Living Sermons

A BILLY GRAHAM CLASSIC SERMON

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:25-37

"In the modern world of transportation and technology, the whole world has become a neighborhood, without being a brotherhood."

BILLY GRAHAM

Halifax, Nova Scotia

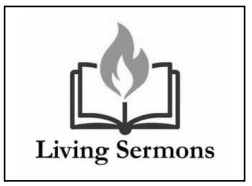
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THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Preacher: Billy Graham

Publisher: LivingSermons.com

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Living Sermons

FOREWORD

"Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" A lawyer put that question to Jesus, and then, "willing to justify himself," asked a second: "Who is my neighbour?" In this message from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Billy Graham shows how the parable of the Good Samaritan answers both.

Dr. Graham will not separate the two questions. The whole world, he says, has become "a neighborhood, without being a brotherhood," and the starving millions and the refugees in the camps of Southeast Asia are our neighbors. Yet a deeper disease is at work in every heart, in Halifax as everywhere: sin, which strips, wounds and leaves us half dead on the downward road to Jericho.

Religion, like the priest and the Levite, passes by on the other side. False messiahs, from Jonestown onward, promise what they cannot give. But a certain Samaritan came where he was. In the Samaritan's compassion, the oil and the wine, the inn, and the promise to come again, Dr. Graham sees the love of Christ, who rushed in to save His bride and gave His life for us.

In preparing this edition, we have preserved the preacher's message and wording. We removed time stamps and broadcast material, trimmed a few spoken repetitions, arranged the transcript into chapters with subheadings, and corrected punctuation, capitalization and obvious transcription errors.

May this book bring you eternal life, and then send you out to be a neighbor.

Wisdom Epsi
— The Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube

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Our standard is reverence for the Word of God. Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ. It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

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MAIN MESSAGE BEGINS HERE

CHAPTER 1

"WHAT SHALL I DO?"

LUKE 10:25

Now I want you to turn with me tonight to the tenth chapter of Luke, a very familiar passage that every young person here will relate to—young and old. The tenth chapter of Luke, beginning at the twenty-fifth verse:

> *And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*
>
> **LUKE 10:25**

Now Jesus was asked that same question about nineteen times in His period of ministry that is recorded in the Gospels. In various forms He was asked that question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

> *He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And He said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*
>
> **LUKE 10:26-28**

NO ONE HAS EVER DONE IT

But no one has ever done it. No one in the history of the human race has ever loved God with all his heart, mind and strength all of his life, and his neighbor as himself all his life. That's the reason we've all come short. We're all sinners, and we all need to repent of our sins and find forgiveness at the cross.

CHAPTER 2

THE STORY JESUS TOLD

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"

“But he, willing to justify himself”—as many of you would like to justify yourselves—“said, But who is my neighbour?” You see, he was a lawyer, and it was his job to cross-examine. He said, “But who is my neighbor?”

> *And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was in the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.*
>
> **LUKE 10:30-33**

WHAT THE SAMARITAN DID

And notice, he did ten things. He had compassion on him, and he went to him, and he bound up his wounds, poured in oil, poured in wine, set him on his own horse—or his own beast—and took him to an inn and took care of him.

> *And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was the neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And the lawyer answered, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus, Go thou, and do likewise.*
>
> **LUKE 10:35-37**

Jesus gave this story as an answer to the two questions that this lawyer asked.

CHAPTER 3

ETERNAL LIFE NOW

EVERYBODY WANTS ETERNAL LIFE

The first question: “Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

Everybody here would like to have eternal life. Everybody would like to know that when you die, you’re going to heaven. You know you’re going to die. “It is appointed unto man once to die.” You cannot escape death. But you’d like to know that you have eternal life.

Now eternal life does not begin at death. Eternal life begins the moment you know Christ as your Lord and Savior.

ALIVE BUT DEAD

There are many people that are here, alive physically, but you’re dead spiritually. You’re dead toward God. You have no relationship and no fellowship with God whatsoever. You go to church, and you go through all the rituals, and you have religion, but you don’t really have Jesus Christ. And so religion becomes rather dull to you. It’s a disappointment to you. So you try to find your kicks in drugs or sex or something else. You turn to other things to escape.

AN EMPTY PLACE

Because there’s always this empty place in everybody’s heart that only God can fill. Because you were made in the image of God, and without God there’s an emptiness; there’s a lack. And yet all your life you’re searching for something. You’re searching for eternal life. You want eternal life.

You can have eternal life right tonight. It could start tonight in your heart, as Christ comes to dwell in your life and in your heart.

CHAPTER 4

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

A SOCIAL QUESTION

Then the second question was a social question: “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus gave the answer: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength… and thy neighbour as thyself.”

Eight hundred fifty million people on this planet live on a starvation diet at this moment. Are they our neighbors? When is the last time you shared your social life with someone of another race or another ethnic background? Or your material goods with the poor? Or your knowledge with those who need an education? Or your skills with the untrained? And your compassion and prayers for the peace of the world? Have you cared for the aged, the handicapped, the blind, the alcoholic, the dope addict, the morally fallen, with your love and concern? Who is your neighbor? What is your responsibility to your neighbor?

A NEIGHBORHOOD WITHOUT A BROTHERHOOD

In the modern world of transportation and technology, the whole world has become a neighborhood, without being a brotherhood. The whole world suddenly becomes our neighbor. Those people that are suffering in Southeast Asia are our neighbors. Those people suffering in Central Africa are our neighbors. And we have a responsibility to them.

BROKEN HEARTS

The Scripture says Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. A new book has just come out by a psychiatrist entitled *The Broken Heart*. And in Toronto delegates came from all around the world to a convention on mended hearts. Jesus came to heal broken hearts. How many broken hearts are here tonight? Your girlfriend walked out on you, or your boyfriend has said "No," and it's broken your heart.

CHAPTER 5

A DEEPER DISEASE

A SPIRITUAL QUESTION

And then there was a spiritual question—not only a social question, but a spiritual question. Throughout history the church has shifted back and forth as to its emphasis on personal redemption and social involvement. They both go hand in hand.

But this man said, “Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” And the spiritual poverty of that man was deeper and worse than any material poverty. And Jesus showed that over and over again: the spiritual disease is worse than the physical disease.

WORSE THAN THE CAMPS

We can go out to Southeast Asia right now, to Thailand, to some of those camps, and it’ll break your heart. My son has been there several times and told me some of the most horrifying stories. We see it on our television screens, and we say, “What can we do?” We feel so helpless at a moment when people are suffering so terribly in so many parts of the world. It’s overwhelming to us. We’re to do what we can; they are our neighbors.

But there’s another disease, right here in Halifax, right here in Nova Scotia, that is worse than the diseases in those camps. It’s the spiritual disease, the disease of sin. And you’ve got it. It’s a leprosy. It’s worse than cancer, because it destroys the soul. It destroys your relationship with God. It comes between you and peace and joy and happiness. You need to turn your life over to Christ and have this eternal life.

“What must I do to be saved?” That’s the same question that was asked of Paul and Silas in prison. And Paul said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

"A CERTAIN MAN"

But it’s not only a social and a spiritual problem; it’s an individual problem. Jesus said, “A certain man…” Now Jesus is interested in you as an individual. He sees the sparrow when it falls, He said. And He has the hairs of your head numbered, and He sees you as an individual. He said, “A certain man.” He loves people. “Behold how He loved him!” “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

CHAPTER 6

THE DOWNWARD ROAD

HE WENT DOWN

And the Scripture says that this certain man in this story went down. He went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Jericho was 800 feet below Jerusalem, about eighteen miles away. And a certain man went down the Jericho road.

Now Jerusalem was the city of God. It was a city of peace at that time. It was a city of truth; it was the city where the theologians were. But now he was going down.

That's the downward course of sin, and we're all on that downward Jericho road, every one of us. If you read the first chapter of Romans, you'll find that sin starts in the very beginning and leads us downward, downward, downward, downward. "Like the shadow when it declineth," said the psalmist, "I am tossed down." And this certain man was on his way down, like you are on your way down.

The president of the United Nations was right when he said, "We will never make war obsolete until we find a force that will bridle the passions of men and nations." Jesus Christ, on that cross, can transform the human life and change hate to love.

AMONG THIEVES

"A certain man… fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him." And we have all fallen in with the devil and his demons. And they've stripped us, they've wounded us, they've left us for dead.

Jesus said, “The thief cometh not but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Notice the difference. There’s a thief that comes to kill, to destroy—to kill you. But Jesus said, “I’ve come to give them life, and to give them life more abundantly.”

All over the world sin is rampaging, raping, ravaging humanity: violence, terrorism. We read it every day in our newspapers. Murderers, muggers and rapists in our major cities have become a major problem.

HALF DEAD

The thieves wounded and stripped this man, and departed from him, and left him half dead—alone and forsaken. When he came to and got his consciousness back, he found himself crushed and unable to move, just like you. One day you’ll wake up. You’ll find that sin has destroyed you, and you cannot move.

The Bible says that we’re dead in trespasses and sins. The Bible says, “She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she lives.” You can be physically alive, but spiritually dead. Your soul is dead. It cannot save itself. It cannot move. It cannot get up out of the ditch. It cannot heal those wounds. That’s why Christ came and died on the cross. “The wages of sin is death.” The man is going to die. You’re going to die.

CHAPTER 7

PASSING BY ON THE OTHER SIDE

SALVATION QUACKS

And then there came some salvation quacks along. The world is full of false messiahs and false prophets and false christs. Jonestown, down in Guyana, is still fresh in our memories, where Jim Jones went and 900 people died. And how many of those false cults there are all over the world today, these false messiahs promising all kinds of things!

Jesus said, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” He warned that “many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” Paul said, “Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived,” as we approach the end of the age. John said many antichrists would come. He said, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God,” because of the false prophets that have gone out into the world. And as we approach the end of the age, they will intensify. They will get worse and worse, and more believable all the time. And many people will follow them to their doom and to their death.

THE PRIEST PASSED BY

A priest came along—think of it now!—a priest came along: a preacher, a clergyman. And it says that he looked over and saw this man over there, suffering and dying and wounded and stripped. And he passed by on the other side. Now he was too busy—on his way, probably, to a religious conference—to stop and help this poor man.

Paul wrote to Timothy of those "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." You see, religion will not save anybody. People say, "Oh, I'm religious." Sure, you have religion, but that's not going to save you.

SAVED BY JESUS CHRIST

You are saved by Jesus Christ: by the blood that was shed on the cross, by His resurrection, by what is called in the Bible the *kerygma*—the story of Christ on the cross, when God took your sins and laid them on Christ, and He became sin for us, who knew no sin. That's the only way anybody's going to be saved. I don't care who you are. No one is going to go to the kingdom of heaven except the way God said go. You might not like it that way, but that's the way it is.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death," says the Bible. Come to the cross! Find forgiveness and eternal life. Then you have the ability, and then you have the vision, to go out and help your neighbor.

YOU CAN KNOW

People say they can be saved by doing the best they can. I saw a poll in New Jersey some time ago that said ninety-two percent of the people said they hope to go to heaven, but they were not sure.

But John said, "We know that we have passed from death unto life." Peter said, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were… redeemed." Paul said, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day." The apostle John said, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

You don't have to doubt it. Do you doubt that you're going to heaven tonight? Do you doubt that you have eternal life? Do you doubt that your sins are forgiven? Is there a doubt in your heart? If there is, then I'd make sure tonight!

RECONFIRM YOUR LIFE

You say, “I’ve been baptized. I’ve been confirmed. I’ve done everything I was told to do.” But you’re not sure. Come and make sure. Recommit your life. Reconfirm your life. Reconfirm what your parents promised at baptism. Reconfirm what you promised. Many people need to do that.

I needed to do that. I was brought up in the church: baptized, confirmed and all the rest. But I still didn’t really know Christ as my Savior and my Lord. There came a time when I had to say, “Yes, Lord, I will receive You. I will turn from my sins. I will allow You to change my way of living.” “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.”

So the wounded, derelict man was left to die, the priest and the Levite unwilling to save him.

CHAPTER 8

A CERTAIN SAMARITAN

NO RESPONSIBILITY?

And Jesus now shows us the simplicity and the saving power of the gospel. “A certain Samaritan came along…” Now a Samaritan was a half-caste; he was half Gentile and half Jewish. The Jews and the Gentiles at that time had nothing to do with each other, and certainly the Jews and the Samaritans had nothing to do with each other. They didn’t trust each other in that ancient day. They do today, but they didn’t at that time.

And so this Samaritan, who normally would have nothing to do with somebody of another ethnic background, came along and saw what had happened. Now he could have said to himself, “I have no responsibility for this guy. He got himself into his own trouble. He should have come along armed and ready for the thieves and the robbers on this road. He should have prepared himself. I don’t have any responsibility toward him. He’s not related to me. He hates me.”

"FOR GOD SO LOVED"

God could have done the same with us. He could have looked at this little planet whirling out in space like a speck of dust, with little ants called people living on it: lost, separated from Him, dying; being born, living a few years and then dying; being born, living a few years and dying; and sinning, and going on with their own pleasures, defying God. And He could have said, “Sweep them all into hell.” He could have said, “Let’s destroy the planet.” He could have done it with a snap of His finger. He could have done it with an order to one angel. But He didn’t do it.

The Bible says, “For God so loved the world…” So loved! You don’t understand that, do you? How can you? You can’t love like that. Only an infinite God can so

love, to do what He did to save this little planet—to save you. The grace of God! We didn't deserve it.

A SHORTAGE OF LOVE

Dr. Menninger, the great psychiatrist from Kansas, said, "Love is the medicine for the sickness of the world." One of your former prime ministers was quoted in the press some time ago as saying he had never known a time in his whole lifetime when there was such a shortage of love.

I read of a woman in London, England, who died at 102. For the last years of her life she had made an entry in her diary nightly. And here's what her diary said, day after day after day: "No one called today. No one loves me." She died alone.

SOMEBODY DOES LOVE YOU

But I'll tell you, somebody does love you! I don't care what your problems are, or what your tensions are, or what your pressures are, what your sins are, or what your failures are: God loves you. God loves you so much that He sent His Son to the cross to endure that terrible death for you—just for you. If you had been the only one, He would have died for you.

And so this Samaritan went to him, just as Christ will come to you tonight: in your hurt, in your distress, in your failure, in your sin. He will come to you. He didn't just love him and leave him. Jesus didn't just love us and leave us. He died! He did something! And this certain Samaritan did the same thing. "But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

HE RUSHED IN BETWEEN

Do you remember reading in the paper some time ago about this doctor from Windsor, Ontario, who went down to Chicago with his wife? I'm not sure they were on their honeymoon. But they went down to Chicago, and they ate at a restaurant. And you remember that they were held up by some robbers on the street outside, in a rather nice neighborhood. The robber pulled a gun and held it at the head of his wife—his bride—and he rushed in between, and the robber shot him and killed him.

He was saving his wife, just as the Lord Jesus Christ rushed in for His bride, those of us who are members of His body. He died on the cross for us because He loved us. Christ loved you and died for you. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us…"

CHAPTER 9

OIL AND WINE

THE OIL

Notice this Samaritan bound up his wounds and poured in some oil. Now the oil stands for the Holy Spirit. You see, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and convicts us of sin. And then, after we've received Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to fill our hearts, and to produce the fruit of the Spirit, and to give us gifts so that we can serve Him.

THE WINE

And then he poured in the wine. And the wine, with its alcoholic content, was an antiseptic that would help heal the wound. And that wine, as you take it at communion—or the juice that may be served in your church—stands for the blood of Christ. And the Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin."

GOD KEEPS US

God doesn't just change us, and convert us, and give us eternal life—God keeps us! The Scripture says he "brought him to an inn, and took care of him." And Peter said, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." You don't have to stay in the kingdom of God by holding on. He holds you! He takes care of you!

He put him on his own beast; he had his own ambulance right there. That was the first Samaritan hospital in history, right there! And so Christ will put you in a place and give you a peace and a joy.

The psalmist said, “He brought me up… He set my feet upon a rock.” He brought me up, He set me up, He holds me up, He tunes me up—and He’ll catch me up someday!

"WHEN I COME AGAIN"

And on the day after, when he left, he paid the price and said, “If he has any more needs, I’ll pay when I come back.” Jesus Christ is coming back!

Christ can touch your life, and make you new, and give you eternal life. And then you’ll have the strength and the ability to go out and be a neighbor to those you should be a neighbor to.

CHAPTER 10

THE INVITATION

"I WANT ETERNAL LIFE"

You say, “What do I have to do?” You have to say, “God, I’m sorry I’ve sinned. Lord, I’m willing to change my way of life. Lord, I receive You into my heart by faith. And I do it openly.”

Every person Jesus called in the New Testament, He called openly and publicly. That’s the reason I’m going to ask you to get up right now and come forward, and stand in front of the platform. I want you to get up and come and stand, and say tonight, “I want eternal life. I want my sins forgiven. I want to know I’m going to heaven. I want Christ in my heart. I want a new relationship with Him.” You get up and come right now. We’re going to wait.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot…

(Announcer) As hundreds are responding to Mr. Graham’s invitation to make a public commitment to Jesus Christ, you can make that same commitment right where you are. Just pick up the phone and call the number you see on your screen. Special friends are waiting to talk with you and pray with you about this most important decision.

…I come! I come!

WHEREVER YOU ARE

(Billy Graham) You that have been watching by television can see that scores of people are coming from every part of this great stadium to make their commitment to Jesus Christ. And where you are—in a living room, in a hotel room, in a bar, wherever—you can make that same commitment to Christ. God help you to make that commitment. And be sure to go to church next Sunday. God bless you.

CLOSING WORDS

(Closing Announcement) If you just prayed that prayer with my father, or if you have any questions about a relationship with Jesus Christ, why don't you call the number on the screen. There will be someone there to talk with you, pray with you and answer those questions. And remember, God loves you! If you would like to commit your life to Jesus Christ, please call us right now, toll free at 1-877-772-4559. That's 1-877-772-4559. Or you can write to us at: Billy Graham, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Department C, Charlotte, North Carolina 28201. Or you can contact us on the web 24/7 at PeaceWithGod.tv. We'll get the same helps to you that we give to everyone who responds at the invitation.

On behalf of Franklin Graham and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, thank you for watching and thank you for your prayers.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Passages quoted or alluded to in this message, in order of appearance. An asterisk (*) marks a passage the preacher did not name by chapter and verse; the editors identified it.

Luke 10:25-37 — The lawyer's question and the Good Samaritan. (Named by chapter and verse.) *(Chapter 1–9)*

Hebrews 9:27* — It is appointed unto men once to die. *(Chapter 3)*

Genesis 1:27* — Made in the image of God. *(Chapter 3)*

Luke 4:18* — To heal the brokenhearted. *(Chapter 4)*

Acts 16:30-31* — What must I do to be saved? *(Chapter 5)*

Matthew 10:29-30* — Not a sparrow falls; the hairs of your head numbered. *(Chapter 5)*

John 11:36* — Behold how He loved him! *(Chapter 5)*

John 15:13* — Greater love hath no man than this. *(Chapter 5)*

Romans 1:21-32 — The downward course of sin. (Chapter named.) *(Chapter 6)*

Psalm 109:23* — Like the shadow when it declineth. *(Chapter 6)*

John 10:10* — The thief cometh to steal, kill and destroy. *(Chapter 6)*

Ephesians 2:1* — Dead in trespasses and sins. *(Chapter 6)*

1 Timothy 5:6* — Dead while she liveth. *(Chapter 6)*

Romans 6:23* — The wages of sin is death. *(Chapter 6)*

Matthew 24:4, 11* — Many false prophets shall rise. *(Chapter 7)*

2 Timothy 3:13* — Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse. *(Chapter 7)*

1 John 4:1* — Try the spirits. *(Chapter 7)*

2 Timothy 3:5* — A form of godliness. (Writer named.) *(Chapter 7)*

2 Corinthians 5:21* — He made Him to be sin for us. *(Chapter 7)*

Proverbs 14:12* — A way which seemeth right unto a man. *(Chapter 7)*

1 John 3:14* — We know that we have passed from death unto life. *(Chapter 7)*

1 Peter 1:18* — Ye know that ye were redeemed. *(Chapter 7)*

2 Timothy 1:12* — I know whom I have believed. *(Chapter 7)*

1 John 5:13* — That ye may know that ye have eternal life. *(Chapter 7)*

Titus 3:5* — Not by works of righteousness. *(Chapter 7)*

John 3:16* — For God so loved the world. *(Chapter 8)*

Romans 5:8* — While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *(Chapter 8)*

Ephesians 2:4* — God, who is rich in mercy. *(Chapter 8)*

1 John 1:7* — The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin. *(Chapter 9)*

1 Peter 1:5* — Kept by the power of God. *(Chapter 9)*

Psalm 40:2* — He set my feet upon a rock. *(Chapter 9)*

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

William "Billy" F. Graham Jr. (1918–2018) was raised on a dairy farm in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1934, at age 15, he made a commitment to faith during a revival led by Mordecai Ham. He was ordained in 1939, graduated from Florida Bible Institute in 1940, and earned a B.A. from Wheaton College in 1943, where he married Ruth McCue Bell.

After pastoring in Illinois and serving as the first full-time evangelist for Youth for Christ International, Graham was vaulted into national prominence by the 1949 Los Angeles Crusade. This event launched decades of global outreach, including historic, extended crusades in London (1954), New York City (1957), Seoul (1973), and Rio de Janeiro (1974). Overall, he preached live to nearly 215 million people in over 185 countries and territories.

In 1950, he founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). Through BGEA, Graham hosted the syndicated *Hour of Decision* radio program for over 60 years, published *Decision* magazine, and authored 33 books—including bestsellers such as *Angels: God's Secret Agents* (1975) and his 1997 autobiography, *Just As I Am*.

A counselor to U.S. presidents, Graham appeared on Gallup's "Ten Most Admired Men in the World" list a record 61 times. His honors include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1983), Congressional Gold Medal (1996), and an Honorary Knighthood (2001). Following his passing in 2018 at age 99, he lay in honor in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, and a bronze statue of him was added to the U.S. Capitol in 2024. Billy and Ruth raised five children, 19 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren.

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To become the world's largest digital archive for ebooks transcribed from live sermons, preserving and spreading the spoken Word of God across nations and generations.

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