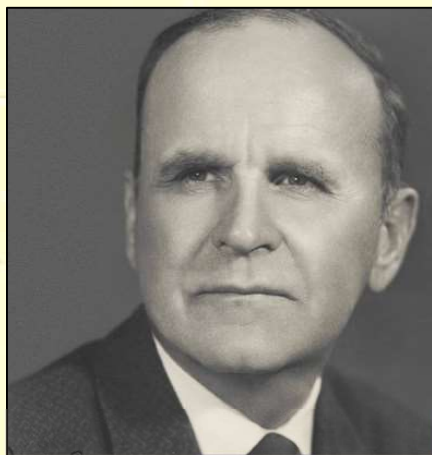


I say this. When a man stands true to the Word, not just in one meeting, but in every meeting, when a man stands true to the Word, the time will come when they'll leave him. Exactly.



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

Message: **62-0908 - Present Stage Of My Ministry**

41 But now I want to take you from the 5th verse, on down to the 18th verse. And now to save time, I—I won't read it. But now Paul, starting off over here in Timothy again, if you notice how he begin to speak, it's pathetic. Now if you notice after the 5th verse.

*For I am now ready to be
offered, and my time
of...departure is at hand.*

Fixing to leave the scene.
Starts off, see, "I have..."
Well, watch. "My..."

...I'm ready, and my
departure is at hand.

*I have fought a good fight, I
have finished my course, I
have kept the faith:*

*Henceforth there is laid up
for me a crown of
righteousness, which the
Lord, the righteous*

*judge, will give me at that day:
and not only me only, but...all
them also that love his
appearing.*

42 And then he goes ahead to tell, “Do all, do these things.” What? For him to bring the coat. Now we start right off, and he says:

*...Demas has forsaken
me,...*

43 There must come a time in his ministry when he was a young evangelist, a young prophet, everybody was for

him. But now you notice on down in here, he said:

...*all* *men* has forsaken *me*:...(What for? The Word.)

44 When Jesus, the young Prophet of Galilee, He got a time that He was forsaken. All man who stay with God's Word gets to that place where they are forsaken by the world and the religious world. Jesus fed five thousand, one day, and they picked up baskets full of—of fragments off of five

loaves and two fishes. And the very next day, I believe it was, He begin to come down with the Word, and all of them begin to depart from Him. And He looked around to the disciples, and said, "Will you go, also?" Even seventy of His Own ordained ministers left Him. And He said, "Will you go, also?"

45 And then Peter spoke those notable words, by saying, "Lord, where would we

go? Thou only has Eternal Life.”

46 Notice. But the time come when the forsaking time come, and it's—it's got to come. It must come. And now I've got several prophets and things in here to refer to, to prove to you that that time come. And it's arrived for me. No need of trying to rub away from it, it's here and you just must take it. They didn't rub away from it, they stood and

took it, and not being ashamed of the Gospel.

47 You notice Paul, “I’ve fought a good fight. I’ve finished my course. I’ve kept the Faith.” Oh, my! On down here it said, “I’ve fought with beasts. And I—I was delivered out of the lion’s mouth.” And the things that he went, God was good to him. But the time had come when he was going to depart.

48 Now, let’s just wonder, why would a man, a minister,

associate like Demas was to Paul, ever leave Paul?

49 You know Brother Baxter, many of you remember him. He used to read...It was about Demas. He said, "You know what I'm going to do, Brother Branham, when I get to Heaven, the first thing I'm going to do?"

And I said, "What?"

50 He said, "I'm going to walk right up and find out where Demas is, I'm going to

sock him just as hard as I can.” And said, “He’s going to turn around and say, ‘Baxter, what’d you do that for?’” He said, “Why did you leave poor little Paul when everybody forsaken him?” I don’t prescribe to that, I don’t believe they’ll have some fights up there, but I just thought about Brother Baxter saying that ’cause he felt so sorry for Paul.

51 Well, what had Paul done? He had preached just

as loyal as he could, and the Holy Spirit was on him. And when he wrote down there about those lady ministers and things, I imagine there was a blow up. Said, "Let the women keep silent in the churches, not permitted them to speak," and him in jail right then.

52 Could you imagine what some of them bishops said? "Huh! That guy up there in jail, what business he got writing down here with us?

See? And he's got Timothy, a winebibber, with him. And so here he is up there now, that he's feeding Timothy on wine, and here he is laying in jail, and writing down, tell us what the Holy Ghost ought to tell us to do."

53 But he said, "If...What? Come the Word of God out of you, and came It from you only? If any man thinks himself to be spiritual or a prophet, let him acknowledge that what I write is the

Commandments of the Lord.”
See?

54 See, the time comes, friends. And I want the people in the land that the tapes goes to, to remember that the separating time has to come. It must do it. I don't know how far I am from the end time, my end of the road. I don't know. That's up to God. I don't know what tomorrow is, and who...I don't know what it holds, but I know

Who's holding it. So that's where my faith is built, on that.

55 Now, I imagine Demas didn't forsake him and start off to nightclubs. I don't imagine Demas did that, 'cause Demas was a Spirit-filled man. He was a great helper. If you ever took the history of Demas, he was a notable preacher, a fine cultured man, highly polished, educated. He was a smart man. But why would he forsake Paul? That's the thing. What made him do

it, forsake Paul? I don't believe he wanted to go to a nightclub or anything. But I believe it was God separating Paul. Now I imagine Demas...

56 Let's take some of Demas' thoughts. As I was sitting down on the hillside, wondering the other day, about daylight, and I was thinking, "Why would Demas want to leave that fellow? Why would he leave that poor little preacher that led him to the Lord, the man who

spearheaded the revival amongst the Gentiles, a prophet indeed?" No one could say but what he was a prophet. He was more than a prophet, he was an apostle, and a great and mighty apostle to the Gentiles. And Demas would associated with Paul, had fellowship, and seen the Spirit of God move upon that man. And why would he turn his back on such a person as that, had been vindicated that he was a

servant of Christ? Did you notice Paul here, “Loving this present world.” Now, I don’t think Demas backslid. I don’t think he did that. But I think he—he got the wrong opinion of Paul.

57 Now, Demas come out of a rich family and he was wealthy, and money sometimes means religion to people. Like they say in California, “If you haven’t got three Cadillacs, you’re not spiritual.” So it means, if

you're not successful, if you don't have the finest church there is in the city, the people won't go. It's almost that way here, Poogh. You, you've got to have the finest church in the country, or they say, "You, oh, you mean you joined up with a little bunch like that?"

58 Did you know our Lord didn't have a place to lay His head? Did you know He only owned one coat? See? And He had...He was just kind of a person was pushed about.

And He didn't have no place to lay His head. But they could have thought the same thing, and did, about Him.

59 And, now, I believe Demas saw a failing, seemingly, in Paul's ministry. I think that he thought the old fellow was washed up, before God. Now, he thought that a people that would pluck their eyes out to give to Paul...

60 Now, Paul said that, he said, "You would have, at least, plucked your eyes out,

to give them to me.” Cause, Paul, we think, had bad eyes, ’cause he said, “I’ve wrote with such big letters.” He said, “big letter,” but I’ve got the—the lexicon, and it says, “with big letters.” He was in Rome, in prison there. It was something wrong, he said his eyes had been bothering him since the Heavenly vision. So he...The people would have plucked out their eyes, seeing Paul suffer, his eyes bothering him, and he suffering. And he

asked the Lord to heal him, three times. And he said, "Except I would get exalted above the abundance of the Revelation, there was sent to me a messenger of the devil that he might buffet me." Now, it would get pretty good, then hit him again. Then he'd get good, and hit him again.

61 You see, Paul had a ministry greater than all the rest of the apostles put together. Some of them could have said, "Well, I walked with

Jesus.” Why, man on the street walked with Him when He was here. But Paul saw Him in the Pillar of Fire after He was dead, buried, ascended into Heaven, and returned back and called Paul, see, see, on the road down to Damascus. And he had a greater ministry than Matthew, Mark, Luke, or any of them others. He was far beyond them. And he said, “Except I get exalted now and say, ‘Now, you fellows don’t

know nothing about It. I seen the Lord *after* His resurrection.”

62 Well, they say, “We walked with Him.” Well, so did all them people down around in Galilee and Nazareth and through the country there. They all walked with Him.

63 But, you see, Paul had talked with Him and saw Him in the form that He was before He was made flesh. See? And He commissioned Paul in that

state, while He was in that Light. He commissioned Paul. And—and Paul had saw Him. And he said, “Except I get exalted, feel a little higher than some of you brethren, there was given to me a messenger of the devil,” that keeps him beat down. And he said, “I sought the Lord three times to take it away from me. And He said, ‘Saul, or Paul, My grace is sufficient.’” Then Paul said, “I’ll glory in my infirmities,

'cause when I am weak then I am strong. See, I will glory in it!"

64 Now, did you notice now, a man that had a ministry greater than any of the rest of them that had been on the field, Paul, the greatest ministry of all of them, that had seen Jesus in a Pillar of Fire, and commissioned him to do what he done, and was vindicated by the same God, and the same Power, with signs and wonders beyond

any question; and was so poor he only had one coat, preaching to a bunch of people that would have plucked their eyes out, and some of them millionaires. And yet Paul had one coat. He said, "Bring that coat, getting cold up here." He was in the mountain country. He only had one coat.

65 And Demas, to a man that was of high standing, high caliber, cultured, educated, and a rich man that had many

changes of clothes, “That guy, was something wrong with him. That had so many friends that would pluck their eyes out to give it to him, and yet he was so poor he had one coat. Something was wrong with Paul.”

66 Oh, you know, that spirit don't leave the world, they still have it that way. Money ain't God. There's only one God. See? But people think because you have a big ministry you ought to own

all *this* and all *this*, and all these great big things, and big schools and big *so-and-so*. God doesn't deal in them things. Or, at least, that's been my opinion. God deals with an individual. He never did ordain us to go do such things.

67 But Paul, with one coat, and he tells Timothy here to bring it to him because it was getting cold up there. Uh-huh. A man that had a ministry that preached to tens of thousands

that Paul did, and a ministry that could do all kinds of miracles, and seen Jesus in a Pillar of Fire, commissioned him, and yet owned one coat. Demas said, "A fellow like that," he'd turn away from him.

68 Now, when he was up here preaching towards Troas, we find out that there's a man up there was a coppersmith. And he was a rascal. And he hated Christianity. And he done

everything to Paul that he could do to him, had him throwed in jail, and every...even Paul warns Timothy of the same thing, "Watch that guy." And here's Demas! O God, let the people hear it! Here stood Demas standing by a man that struck a man blind, for disputing with him. Now, you Church of Christ preachers, put on your coats now. I had one tell me one time, said, "Smite me blind! Smite me blind! You got

the Holy Ghost, smite me blind.”

I said, “You’re already blind.” See?

69 Now, why didn’t Paul smite the coppersmith blind? That same kind of a spirit that’s on people that think that, is the same thing was on Demas. A man that could smite a man blind, for disputing with him, and then turn and let a coppersmith spoil his ministry in the city. No doubt Demas said,

“He, he’s washed up, he’s lost all of his gifts. He’s—he’s lost his gifts of smiting blind.”

70 Don’t you see how that spirit still lives, say, “You’re washed up, brother”? Oh! It—it just goes over the people’s head. They just don’t get it, that’s all there is to it. See? They just can’t see it. See? They don’t understand.

71 Now Demas...didn’t smite that man blind because he wanted to. Didn’t Jesus say, “I do nothing till the

Father shows Me
first"? Haven't I told you years
ago, with my own mother was
laying, dying, and would say,
"Bill, what's my outcome?" I
couldn't say nothing till God
said so first. And that's just
what happened. Man can't,
man is a failure to begin
with. He's only an agent to
which God works through, and
God works His Own will. But
when you see these super-
duper people that's always
having *this* and *that* and

the *other*, you'd better stay away from it. See? Jesus Himself didn't do that. He said, "I only work as the Father works. He shows Me what to do and then I go do it. I can't do other...anything otherwise than that."

72 And here Demas saw Paul, a man that had a ministry like that, and yet was so poor that he only owned one coat, and wanted Timothy to bring it to him. One coat! But, Paul set the

example like Christ was, He had one coat. Then why does riches and lots of money and things mean so much to people today? Notice now. And he had power till, anybody that was contrary to what he preached, he turned around and said, "You'll be blind for a season." And the man was blind.

73 And here was a coppersmith, done ten times to him what that man done, and yet got away with

it. Demas must have thought, “Well, see, the old fellow’s washed up now. He’s lost his ministry.” No, no, he hadn’t lost his ministry, not at all. God don’t do things like that. God’s not an Indian giver. Yeah. Notice now.

74 Paul was something on the order like Elijah. Elijah the prophet went up on the mountain by the commission of God, and called for fire to fall out of Heaven, and it fell. And he called for water, and it

come. And then he commanded by the message of God and killed four hundred priests, chopped their heads off, let them roll down the hill; and then run at the threat of a—a woman, one little hypocrite woman, or, she was an infidel. Jezebel, that one little woman which was the keynote to every bit of it, she was the one caused it. Looked like he'd have got her first. But God has ways of doing things, and His servants only can

work according if he works according to the will of God.

75 Don't you see, friends, you've got to move according to God's way of moving. How many times have I set in council of brethren, and how I would like to walk over and shake their hand and say, "Brethren, it doesn't make any difference, let's just be brethren along." How can I do that and keep my commission, "Preach the Word"? Don't want to do that.

76 I've stood amongst ministers, and say, "Brother Branham, my aunt's over here. I know you're a prophet sent from God. Go over and restore her sight." Wish I could, I'd do it. I can't do it till He tells me to do it. See? No one could do it. Elijah couldn't do it, no one else could do it.

77 Now we find out that Paul...Demas preaching with Paul, had seen Paul see a crippled man laying there, and said, "I perceive you have

faith to be healed. Stand up on your feet! Jesus Christ makes you well.” Had seen him heal the sick, and yet he leaves his friend Theophilus sick.

78 “Paul’s lost his ministry.” That’s what Demas must have thought. “Why didn’t he, if he had a gift of healing, why didn’t he go up there and heal that buddy that had stood by him so faithful? He said, ‘I’ve left him up there sick. And I ain’t got no coat, and I want

you to bring me that coat along. And be careful, that coppersmith, he just ruined that meeting in the city. I had to leave the town. He put me in jail.” I imagine Demas said, “What kind of a preacher has this turned out to be?” Huh?

79 And, brother, they got a lot of them Demas spirits in the world today. They don’t know what it’s all about. See? No need trying to explain it to them, ’cause they won’t get it anyhow. See?

See? A servant of Christ follows the Footprints.

80 One of our deacons here, I don't know whether he's here tonight or not, it's Tony Zabel. He's usually around here. And he came to me and he said here not long ago before he got...come over here, he said—he said, “I—I had a dream, a funny dream.” He said, “I—I dreamed I was trying to find my way upward towards Heaven.” He said, “I seen a

man coming with a black robe on and was a—a—a reading a book.” And said, “I—I got to this man, and I asked him, ‘Which a-way to Heaven?’ And he said, ‘Ask the man ahead of me.’” And that was a—a pastor of a church that he had went to.

81 He went a little farther and he met another man, he had on a black robe and was singing songs, going on. And that was another pastor. Both them pastors are personal

friends of mine. And he said...And fine man. And he said, “Which way do I get up the top of the mountain here?’ He said, ‘Look here.’ Said, ‘See, standing way up there on the top, that little bitty guy?’ I said, ‘Yes.’” Said, “There stood a guy with a pair of overalls on, wearing a little cowboy hat.” [Blank spot on tape—Ed.]

82 Someone said, down in Kentucky, said, talking about me down there, said, “That

guy looks anything like but a preacher.” Might look like a farmer or something, but—but, you know, it ain’t looks.

83 And said that it was me standing up there. And he—he climbed up till he got to me, and said I got him by the arm and led him on up till I got top of the hill. And there was a wilderness to go through. And I said, “Tony, I must leave you here and you must walk some of this by yourself.”

He said, "Brother Branham, what can I do from here on?"

84 Said I said, "Come here, Tony, look down there. You see them barefooted tracks with Blood in them?" I said, "That's what I've followed all the way. Just stay on That." That's the only thing I know to point man to; not to a creed or a sensation of some sort, but to those bloody Footprints that leads to the Bible, the Blood of Jesus Christ.

85 Now, how that man must have felt, a man with so many millionaire friends, and one coat. A man that was...had power to smite a man blind, and let a man run him out of town. Never done a thing about it, got up and went out. Prayed for the sick and had left his friend sick. And Demas left him. All the rest of them left him. All of them left him. Paul said, "All men left me." Every one of them left him.

86 I say this. When a man stands true to the Word, not just in one meeting, but in every meeting, when a man stands true to the Word, the time will come when they'll leave him. Exactly. They did it. They did it to our Lord. They'll leave him when he stands for Truth. "All men has forsaken me." And now what do you think that Demas and some of them men thought when we all know, that know the Scripture, that Luke was a

doctor, and Paul, wherever he went, took this doctor with him? And preaching Divine healing, and leaving his friend sick. So poor, he had one coat. And let a man run him out of town, when he could smite a man blind. See, they thought he was washed up. But he wasn't! He was exactly in the bloody Footprints. He was following on. I hope you're understanding. He said, "All man has forsaken me."

87 Demas, loving this present world, popularity of men. “Hello, Doctor Demas. I know you got your Ph.!”

88 Oh, sure, they love that. Jesus said, “How you like to stand in synagogues, and be called ‘Rabbi,’ and so forth.” Said, “You only receive more damnation.” See?

89 Now, we know when they seen this doctor following him, or with him, and Paul took Luke, said, he said—said here, “Luke is—Luke is the

only one hadn't forsaken. And Luke is—is good to him. But, Luke is prosperous to him. He needs Luke for his ministry.” And this doctor following a man around wherever he went, and preached Divine healing. And a man that preached Divine healing could heal the crippled and raise up the dead, and everything else, and see mighty visions, and speak things that would come to pass, and left his own co-

worker sick. And could have had a million dollars and built buildings worth tens of thousands of dollars, and big schools and things like that, and didn't even have but one coat to put on his back.

90 Demas said, "I ain't associating with a guy like that. He's just...He's a low class of person. I'll go up with the denominational brethren. I'll go up where I'll be somebody." If it was such a thing, I'd like to walk, and right

after Baxter gets through, see, for leaving that poor little guy in that shape. He ought to have been standing by him. Paul was the one led him to Christ. But, you see, it's without knowing the Spirit, knowing what the will of God is, then doing the will of God. See? Now, but there he left him in that condition. Left him! All men had forsaken him.

91 How I think of that! How a servant that'll stand true to the Word, sooner or later, just

remember, the people are going to forsake him. Now we want to strike that just for a few minutes, and I won't keep you too long now, 'cause I want you here in the morning. Always when God's servant stands true to the Word, all forsake him. And it...Now, just take anywhere you want to, anytime in the Bible or in history, that when a man stayed true, no matter how popular he was, when he stayed true to the Word, the

time come when the religious world forsaken him and cut him off. Now, just read it, if you take the Bible from Genesis over to the Book of Revelation, and pick up in the *Pre-Nicene Council* and take down to the *Nicene Fathers*, and every man, every saint, every prophet, every true servant of God that stayed with the Word, was forsaken by the ecclesiastical thing and cast down. And Paul was one of them.

92 And if there'd be one today, it'd be the same thing. It's exactly the truth. You have to hit that place. It has to come. They think that a man that would have a ministry like that, he ought to have the world right under his thumb. He should, but they won't come under his thumb. See? And a man like that wouldn't put a ministry, or a world under his thumb; he'd put it under his Master's thumb, 'cause he's not here

representing himself, he's representing his Master.

93 You know, men try to seek honor one from another, and they honor one another, and dishonor God by doing so. See? We try and make big people among us, and when we're no big people and little people, we're all little people. There's only one big One among us, and that's our Lord. See? And we make our organization so much bigger than God, "the great holy

church of *this, that*, or the *other*, the great holy bishops,” and so forth. There’s no such things as that. That’s honor of man. There’s only One holy, and that’s God. And the Holy Ghost, which is God, is among us. It’s not us that’s holy, it’s the Holy Spirit that’s in us. It’s not...When we see things done, it isn’t us doing, it’s the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “It’s not Me that doeth the works, it’s My Father. He dwelleth in Me, and He’s the

One that does the works.” And it isn’t him that—that’s doing it. All right. But we find them true servants down through the time.

94 Now here is the thing I want to kind of exercise on for a few moments. Now, it’s usually at such a time as this when men has stayed true to the Word and all men have forsaken him until God steps in in defense of that person and crowns his ministry. That’s right. What a

consolation. Our consolation is built in the promise of God's Word. No matter what the world says, what the world does, that's not our hopes, is not built in what the world is doing.

95 I think that song is so pretty. Wish I could sing. I always wanted to sing. See? "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like an eagle, they'll run and not be

weary, if they walk they'll not faint; teach me, Lord, to wait. Teach me, Lord, to wait down on my knees." I like that. "And in Your Own good time You'll answer my pleas; teach me not to rely on what others do, but just wait in prayer for an answer from You." That's it. That's the true servant that waits for his Master's turn, knowing this, that the Scriptures cannot fail regardless of what happens. The Scripture's got to stand

true. In such a time as that, is when God usually steps in to help them.

96 Let us look at Elijah when he had been forsaken. Why? Because he had stayed true to the Word. He said, "All men has forsaken me." And he was excommunicated from society, from the organization, from the even national organization, of the national church of Israel, the priest and all had throwed him out, and he had not even a

coat as much as Paul, but a little piece of sheepskin, or, leather draped around him, and set up on a mountain and was fed by the birds. Yes, sir. Why? For the Word-of-God's sake, 'cause he was true to **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. Now they all went modern. The first lady of the land, Jezebel, had got all of the fashions and things out. And the priests had give in to it and so forth, and all of the preachers and so forth,

they coordinated into it. But not Elijah, he stayed true to that Word. And for such a thing he was forsaken, till he cried out, “Lord, I’m the only one left, and they even seek my life.”

97 But God give him some consolation, said, “I got seven thousand yet down there.”

98 See, I don’t believe Elijah felt puffed up about that, that he was the only one, but I think he was just so forsaken. Every time he’d go

up to a priest to hold a meeting, they'd turn him out. He'd go down here, "Get out of here, you fanatic! Get out of here! Go do *this*!" It showed when Elisha come along, his successor. Well, what did they do? They even...The young fellow was baldheaded, and they sent their little children out to make fun of them old "quacks." Said both of them was considered quacks, said, "Old baldhead! Baldhead, why didn't you go

up like Elijah did?" They didn't believe he went up. Uh-huh. See? Just they thought he was a bunch of quacks. But they were true to the Word, with an vindicated ministry. Elijah stood. All right.

99 Daniel took a true stand. You know where I get that in Daniel 12, or Daniel 9, I believe it is. When you...Daniel took a true stand for the Word. What happened to him? When he was the right-hand man to the king,

but he took a true stand for the Word, and was excommunicated and thrown into a lions' den. A man of God standing true to the Word!

100 The Hebrew children stayed true to the Word, under the king's proclamation that "whosoever shall not bow to that image when the psaltery sound and the trumpets be blowed out, and so forth, ever who will not bow to our image will be throwed into the fiery

furnace,” and they turned their back to the image. And re...They, regardless of how unpopular they become, regardless of how excommunicated they’d be from the society, they stayed true to the Word. I like that.

101 Jacob, another. He had a...been away from home for a long time, and he had a call to go home to see his people. And he was on his road, true to his call, true to his leading. He had things fine

over there, but God begin to deal with him to go home. And, on his road home, was throwed between two tight places. His wife and children on this side; and his hated brother, Esau, coming here with an army to meet him. And he stood at the little brook, brook Peniel there, and there he stood. And what a condition! Esau, hating him, coming with an army to meet him, and here was his wife, two wives and children all on

this side of the brook, and he was caught in a tight place. Why? Because he'd have stayed in his own land it'd been all right. But he had a call, the Word of God had called him to his homeland. Hallelujah! God bless a man. He got a change, too. Yes, sir.

102 Jesus, true to the Father's Word, "I do only that which the Father says. It's written, 'The man shall not live by bread alone, but by every

Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.””

Jesus, forever true to that Word, it come a time when He lost all the friends He had. Every one of them forsaken Him and went away. All of them. And the people saw Him mocked, scoffed, lost confidence in Him. “How could a man that could speak to a dead man in the grave and raise him up, how could a man that could foretell events to the mark and never

had...never fail; and set in the courts with His face bleeding from plucks of beard, and the gaumiest drunken spit from the soldiers running down His face, with a rag on His head, and hitting Him on the head with a stick, and saying, ‘Prophecy and tell us who hit You, and we’ll believe it?’” Well, the disciples just walked away, said, “Ah!”

103 See, they so quickly forget what God did! How Moses said at the Red Sea,

when he stood there and said, "God has done ten outstanding miracles, are you still so delinquent that you don't know that He's still God?" He went down there and he smote the lands, he—he put a curse on the lands. He brought frogs, fleas, flies, everything, and a—a blast that killed all the firstborn, and the death angel passed through the land, and yet those people didn't want to follow him at the Red

Sea. How quickly, as soon as your popularity...When they seen this great shining spears of a hundred thousand men coming like that, or maybe, yeah, or maybe a million men coming, and the roar of the chariots and the dust flying, they just give up and fell back, "And, Moses, we ought to have died back there." See? God said He let them die in the wilderness for unbelief. "Moses, your ministry is washed up, that's

all. You ain't no more." See, they don't understand. They don't get it.

104 And now the same thing was when Jesus, the young Rabbi or Teacher, or Prophet of Galilee, when He was doing all those miracles and things, "How could He ever stand and put up with such a thing as that? How could He let a man bind Him with chains, when He could break the seal off of a grave and raise a dead man out of

Eternity? How could He do it, when He could speak to a widow's dead son and raise him to live again; and Lazarus, dead and rotten in the grave, and bring him out? How could He stand and say, 'I'm the Resurrection and Life. He that believeth in Me though he were dead yet shall he live. Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.' And stand and be bound with fetters and spit in the face, and not open His

mouth?" The disciples, "He's lost His ministry." Yeah, that's the way it goes. God, this poor world!

105 Even His church, the twelve that He had delighted in and told them everything, and loved them, they turned their back upon Him. Only one stood by Him, that was the man John. Right at an hour when everything was gone, and all hopes was gone, there He was bound, and took up there and mocked and spit,

and put His back to the...Not knowing that that fulfilled the Scriptures.

106 Why, don't you know that the things that are going on today is fulfilling the Scriptures exactly to the letter? Why does people may say these things? Why does these denominations rage? Why do they do that? It's written in the Scriptures they'll do it. They walk right into it and do it themselves, blindly, not knowing they're doing

it. You think Judas knowed he was playing the part of Judas? You think Pharaoh knowed he has playing the part, when God raised him up for that purpose? You think Esau would have done the things he did? Certainly not. Said, "They got eyes and can't see, ears and can't hear." But watch the Scripture, just unfolding. See? We're at the end time, it's got to be this way.

107 Now, His church forsaken Him. All men and nature forsaken Him. Talk about somebody being forsaken, Paul had no forsakening at all to what He had. Even the very creation that He created was forsaking Him. The moon and stars and sun, and everything, blinding off. Man, God, nature and everything forsook Him, nothing standing there, He died alone. Did He lose His ministry? He was fulfilling His

ministry, not losing it. That goes with it. That's the thing that takes place. That has to go with it.

108 Now, everything forsaken Him. But it was at this time that God stepped in on the scene, because any man that knows the Word will stay with the Word, knowing that the Word is God. See? And the Word has to unfold Itself. The unfailing Word must unfold Itself. It's got to, in order, because the

Word is God. And if It worked on others all down through the age, It'll work the same way right now, because It's God. Don't never forget that. For Jesus knowed that He being the fullness of the Word, He was not only a Prophet, He was God Himself. He was the Word. That's the reason not only man forsook Him, but also nature forsook Him. The whole creation forsook Him, everything, the stars, the

moon, and no light when He died. Everything forsaken Him, see, because He was Creator of all things. "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not." See? He was Creator of all things. All things! Now, the only thing, that we...We don't create but we try to convert, and those who we try to convert is the ones who forsakes and walks away. See? When the time comes for the Word to make

Its real show, it has to be that way. Now, just remember, is then that God steps in on the scene.

109 And in the life of our Lord Jesus, the mighty works that He done for the first year and six months of His life, oh, how He was a mighty Man! There never was nothing like Him on earth, never was since, never will be after. But what happened? He got more mockery than any, all the rest of them put together. Mocked

by nature and mocked by creation, mocked by everything, because it was in a perverted condition. That's the reason men's hearts mock the true servant of God, because it's perverted. Nature is perverted, that's the reason.

110 If nature is as pretty as what it is, being perverted, what will it be when it gets converted back to the will of God? If a land can bear grapes that takes two man to pack them on their back, what

will it be, and that a perverted land, what will it be when it's converted back to God? Christ comes, the desert shall blossom as a rose. It'll be a conversion. And the dry places will spring up from the water, and the earth shall bloom and blossom. Oh, that will be a time, and when men's hearts shall be converted into godly men, that's been to making their choice now, will live in that place. Amen.

111 “That dark hour, mid rendering rocks and darkening skies,” said the poet, “my Saviour bowed His head and died; the opening veil revealed the way to Heaven’s joys and endless day.” He had to do that in order to make a way for us. Right. But what did God do? He was true to the Word and He embraced the cross. But was it the end of His ministry? Was His ministry washed up? God crowned it with the greatest crown that

ever could be crowned. He crowned it on Easter morning, on the resurrection. He crowned the ministry of our Lord Jesus, He raised from the dead and is alive for evermore. He wasn't washed up because all men forsook Him, He was crowned! Yes, sir. Yes, sir. He was crowned because that He was, had been forsaken, and He must do that when He raised Him from the dead.

112 The same was with Elijah. We spoke of him a few moments ago. Elijah, that poor old broke down prophet laying out there in the wilderness, and had to be fed by what the birds would bring him. And his little old skinny drawed up, brown-looking body, little cruse of oil hanging on his side, his whiskers all out, and head probably bald and sunburned, crippling, going down on a stick like *this*, but down beneath

that little old heart beat the Spirit of God. When God seen His little old tired servant getting down to the end, everybody forsaking him, and everything else, did He let him down? He sent a chariot down, picked up His tired servant, "You don't even have to walk up like Enoch did, I'll just take you home in a chariot." That's right. He crowned his ministry with a chariot ride home. That's not so bad, you know. Yeah. Yes,

he didn't have to walk home,
He just sent a chariot and
picked him up 'cause he was
tired. I like that. Amen. Poor,
little, old tired servant, He
picked him up and took him
Home.

113 It was at the time that
Daniel stood so loyal to God,
that he went in...They said,
“That man, you know, he was
once a great fellow here in
this kingdom. He's told all
kinds of things. And he's
brought the soothsayers in, he

taught them things.” And the Medes-Persians and how he done. But under the reign of Darius, it was Daniel that stayed true to God. It was Daniel that stayed with the Word of God and wouldn’t mingle with anything else. And he said, “Well, his ministry’s washed up, because I seen it in the local paper, he’s going to be throwed to the lions’ den in a few days.” Going to Federal prison, or something, you see. “But we’re going to

throw him into the lions' den.” But what did God do? God sealed His ministry with a change of the king's heart, that Darius sent to every language, people across the world, that every man should fear at the God of Daniel, because He was a God that could deliver. Amen.

114 So, you see, it's at that time when men forsake men, God's servants that stay true to the Word, that God seals

their ministry with a crowning time.

115 Yes, it was the Hebrew children under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, when they wouldn't bow to the image. They stayed true to God because God Word said, "Don't bow before any image, to worship it." They stayed true to the Word. And it was in the local paper, in the news, all about it, whatever it was in them days. They had ways to scatter news. Not in a local

newspaper, of course not, just saying that so you'll have some idea. But it was in there they was going to burn them in the fiery furnace seven times hotter. For days before that, they throwed in all the material to get the furnace so hot that it was seven times hotter, overheated seven times. Why, it would have consumed them, to get in a hundred yards of it. But they went right in the fiery furnace, and come right out without

even any smell of fire on them. And Nebuchadnezzar said, "Every man that fails to worship this God, let his children and him be killed, his house burned and made a dunghill." That's right. See? He...They had a world-wide revival because they were true to the Word. That's what happens. Yes, sir. Stay true to the Word, yes, and it always pays out wonderful.

116 Jacob, we mentioned him a while ago. I got his

name wrote down here. Here he was, a little coward, but he was staying. He was afraid of Esau over there. My, my! And he knowed he was away from God. Been away from God all these years, but he always tried to stay true to that Word. And here God called him and told him to go to his home. Here he was right in the line of duty, and there was Esau with an army. It was at that time that he was changed from the name of *Jacob*,

“supplanter, shyster,” to Jacob...“a prince before God,” when he walked out the next morning, with his ministry crowned. Walked right out and meets Esau, and wanted no help from him. Amen. True to the Word. That’s the way God does things, isn’t it? He—He does things in His Own way. All right.

117 Many of my brethren, they’re having great popularity today amongst their denominational brethren. You

just speak one name, boy, and it's just like fire, anywhere, that's right, you say this certain name of this person. And, after all, when the Lord spoke to me down on the river that day, it spearheaded that revival around the world, from there come every one of those great evangelists.

118 They went right back with their brethren, see, those denominations in which they come out of. They come out

here and hold this meeting, mixed up with the denominations, they go right back into them again. They got a lot of favor, big names on radio, papers, and everything. Everybody speaks well of them.

119 But all men has forsaken me because I've took a true Word, and stood by the Word. I've stayed right here to what He said to me, preached the Word, not a denominational

philosophy. “Preach the Word,” that was my commission, “stay with the Word.” And, brethren, who is listening to this on tape, I was a great guy when I come among you, just healing the sick, speaking of visions and showing things. But when I went to tell you the Truth about the Word, what did you turn your back on me for? Do you realize it’s just fulfilling what the Scripture said? Yes,

it does that way. Now I can hardly get in a place.

120 Letter comes all the time. One come the other day, said, "Brother Branham, I had the greatest of confidence in you, but I heard you say that a certain denomination which I belong to was backsliding." Said, "I have no more confidence in you at all now, from now on." Said, "There was about twenty-five of the brethren of my denomination setting in one of

your meetings,” said, “we just got—got right up and went off when you said that.”

121 Well, all men has forsaken me, but there's one thing, He stood by me!...?...I'm not, I wasn't disobedient to the Heavenly vision that happened down there on the river. I've stayed true to it. He's been true to me. I'm trusting in Him, someday, I don't know when, for a crowning of my ministry. I've stayed just as

true as I could be. I don't know what it'll be. I don't know when it'll be. And I, just when He's ready, I am. I don't care. I hope He will crown my ministry of this, of letting me take the clothes of the Word, and dress His Bride in the clothe of the Word, and for His righteousness. I hope He will crown me, let me stand on that day, say, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."

122 There's so many hills to climb upward, the strain, sometime it gets hard; but the One that points the pathway, knows just what's best. He knows what's best. "The toils of the road will seem nothing, when we get to the end of the way." Let's hunt for that bloody footprint. Just remember, friends, "The sands has been washed in the footprints of that Stranger on Galilee's shore; and that voice that subdued the rough

billows, will be heard in Judaea no more. But the path of that lone Galilean, so gladly I follow today; and the toil of the road will seem nothing, when I get to the end of the way.”

123 In this first part of the Scripture I read, and He gave to me, I was a young man, just a boy, standing out there, shoulders straight, chest throwed out, shock of wavy, black hair. And now I stand stoop-shouldered, bald

headed, graying, an old man of fifty-three years old. But He's sweeter as the days go by. And I've not shunned to declare to you the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ. And my heart's desire is to meet the Church which He has died for, clothed in the righteousness of His Own Blood, dressed in His Word and the righteous of His Word, for His Word can never fail. And therefore, I know if I'll stand by the Word and be true

to the Word, and if the Word abides in me and I in Him, at that day I'll be happy that I stayed true.

124 I don't know what the future holds, but you see where we're at, don't you? You see why everybody's saying, even to some of my own colleagues, said, "Why, Brother Branham's all washed up." See? Yeah. "All washed up." See? "Ah, we don't hear much more done." See? Well,

we...They just don't understand, that's all, just don't understand it. See?

125 I think the greatest thing that Paul wanted, when he said, "My time is up now," the greatest desire of Paul's heart was to be a martyr. That was the desire of all their hearts in them days. If they...Did you ever read the *Foxe's Book Of The Martyrs*, and also read also *The Nicene Council*? The greatest honor there could be,

when different ones (and Polycarp and them) walked into the lions' den, they shouted with joy. Walked in there knowing that they was going to be a martyr. When they was burnt to the stake, they screamed with joy, for the honor of being a martyr. When Paul walked down to that chopping block, to have his head cut off, led from that prison house, a little old dungy place down there, in a hole in the wall, where

they had him. I walked down there and looked at it. Little old crypt back there where they slammed his body into it. And now want to make him a saint or something another. Same group of people! There he walked down there. He said, "O death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? But thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ. I've fought a good fight. I've finished the course.

I've kept the Faith. There's a crown laid up for me, and not only for me, but all those who love His appearing."

126 We've come down to the 6th verse now, to the 18th. I don't know what it'll read for me, but I'm only quoting you what it's read for others. And I'm going to continue to stay true to the Word until He's finished. That's where the ministry is today. I'm not washed up. I hope I'm just

washed in. That's it. That's right. Let us bow our heads now while we pray...?...

127 There's a little rope reaching down from the Throne tonight, it's called the Lifeline. While I'm praying, I hope it drags by every unconverted person in here. Won't you reach up and take a hold of it, sinner friend? You say, "Brother Branham, you said you was getting old, and I guess that's the reason you're..." No,

brother, sister. When I was just a little boy, I believed This. I've give my life for It. And there's only one regret I have, I haven't got but one life to give. If I had ten thousand lives I'd want to give them all for It. Yeah.

128 Won't you take a hold of the Line when it passes by tonight, your way? You say, "Brother Branham, I'm not worthy to take a hold of It." I know you're not, child. But you go do something to get

worthy, and tell me what you done, I want to do it, too. There ain't a thing you can do to get worthy. You was born unworthy. There's only one thing you can do, just take a hold of the way that's made for you. You're drowning, don't drown in that. God's throwed out the Lifeline, let's—let's reach and get it tonight.

*62-0908 - Present Stage Of My
Ministry*

Rev. William Marrion Branham

