

Rich Wilkerson Jr: Why Jesus Could Kneel When Others Wouldn't

The courtroom is full.

For 2,000 years, humanity has wrestled with the same question. Was Jesus of Nazareth who He claimed to be?

Was He the Son of God? Was He the Savior of the world? Did He truly have power over sin, sickness, demons and death? Or was He simply another religious teacher whose followers built a movement around His memory?

According to Alex Seeley, that question is still being asked every day.

Preaching a Pentecost message at The Belonging Co, Seeley pointed to Acts 1:8 and challenged believers to reconsider what Jesus meant when He told His followers they would become His witnesses.

"This particular word witness is the language of a courtroom," Seeley said. "It's a witness that testifies in court so that you can bring evidence for or against the person on trial."

Jesus made extraordinary claims during His ministry. He declared Himself the way, the truth and the life. He claimed authority to forgive sins. He healed the sick, delivered the oppressed and promised abundant life to those who followed Him.

Those claims remain before the world today.

"The world has got Jesus on trial going, 'Do we really believe he is the son of the living God? Do we really believe he is

the Christ? Is he an impostor? Is he a prophet? Is he just some crazy person who claimed to be God?" Seeley said.

If Jesus is on trial, witnesses are needed.

"Hearsay evidence means that I heard it from a friend of a friend," Seeley said. "It's a rumor. It's somebody who told me their version of the story, but I never saw it with my own eyes and it never happened to me."

"Hearsay evidence gets thrown out of a court of law because the person was never there."

Then she turned that thought toward the church.

"Unfortunately, I think we've got a lot of hearsay Christians."



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Seeley described believers who know stories about revival, healing and transformation but rarely step into those stories themselves. They know what happened through someone else's ministry, in another church, in another city or another generation.

"Did you hear about that revival that's happening in Africa? Did you hear about that person that got healed? Did you hear about that person that got delivered?" she asked. "Or did you see it? Did it come under your hand? Was it because of what you said and did?"

Jesus never called His followers to become spectators.

He called them to become witnesses.

The disciples already knew the teachings of Jesus. They had watched miracles. They had heard Him preach. They had spent years at His side.

Yet before they preached a sermon, planted a church or evangelized a city, Jesus told them to wait.

“Do not even evangelize until you’ve been clothed with power from on high,” Seeley said.

Knowledge was not enough. Information was not enough. The disciples needed power.

“I think this is where the church has become impotent and asleep is because we do everything in our strength without his power,” Seeley said.

“We are talking about the very spirit of God that gives you the empowerment to live righteously and live like Christ.”

That power should produce evidence.

Not merely words. Not merely beliefs.

Evidence.

“Can Jesus provide evidence that convicts him of being who he says he is and for doing the things he says he can do through your life?” she asked. “Are you the evidence?”

The challenge was personal.

“I am a walking testimony,” Seeley said. “I am evidence that Jesus is real.”

She described herself as someone whose life should have ended very differently before Christ intervened. The transformation she has experienced is not theory to her. It is testimony.

The same was true of the early church.

“The evidence was all around. The witnesses were all around,” Seeley said. “This is what happens when you get immersed by the power of God. You get set free. You get delivered, your life changes, and it’s never the same again.”

That transformation, she said, is what caused people to take notice. Lives changed. Families changed. Communities changed. People saw evidence that something had happened.

Seeley returned to the question that had echoed throughout the sermon.

“Do you want to be evidence today?” she asked. “In your neighborhood, in your workplace, in your family, are you the evidence?”

Pentecost was never simply about remembering what happened in an upper room long ago. It was about receiving the same power that turned ordinary believers into witnesses and transformed lives into evidence that Jesus is alive.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Jack Hibbs Shares How 1 Scripture Shattered His Beliefs About the Rapture

Every believer faces battles. Some come through temptation. Others arrive through fear, anxiety, discouragement or seasons that seem determined to wear faith down.

Pastor Mark Pettus believes the key to navigating those battles begins with understanding one life-changing truth.

“We do not fight for victory,” Pettus said during a recent sermon at Church of the Highlands. “We fight from victory.”

That simple distinction formed the foundation of a message that challenged believers to stop viewing spiritual warfare as a struggle to earn victory and start seeing it as an opportunity to stand in what Christ has already accomplished.

The Victory of Christ Changes Every Battle

Pettus began by reminding listeners that spiritual warfare is a reality for every believer.

“We truly have an enemy,” he said.

Scripture describes Satan as a liar, accuser, adversary, tempter, destroyer and deceiver. Yet Pettus emphasized that believers never face those attacks alone.

“Our God is almighty,” Pettus said. “Satan is not almighty.”

That confidence comes from understanding what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection.

The pastor pointed to the reality that every spiritual battle is viewed through the lens of Christ’s finished work.

“Our God came to set us free from our sins, but our God came to give us victory in every area of our lives,” Pettus said.

Rather than living in fear of spiritual opposition, believers can live with confidence because Jesus has already secured the outcome.

“We now stand in that victory that was won for us on the cross

of Calvary," Pettus said.

The Cross Secured Everything Believers Need

At the center of Pettus' message was a reminder of what happened at the cross.

"When you imagine Jesus on the cross, never imagine Him winning victory for Himself," Pettus said. "Hey everybody, He did not need victory. He already had the victory."

The cross was Christ's victory won on behalf of His people.

"What did He do on the cross?" Pettus continued. "He won victory for all of us."

Because of that victory, believers can walk in freedom, forgiveness, peace and confidence. They do not have to live defined by their past mistakes or failures.

Pettus addressed the accusations and shame many Christians carry long after Christ has forgiven them.

"If God has chosen not to remember your past, why are you?" he asked.

The gospel offers more than forgiveness. It provides a new identity rooted in Christ's righteousness and secured by His grace.



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God Has Given Believers Everything

They Need to Stand

Much of the sermon focused on the armor of God in Ephesians 6.

Pettus explained that every piece of armor represents God's provision for His people.

The belt of truth anchors believers in God's Word.

The breastplate of righteousness protects the heart through Christ's finished work.

The shoes of peace help believers stand firm during temptation and pressure.

The shield of faith extinguishes attacks from the enemy.

The helmet of salvation guards the mind.

The sword of the Spirit equips believers with the power of God's Word.

"He will lie to you. He will lie about you," Pettus said of the enemy.

Yet God has already provided everything necessary to stand strong.

"You have armor. Let's don't leave it on the table. Let's not leave it on the shelf," Pettus said.

For Pettus, spiritual warfare begins with daily dependence on God through Scripture, prayer and putting on the armor He has provided.

Standing Firm in Christ Releases His Victory in Our Lives

One of the strongest themes of the message came from Paul's

repeated instruction in Ephesians 6.

Stand.

Again and again, believers are called to stand firm.

Pettus said that command reveals the true nature of spiritual warfare.

“Spiritual warfare is standing firm not in our own victory, but in the victory of Christ,” he said.

The Christian life is not lived through personal strength. It is lived through dependence on Christ’s strength.

“We will never win spiritual warfare,” Pettus said. “Jesus won spiritual warfare.”

That truth frees believers from striving and empowers them to trust God in every circumstance.

Whether facing temptation, anxiety, uncertainty or opposition, believers can stand with confidence because Christ has already secured the victory.

Pettus concluded by reminding listeners that every piece of armor ultimately points to Jesus Himself.

He is our truth.

He is our righteousness.

He is our peace.

He is our salvation.

“We do not fight for victory. We fight from victory,” Pettus said.

Through every trial and every battle, believers can stand firm knowing Christ has already won. The call is simple: Put on the full armor of God, stand firm and walk forward in the power of

what He has already done.

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Meet Freddy: The German World Cup Tourist Winning Hearts with His Epic US Road Trip

A German soccer fan named Freddy (@FreddyLA7) came to the U.S. for the 2026 World Cup and accidentally turned into everyone's favorite online hype man.

What started as a simple road trip to catch Germany's matches has exploded into a wholesome viral sensation. His follower count skyrocketed from about 11,000 to nearly 380,000 in just a few days, with posts regularly pulling in hundreds of thousands to millions of views. All because he's genuinely geeking out over everyday American life.

Freddy's feed is packed with pure positivity – no complaints, just wide-eyed appreciation for the stuff we often take for granted. He's been rolling through the South, posting everything from sunrises to late-night snacks with the enthusiasm of a kid in a candy store.

“Just had our first Waffle House experience at 1am. Great

food, great prices, and friendly staff. 10/10, we will be coming back.” – That one post alone captured hearts everywhere.

He also made the ultimate pilgrimage: “Dinner from Buc-ee’s at 1am” – turning the legendary travel center (with its spotless bathrooms, massive snack selection, and beaver mascot) into internet gold. Walmart runs, Taco Bell stops, and random hotel evenings with “NBA Finals on the TV and Chipotle for dinner” have all become must-see content.

Dinner from Buc-ee’s at 1am

– Freddy (@FreddyLA7) June 10, 2026

One of his most viral moments came when he discovered a store (a good ol’ Bass Pro Shop) with an indoor shooting range: “We found another surreal place on our way. I know some people will say I’m too positive about everything I see, but this place was crazy. They had a shooting range in the store.”

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– Freddy (@FreddyLA7) June 11, 2026

He’s also been shouting out at the people. After hotel staff randomly drove him and his friends to a stadium in the rain so they wouldn’t have to walk, he posted: “I love Americans...” Simple moments like “Good morning from Mobile Bay, Alabama” and Alabama sunsets have Americans smiling at their phones and half-jokingly demanding he gets fast-tracked for citizenship.



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Why Freddy's Story Hits Different

What makes this whole thing feel extra special is that Freddy's fresh eyes are highlighting something deep about America. This country was founded on faith – the eternal belief that our Creator gave us unalienable rights, that liberty and personal responsibility go together, and that free people, guided by biblical and moral principles, could create something truly unique.

And create something unique, we did.

That foundation baked in optimism, generosity, abundance and a welcoming spirit that still shines through today. Freddy isn't lecturing about history – he's living the vibe: friendly strangers, wild variety (hello, shooting range in a store), late-night food options, and big dreams in action. In a cynical world, his genuine excitement reminds us why this nation still stands out.

Freddy didn't set out to become a goodwill ambassador, but he's absolutely crushing it. As he keeps rolling toward New Orleans and Houston in his Germany jerseys, he's giving millions of us a chance to see our own backyard with fresh appreciation.

So here's to Freddy – safe travels, more Buc-ee's runs and keep the good vibes coming. Who knows what he'll discover next?

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interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

He Had Been Imprisoned 13 Times, Then He Says Jesus Appeared to Him in Texas

A teenager may spend an hour listening to a sermon on Sunday.

That same teenager may spend dozens of hours each week consuming content selected by an algorithm.

One voice gets a few moments. The other gets access throughout the day.

That reality was at the center of a recent message from apostle Jim Raley, who challenged parents and grandparents to think differently about what is shaping the next generation.

“I want to tell you something. Your kids are being disciplined every single day by screens, by friends, by cultures, by algorithms, by voices you never invited into your home,” Raley said.

“And the question is not whether or not this is happening. The question is, who has their ear?”

For years, Christians have talked about the importance of discipleship. Churches invest in youth ministries. Parents pray for their children. Pastors preach about spiritual formation.

Meanwhile, another disciple-maker has quietly moved into the home.

The algorithm.

The Disciple-Maker That Never Sleeps

Raley argued that many parents underestimate how much influence digital platforms have over their children.

“If you don’t disciple your children, screen time will, algorithms will,” he said.

Algorithms never stop speaking. They continually learn what captures attention and then serve more of it.

Children are learning lessons about identity, relationships, beauty, sexuality, truth and self-worth.

Raley asked a series of pointed questions.

“Who’s forming their imagination? Who’s teaching them what love really looks like? What relationship looks like? What marriage looks like? What sexuality looks like? What truth looks like? What real beauty looks like? What identity looks like? Who’s showing your family or your kids what gives a person worth?”

Those lessons are repeated every day.

And repetition is one of the most powerful tools of discipleship.



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Why the Battle Starts at Home

Raley pointed to Deuteronomy 6 as God’s blueprint for raising children.

The passage instructs parents to teach God's truth throughout everyday life – while sitting at home, walking together, lying down and getting up.

The model is built around daily conversations.

“I want you to notice that the Lord didn't say in that text, 'Drop them off at a religious institution, drop them off and let some professionals handle it,'” Raley said.

“It doesn't start at church.”

Faith, he said, belongs in ordinary family life.

“It needs to get in your home. Faith is designed to be part of your everyday life. Gets in the kitchen, in the school, at the table, in the den.”

The Great Disconnection

One of Raley's strongest observations focused on how technology can separate families even while they occupy the same room.

“Social media has made people globally connected but locally disconnected,” he said.

“I've seen families sitting at dinner and I'll watch them at the table. Five people, five screens, zero conversation.”

Every silent dinner table is a missed opportunity for discipleship. Conversations that once shaped values, convictions and faith are increasingly being replaced by screens.

Parents once shaped worldviews during car rides, around dinner tables and through bedtime conversations. Those moments remain some of the most effective opportunities for spiritual formation.

“A home is not a place where you just coexist and everybody lives in the same house, but you’re not building anything together,” Raley said.

The Battle for Influence

Raley called for intentional discipleship through boundaries, conversation, prayer and parental involvement.

“Boundaries are not a sign that you don’t trust your children. They’re a sign that you love them,” he said.

He also encouraged parents to move beyond interrogation and toward genuine connection.

“Conversation is better than interrogation.”

Parents who ask questions, listen carefully and speak biblical truth into everyday situations create opportunities to shape how their children think about life and faith.

The challenge, Raley argued, is influence.

Every child is being disciplined by someone or something.

The question Christian families must answer is whether the loudest voice in a child’s life belongs to culture, an algorithm or Christ.

“You can’t let culture get louder in your home than conviction,” Raley said.

Parents often worry about what their children will face when they leave the house. Raley’s message turns that concern in a different direction. The greatest battle for the next generation may be happening every day on a device sitting in a child’s hand.

Algorithms are shaping a generation one click, one scroll and one video at a time. Parents cannot surrender that ground

through neglect or distraction. Homes filled with truth, conversation, prayer and the presence of God remain one of the most powerful forces in a child's life. If the next generation is going to follow Christ, someone has to have their ear first.

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NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year Baptized as Cleveland Browns Players Boldly Proclaim Christ

Professional athletes are told to build a platform, grow a following and keep the spotlight fixed on themselves.

That is why what happened in Cleveland this week deserves attention.

While sports headlines revolve around contracts, endorsements, statistics and social media influence, several Cleveland Browns players used a public platform for something entirely different. They publicly declared their faith in Jesus Christ.

Members of the Browns joined local believers Sunday for a

Cleveland for Christ gathering that featured worship music, prayer, testimonies and baptisms. The event brought together players, coaches, chaplains and members of the community for a day centered on faith.

Among those participating were quarterback Shedeur Sanders, running back Raheim Sanders, cornerback Tyson Campbell, safety Daniel Thomas and team chaplain Nobles C. Darby.



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Several players chose to take another step in their walk with Christ through baptism, including linebacker Carson Schwesinger, the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Before entering the water, Schwesinger publicly affirmed his faith. According to Fox News, he was asked whether he believed Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again for his sins.

"Yes," Schwesinger replied.

He was then asked whether he was ready to make Jesus the Lord of his life.

"Yes," he responded.

Moments later, he was baptized before those gathered at the event.

Life has a way of confronting believers with battles that feel larger than life. Fear, discouragement, guilt and temptation often seem impossible to overcome. Yet according to Dr. David Jeremiah, these struggles are not new. They are modern-day giants, and Scripture provides a roadmap for defeating them.

*During a recent interview with Sheila Walsh on Turning Point, Jeremiah discussed lessons from his teaching series *Slaying the Giants in Your Life*. Drawing on the story of David and Goliath, he explained that today's believers face giants every bit as intimidating as the Philistine champion.*

"I really wanted to concentrate on the giants that we face in our culture today and how they're just as big to us as a 9-ft 6-in giant was to David," Jeremiah said.

Here are the 11 giants Jeremiah highlighted, along with the biblical principles he shared for overcoming them.

1. Fear

Jeremiah spoke candidly about his battle with fear during his fight with cancer.

"People ask me when I had cancer, was I afraid. Were you

afraid when you had cancer? And I think absolutely I was,” he said.

He explained that fear was eventually replaced by God’s peace and presence.

“We are not to live our lives in fear. I don’t think that’s the will of God for us.”

2. Discouragement

Jeremiah called discouragement one of the enemy’s most effective weapons.

“I think that’s Satan’s favorite tool to use on me,” he said.

His solution comes from the life of David.

“And David encouraged himself in the Lord.”

Jeremiah said worship music, Scripture, prayer and trusted relationships help him push back against discouragement when it appears.

3. Loneliness

Despite constant online interaction, Jeremiah believes loneliness has become a growing crisis.

“I sense that there’s so many people through social media, they think they’re connected, but they’re really not connected,” Walsh observed.

Jeremiah pointed to authentic Christian community as the answer, emphasizing the importance of meaningful relationships within the local church.

4. Worry and Anxiety

Jeremiah said anxiety is increasing as society moves further from God.

“The absence of God creates anxiety,” he said.

He pointed viewers back to Philippians 4.

“The Bible says, ‘Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, let your request be made known unto God.’”

He also emphasized the biblical command to encourage one another.

“That means we’re to pour courage into other people.”



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5. Guilt

One of Jeremiah’s strongest teachings centered on guilt and forgiveness.

“There is no place in the Bible where it ever says anything about us forgiving ourselves,” he said.

Instead, believers should focus on receiving God’s forgiveness.

“God forgives completely, fully, unconditionally. And when God forgives, you are forgiven.”

Jeremiah added that Christians must continually remind themselves that they have been forgiven “by the highest authority in the forever world.”

6. Temptation

Jeremiah made a distinction many believers need to hear.

“It is not a sin to be tempted. It is a sin to yield to temptation.”

He pointed to Christ’s temptation in the wilderness and reminded viewers that temptation itself is not evidence of failure.

“Temptation is hearing a knock at the door, but yielding is opening the door and letting it in.”

He also highlighted God’s promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13.

“God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able but will with the temptation also provide a way of escape.”

7. Anger and Resentment

Jeremiah noted that not all anger is sinful.

“Actually, the Bible says be angry and sin not.”

The greater danger comes when anger remains unresolved.

“Resentment is anger gone underground.”

He warned that buried anger eventually resurfaces.

“Then at an inappropriate moment that you never dreamed was going to happen, boom, you explode, and all that resentment comes out.”

8. Doubt

Jeremiah encouraged believers not to panic when questions arise.

“Somebody once said, ‘There is more faith in an honest doubt than in anything else you can ever have.’”

Rather than destroying faith, he said doubt often strengthens it by forcing believers to seek answers.

“Doubt drives you to find answers.”

He added that doubt becomes dangerous only when it is allowed to define a person’s entire spiritual life.

9. Procrastination

Jeremiah described procrastination as more than a bad habit.

“Here’s what I believe. That the time between when God tells you to do something and when you do it, that time belongs to the devil.”

He said delayed obedience creates opportunities for spiritual compromise.

“When God says do this, you do it.”

10. Failure

For Jeremiah, Peter’s denial of Jesus remains one of Scripture’s greatest examples of restoration.

“When you fail, you don’t become a failure.”

He reminded believers that setbacks do not have to define their future.

“Failure is never final unless you let it be.”

God often uses mistakes and disappointments to prepare His people for greater victories ahead.

11. Jealousy

In an age of social media comparison, Jeremiah said jealousy has become increasingly common.

“When you’re jealous, you have a person in your focus, and you’re jealous of that person.”

The answer is finding identity and joy in Christ rather than comparing lives.

“Joy is not happiness. Joy is a relationship.”

He said believers can overcome jealousy when they understand God has a unique purpose for every life.

“You shouldn’t be jealous of somebody else because you didn’t come here to do that. You came here to do this.”

Jeremiah concluded by returning to David’s encounter with Goliath. The lesson, he said, is not that giants disappear, but that believers face them differently.

“We can’t face our giants, Sheila, in our own strength.”

“But when we face our giants in the name of the Lord, in the power of his might, we can have the same victory that David had.”

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A Historic Moment: The Tower of Jesus Lights Up the Night Sky For the Whole World to See

For one night, the skyline of Barcelona became a sermon.

Thousands gathered outside the Sagrada Família as the Tower of Jesus Christ was illuminated for the first time, marking one of the most significant milestones in the church's 144-year history. The ceremony coincided with the 100th anniversary of architect Antoni Gaudí's death and included a blessing from Pope Leo XIV.

The newly completed tower rises 172.5 meters, making the Sagrada Família the tallest church in the world. At its peak stands a massive cross designed to radiate light across the city, a fitting crown for a structure dedicated to Jesus Christ.

The event featured music, lights, drones and projections that transformed the night sky into a tribute to Gaudí's vision. Yet the most striking image was not the technology. It was the tower itself.



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In an age dominated by glass skyscrapers, concrete blocks and disposable design, the Sagrada Família stands as a reminder that architecture can still inspire awe. It can lift the eyes upward. It can communicate beauty, wonder and transcendence.

Gaudí famously envisioned the basilica as a proclamation of the Christian faith carved into stone. Every tower, façade and sculpture was designed to tell the story of the Gospel. And in perhaps the most powerful feature of all, the tallest tower belongs to Jesus. The apostles, evangelists and Mary all point toward the central Tower of Christ, reflecting the truth that He remains the focal point of the story.

The celebration did not stay in Barcelona.

Images and video of the illuminated Tower of Jesus spread rapidly across social media, drawing the attention of millions around the world. Among those sharing the moment was Elon Musk, who reposted footage of the event on X, placing one of the most openly Christian architectural celebrations of the modern era before a massive global audience.

We see the tower of Jesus Christ illuminated for the first time!

The light show, starting from the base up to the illumination of the cross, culminated with a composition of lights guided by drones that traced the figure of Gaudí and the phrase “first love, then technique”.

– La Sagrada Família (@sagradafamilia) June 10, 2026

The contrast was remarkable. A vision first conceived in the 19th century suddenly appeared on screens across the world in the digital age. More than a century after Gaudí dedicated his life to the project, the tower he designed to honor Christ became a worldwide spectacle.

Pope Leo spoke during the celebration about the power of beauty to lead people toward God, a theme reflected throughout the basilica’s design. The moment served as a reminder that beauty is not merely decoration. It can

*communicate truth. It can inspire worship. It can point
beyond itself.*

*The Sagrada Família is not fully finished. Work continues on
portions of the Glory Façade and surrounding structures. But
with the Tower of Jesus now shining above Barcelona, the
centerpiece of Gaudí's dream is finally complete.*

*The moment offered a simple reminder: when Jesus is placed at
the center, even stone and steel can become a testimony. More
than 140 years after construction began, the tallest point of
the world's tallest church now shines over Barcelona—a beacon
of beauty, craftsmanship and faith in Jesus Christ.*

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