

## THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

“Good morning friends, my name is Tony Miano. I’m from Faith Community Church in the Santa Clarita Valley. I’m here with the prayerful support of my Pastor and my elders. I brought free Bibles this morning in both English and Spanish. Please help yourself. I’m not going to ask for your name or to put you on a list of any kind, no salesman will come to your door; but if you’d like a free copy of God’s Word, please help yourself. The green ones are in Spanish and the yellow ones are in English, and I hope the Lord blesses your reading of God’s Word.

“My friends I’m here this morning to share with you the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no better news than Salvation by the grace of God alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. The Word of God says that there is Salvation in no other but Jesus Christ. In fact, the Word says, ‘There is no other name given among men under Heaven by which we must be saved.’

“The Word of God says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

“And who is Jesus? He is not the Jesus of the Jehovah’s Witnesses who believe He is a created being: the incarnation of the archangel Michael. He is not the Jesus of the Mormon religion that believes that Jesus is a created being and the spirit brother of Satan and is only the god of this planet. He is not the Jesus of the Muslims who believe that Jesus is nothing more than a good prophet, Himself a created being. They deny the Son of God. They believe He is second to Mohammed in His stature. When it was Jesus Christ who created Mohammed, and it was before Jesus Christ Whom Mohammed stood to give an account for the blasphemous religion he created known as Islam.

“It’s not the Jesus of the Roman Catholic Church either. While they believe that Jesus is eternal, while they believe that Jesus is sinless, while they believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, while they believe that He is the Son of God, while they believe that He died and rose from the grave, they do not believe in the sufficiency of Jesus Christ’s work on the Cross. And they show that everyday around the world in churches and cathedrals through the performance of a tradition known as the mass: where they believe that the bread becomes the body of Jesus, and the wine becomes the blood of Jesus, and Jesus must suffer day in and day out through this ritual around the world. Well that’s not the Jesus of the Bible. So when Jesus shed His innocent blood on the Cross, the last words He spoke were ‘It is finished.’ Everything that God the Son needed to accomplish to glorify God the Father, and to make the only way for sinners like us to be saved was accomplished on the Cross. Jesus Christ doesn’t suffer any more. He suffered once, He died once, He rose from the grave, He is alive today, and He will return at a time of the Father’s choosing.

“No my friends, the Jesus that I’m here to present to you this morning is the Christ: the Son of the living God. The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world, the Lion of the tribe of Judah who will Judge both the living and the dead. He was with the Father in creation and all things were created by Him and through Him and for Him. And nothing has ever been created that was not created by Jesus Christ, the Lord.

“He is fully God, He is fully man, and He is without sin. He is the only One who will Judge you according to the perfect moral standard of God’s Law and He is the only One who can save you by His finished work on the Cross.

“My friends, the Word of God says that it’s appointed once for a person to die and after that the Judgment. We are all part of the ultimate statistic: ten out of ten people die. It’s not a scare tactic, it’s simply a reality of the world that we live in. And when we die we’re going to stand before God to give an account for our life, and ‘cause God is good, because God is holy, righteous and just, He must punish sin. And the punishment God has ascribed for sin is eternity in hell.

“But thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! That same God who is angry with the wicked every day, that same God who’s wrath abides upon the ungodly, that same God who will Judge the world in righteousness, is the same god (for there is only One) who is loving and merciful and gracious and kind. And He showed His great love when He sent His Son to earth in the Person of Jesus Christ.

“Fully God, fully man, and without sin. Born of a virgin, just as the prophets declared more than seven-hundred years before His birth. Unlike you and me my friends, He never once violated the Law of God, He was and He is the sinless Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

“He lived a perfect life for about thirty-three years on this earth that you and I cannot live for thirty-three seconds. And then He voluntarily went to the Cross. He suffered and died a horrific, bloody death He did not deserve to take upon the punishment you and I rightly deserve for our sins against God. And three days later He forever defeated sin and death when He rose from the grave. And unlike Buddha and Mohammed and the millions of false gods of Hinduism and any other gods created by men, Jesus Christ is alive today. And He will return at a time of the Father’s choosing.

“And what God commands of you and me and all people everywhere, my friends, is that you repent. For God has overlooked the days of ignorance, and now commands all people everywhere to repent. To turn from their sin, and by faith, and by faith alone, receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and their Savior.

“My friends, your only hope for forgiveness is faith in Jesus Christ. It’s not through religion, it’s not through filling a pew on Sunday and living like hell Monday through Saturday (that’s hypocrisy). It’s not by good works, God sees our good works as filthy rags. It’s not by believing you’re a good person because we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. None of us are good according to God’s standard. No forgiveness is by the grace of God alone by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. And all of God’s promises are *yes* and *amen*.

“The same God who promises to Judge sin is the same God who promises to forgive sinners. But you must come to God on His terms, for God does not negotiate with sinners. There will be no plea bargains on the Day of Judgment. He will either see you clothed in your unrighteousness, your sin, or He will see you clothed in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.

“You see my friends, it’s not based on anything we have done in righteousness that earns our Salvation. Salvation is entirely a gift of God’s grace, and by His mercy, through the sacrificial death and the glorious resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. And again my friends, there is no other name given among men under Heaven by which we must be saved. And again, it is grace, by grace we are saved through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is a gift from God. Not as a result of works, so that none of us can boast.

“My friends, God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. He is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. So humble yourself before the mighty hand of God and on the last day He will raise you up. Turn from your sin and by faith and by faith alone receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior while God has given you time.

“And again, I have free Bibles this morning: the green ones are in Spanish, the yellow ones are in English. Please help yourself to a copy of God’s Word and may God bless you as you get on the bus and go to work or wherever it is you may be going. Please consider what you’ve heard this morning, this is a message of love.

“If you do not hear this as a message of love, it is because you love your sin more than you love God. It is because you love yourself more than you love God. So humble yourself before God. Turn from your sin and by faith, and by faith alone, receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior while God has given you time.

“I’d like to continue by reading from the Word of God. Out of the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Gonna be reading a portion of chapter twenty-two beginning in verse one. God’s Word tells us this:

“‘After these things, God tested Abraham and said to him, ‘Abraham?’ And he said, ‘Here am I Lord.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Mariah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you. So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place in which God had told him. On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, ‘Men, stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.’”

“Now we’re already seeing a picture of Abraham’s great faith in God. Abraham, who had a personal relationship with the God who created him. Abraham received a command from the Lord to go and sacrifice his one and only son. He didn’t hesitate, he didn’t question, he didn’t complain, he went and he did what he was told. And when they got to the base of that mountain, Mariah, where only Abraham and his son would dimb. And where ...” Tony was stopped by a heckler.

“Oh, young man, you have to have a better response than that. Don’t be so foolish to deny God. Only the fool has said in his heart ‘there is no God,’ young man. And you’re never going to give the finger to God young man. You can yell, you could scream, you could hate God, but you’re going to stand

before Him to give an account. You're going to stand before God to give an account for your life, and He's going to Judge you according to the perfect moral standard of His Law. He's going to find you guilty and He's going to punish your sins. So be careful crossing the street young man because you don't know how many days you have left. I'm going to be praying for your wicked soul young man.

"Returning to our text, we see great faith in Abraham in that not only did he trust God and obey Him, but listen again to what he said when he got to the base of that mountain. Abraham said to his servants who he took with him, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering my son.' So they went both of them together.'

"Just prior to that Abraham said to the young men, 'Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.' By faith Abraham believed that he and his son would come back. He believed that God would provide the lamb, but he was ready to sacrifice his son.

"And continuing on verse eight, 'And Abraham ...' I'm sorry, verse six, 'And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took with him in his hand the fire and the knife, and they went, both of them, together and Isaac said to Abraham his father, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here am I my son.' He said, 'Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering my son.' So they went both of them together.'

"Now it's not humorous but it's interesting: Isaac knows what's going on. He and his father are going to sacrifice a lamb on the top of Mount Moriah, and everything is there but the lamb. And so Isaac asks, 'Father where is the lamb? Where is the animal for the sacrifice?' And Abraham said, 'Don't worry son, God is going to provide the lamb.' And he said this knowing full well that God had commanded him to sacrifice his son as the lamb.

"Continuing verse nine, 'When they came to the place in which God had told him, Abraham had built the altar there and laid the wood in order. And bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.'

"Abraham was going to carry out the act that God had commanded him to do. By faith Abraham believed that God would provide the lamb. And look at the obedience of the son. Look at the obedience of the son, Isaac. He allowed his father to strap him down to the woodpile. He knew, there was no doubt, Isaac knew, 'Oh, my dad is going to sacrifice me to the Lord.' But yet, there's no indication he struggled, there's no indication he complained, there's no indication that he tried to run away. He obediently submitted to the father's will.

"Verse eleven, 'But the angel of the Lord called to him from Heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.' He said, 'Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, seeing that you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram up and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of the place, *The Lord Will Provide*. As it is said to this day, 'On the Mount of

the Lord it shall be provided.’ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from Heaven and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and you have not withheld your son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the sea shore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. So Abraham returned to his young men, and they went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

“Just as Abraham told his young servants, so it came to pass. He told his young servants to stay there at the foot of the mountain while Abraham and his son went to the top of the mountain to perform the sacrifice commanded by the Lord. And before Abraham went up, he told his servants that he and Isaac would return. And he did all of this by faith. He did all of this by faith.

“Now the apostle Paul would talk about Abraham’s great act of faith in Romans chapter four. Beginning in verse one, we read, ‘What then shall we say was gained by Abraham our fore-father according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scriptures say, ‘Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.’ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift, but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in the One who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.’”

“My friends, what we see in Abraham, in Isaac, we also see in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Abraham took his son to the top of Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son as a sacrifice unto the Lord. His son, Isaac, was the obedient son who was willing to lay down his life at his father’s own hand, in order to please God. And that’s what we saw on the Cross. That’s what we see on the Cross of Jesus Christ.

“But there is a distinct difference between the sacrifice that Abraham was willing to perform on Mount Moriah, and the sacrifice that God the Father did perform at the Cross. You see, God provided a Lamb for Abraham so he would not have to give his son, his one and only son.

“And it was that faith that was credited to Abraham’s account as righteousness. God saw Abraham as righteous, not because of who he was, not because of his good works, but because of his love and obedience to God that he would willingly sacrifice his own son to please God the Father.

“And just as Abraham was lifting his hands to drive the knife into the heart of his own, God cried out from Heaven, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here am I Lord.’ And He said, ‘Do not kill your son.’ And he turned and he saw that God provided a lamb, a lamb that would be slain in the place of Abraham’s son Isaac.

“But on the Cross we do not see the Father hold back His hand from killing His own Son. For it pleased God the Father to crush God the Son. Jesus Christ was both the Son of God and the sinless Lamb of God who would be the sacrifice for sinners like you and me.

“God the Father made Him, God the Son, who knew no sin, to become sin on our behalf so that through Him we might receive, we might become the righteousness of God. And why did God do this? Why did God carry out this sacrifice of His own Son, His own perfect, priceless, precious, and sinless Son? It was because it was the only way that sinners like you and me can be saved.

“All of us have sinned my friends. All of us have fallen short of the glory of God. All of us have broken God’s Law in thought, word, and deed. And it is by that Law that we will stand to give an account when we die and we stand before God.

“Every lie will be counted. Every theft will be counted. Every blasphemy will be counted. Every inappropriate look at a man or a woman will be counted. Every moment of hatred in your heart will be counted my friends. And it will be counted against you. And you know what I’m telling you is true because God has given you a conscience.

“You know it’s wrong to lie because you know that God is honest. You know it’s wrong to steal because you know that God is not a thief. You know it’s wrong to take God’s name in vain, because you know that God is holy.

“And my friends, if you stand before God and He finds you guilty of breaking His Law, He’s going to do what is right, He’s going to do what is just, He is going to do what is good, and He is going to punish your sin. And that punishment for sin is eternity in hell.

“But thanks be to God for His indescribable gift, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. The Cross is where justice and mercy kiss. Where the sinless Son of God shed His innocent blood to take upon Himself the punishment you and I rightly deserve for our sins against God.

“And then three days later He forever defeated sin and death when He rose from the grave. And God the Father provided His one and only Son as a sacrifice for sin for those who repent and believe.

“God the Son, Jesus Christ the Lord, the Messiah, the sinless Lamb of God, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the only Savior for mankind, the name before which every knee will bow and every tongue will confess to the glory of God the Father. This Christ, this Jesus, was the Lamb of God that God slain on a wooden, Roman torture stake so that sinners like you and me could receive forgiveness for our sins and the free gift of eternal life with Jesus Christ in Heaven.

“It pleased God the Father to crush the Son. There was no other lamb that God the Father could find to replace God the Son, because this sacrifice had to be perfect in every respect. Because only God can appease the wrath of God and only the perfect God Man could pay the penalty for mankind’s sin. And that is, and only is, Jesus Christ the Lord; and it is at the Cross where justice and mercy kiss.

“Where God the Father poured out His wrath, driving the knife of His holy indignation against sin, through the flesh of His one and only Son so that sinners like you and me could receive forgiveness and be saved. And this is Good News.

“And what God commands of you this day, He’s not asking, He’s not begging, He’s not pleading with you, He doesn’t need anything from you, He is not incomplete without you, He is not in yonder Heaven lamenting that you are not with him; no, He commands of you this day to repent. And turn from your sin, and by faith, and by faith alone, receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior.

“And again, all of God’s promises are *yes* and *amen*.

“The same God who promises to Judge the wicked in righteousness, is the same One who promises to save the wicked who turn from their sin, and by faith, and by faith alone, receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and their Savior.

“So do not harden your heart this day my friends, turn from your sins and by faith, and by faith alone, receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior while God has given you time.

“My friends, Steve and I would love to talk to you. I know many of you are in a hurry to get to work, but if you have a moment and would like to talk about what you’ve heard, we would love to talk to you about these things. Or if you just want to pick up a Bible they are free: the green ones are in Spanish, the yellow ones are in English. Help yourself to God’s Word. God bless you and thank you for listening.”