- **Q. DID YOU EVER BREAK THIS COMMANDMENT?**
- **Q. HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?**

SLIDE– Commandment #2 - Ex. 20:4

Do not make an image of worship.

SLIDE– Commandment #3 - Ex. 20:7

Do not take God’s name in vain.

SLIDE– Commandment #4 - Ex. 20:8

Remember the Sabbath, keep it holy.

SLIDE– Commandment #5 - Ex. 20:12

Honor your father and mother.

SLIDE– Commandment #6 - Ex. 20:13

You shall not murder.

- **For me personally, when I had the ABORTIONS, I am reminded of this Scripture:**

SLIDE– Micah 6:7

I gave “. . . the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul.”

- **There was a BOOK written a FEW YEARS AGO called: “THE DAY AMERICA TOLD THE TRUTH”**

SLIDE– Book: The Day America Told The Truth -

7% of Americans say they would kill a stranger for as little as \$2 million.

- 700,000 young people are part of gangs.

SLIDE– Matt. 5:22-23 - Jesus said,

If you hate someone in your heart, you’ve murdered them.

- **Q. HOW ABOUT THIS COMMANDMENT?**

SLIDE– Commandment #7 - Ex. 20:14
You shall not commit adultery.

SLIDE– Matt. 5:28 - Jesus said,
“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

SLIDE– Book: The Day America Told The Truth -
62% of Americans feel there is nothing wrong with having an affair.

Maybe that’s part of the reason half of our marriages fail?

SLIDE– Commandment #8 - Ex. 20:15
You shall not steal.

SLIDE– Book: The Day America Told The Truth -
74% of Americans say they would steal something from someone else if they thought it really wouldn’t be missed.

SLIDE– Commandment #9 - Ex. 20:16
Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.

SLIDE– Book: The Day America Told The Truth -
64% of Americans say they lie when it suits them, as long as it doesn’t cause any real damage.

SLIDE– Commandment #10 Ex. 20:17
You shall not covet (lust after), your neighbor’s wife, goods, home, etc.

SLIDE - Interactive Question #2

Q. How many of these Ten Commandments have you EVER BROKEN?

- A. I have never broken any of the Ten Commandments
- B. I have broken One to Three Commandments
- C. I have broken Four to Seven Commandments
- D. I have broken Eight to Ten Commandments

- **WOW! That’s SCARY!**
- We have some **SERIOUS SIN ISSUES in this ROOM.**
- We may have to turn this into a **MAXIMUM SECURITY CHURCH . . . USHERS, BRACE YOURSELVES.**
- **I’D LIKE TO ASK THAT NO ONE PANIC.**
- **Just REACH DOWN SLOWLY & GRAP YOUR PURSE . . . S L O W L Y.**
- I’ve always felt: **IF YOU CAN GET AS MANY of the CRIMINAL ELEMENTS in one PLACE it’s a good thing, but NOW THAT IT’S HAPPENED, I’M A LITTLE NERVOUS.**
- That’s why we have **a REPRESENTATIVE from “AMERICA’S MOST WANTED” here tonight.**
- It seems we **DESPERATELY NEED GOD’S HELP MORE THAN any of us realize.**

- But the **GOOD NEWS** is that **GOD KNEW** we were **SO SICK**, He **NEEDED** to **SEND** His Only **SON** to **RESCUE US!**

SLIDE – Mark 10:23

Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, *“How hard it is for rich people to get into the Kingdom of God!”*

SLIDE – Mark 10:24-25

This amazed them. But Jesus said again, *“Dear children, it is very hard to get into the Kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”*

SLIDE – Mark 10:26

The disciples were astounded. *“Then who in the world can be saved?”* they asked.

- The more confidence you have in yourself, the harder time you will have getting to know God.

I've found “the more I know me...the less impressed I am”

Q. How are you going to FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOUR IMPERFECTION before a PERFECTLY HOLY GOD?

The ONLY WAY . . . the ONLY WAY . . . the ONLY WAY

- . . . IS to KNOW HIS HEART for YOU.
- There is NOTHING GOOD, God wouldn't GIVE YOU
- There is NOTHING KIND HE WOULDN'T SAY to YOU
- There is NO LOVE HE would WITHHOLD from YOU
- That's GOD'S BLUEPRINT for YOU.
- He's a GOOD, KIND, & LOVING GOD.

SLIDE – Mark 10:27

Jesus looked at them intently and said, *“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”*

- He's saying, “If you THINK THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE . . . YOU'RE RIGHT!”
- DON'T EVER TAKE BEING SAVED FOR GRANTED.
- SALVATION is the GREATEST MIRACLE of ALL.
- WE SHOULD BE “OUT of OUR MINDS” with GRATITUDE.
- YES, it SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
- WE ARE EACH as GUILTY as SIN.

But the MIRACLE IS...we are each as LOVED as JESUS

- Q. DO YOU THINK THAT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WRONG IS TOO MUCH FOR GOD TO FORGIVE?
- Q. TELL ME . . . WHAT SIN THAT YOU HAVE COMMITTED that is TOO BIG FOR GOD TO FORGIVE?

• **Q. TELL ME . . . WHAT SIN THAT YOU HAD DONE to YOU THAT is TOO BIG FOR GOD TO HEAL?**

SLIDE – Mark 10:28

Then Peter began to mention all that he and the other disciples had left behind. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said.

SLIDE – Mark 10:29

And Jesus replied, “*I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for My sake and for the Good News,*

SLIDE – Mark 10:30

“will receive now in return, a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—with persecutions. And in the world to come they will have eternal life.”

SLIDE – Mark 10:31

“*But many who seem to be important now will be the least important then, and those who are considered least here will be the greatest then.*”

- **If you’re STUCK on BEING the GREATEST . . . it’s GOING TO BE A REAL LETDOWN.**
- **If you’ve ever DREAMED OF BEING LEAST, your PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.**
- **I LOVE BEING LEAST . . . NO PRESSURE . . . MORE PEACE . . . DON’T HAVE TO PROP MY EGO UP.**
- **The DOORWAY UP IS DOWN.**
- **JESUS HUMBLLED HIMSELF & CAME DOWN.**
- **THAT’S the BEST STRATEGY FOR LIVING.**

Let’s PRAY!