

CNL Season 2009
7.2 Adonai – part 2
Transcription

I remember as a child, a bunch of kids up in Kerrville, we were playing guns and war and all kinds of stuff and we came up to this fence that had a huge gate on it and it said, "Do not open this gate. Private property." We analyzed that and we defined it. We said, well you know this is good news. It says do not open the gate, so technically if we crawl over the fence, we have not opened the gate and it says private property. That's good news because it means nobody will bother us when we are playing over there. So, what we did was we edited what clearly was being said. Now, you are going to say that's silly but I am going to challenge you today, how many of you do that when you read the Word of God? When it comes to that part about forgiving your brothers or it is better to give than receive, or the lukewarm believers, I'm going to spit them out of my mouth. We come to certain verses and we go WHOA! Do you know what Thomas Jefferson did? This is true. Politically, a great man, a brilliant writer and everything else.

Thomas Jefferson was a deist but not a born again believer and he did not accept the parts of the Bible that dealt with blood sacrifice, that dealt with atonement, that dealt with the resurrection, that dealt with all of these characteristics. So, you know what he did? He went with a pair of scissors and he chopped out those verses out of the Bible. He then printed his own Bible. If you go to Monticello today, you can buy a Jefferson bible that had hundreds of verses taken out of it because Jefferson just did not like them. That's the Jefferson bible. All the issues that deal with redemption, salvation, hell, heaven, all of those things were taken out by Jefferson. He simply did not like them. Well, you can't do that folks. You can't write your own Bible. You cannot be a super editor. I tell you many of us are super editors. We come to verses that offend us. You know, love you wives as much as Christ loved the Church. Give your life for your wives gentleman. That just may make you wince. You love her but not that much. Concepts in the Word of God. You know, submission and authority. We just kind of wince at it. So, what we are doing is we are being super editors. So if you want to continue staying a partially devoted, stagnant,

vanilla Christian, if you want to stay ineffective, be a creative editor. Revelation 3:16 says, "Because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth." That is incredible. We have edited some of these verses out. The Germans, Hans, I'm going to be in the pulpit the rest of this year for a couple of Sundays where I am going to be going to Holland to see Hans Pole I am believing that God is going to heal him completely, he had a diagnosis of cancer, and he is my minister and mentor but one of the things that he told me as a story and I believe that he is going to be healed this year. One of the things that he shared with me is a story that all of you have heard but he repeated on how people would go to church in Germany and they would hear the trains rumble by full of Jews and these Jews would be screaming out for help. What the people in the church did is that they did not leave their air-conditioned tour bus. What they simply did was that they turned up the volume of the music and sang louder. Now, in our lives, there are times that we hear the rumble of God's voice. We hear a call and a need. You go to church. You see a need, maybe in the ministry. You see a need in your life and instead of dealing with it, you just turn the volume up louder in your life to kind of cloak what you know is a real need. Don't be distracted. Think about this. God wants us to not just turn up the volume, he wants us to listen. Number two, another way to be an ineffective servant if you want to be one is be lazy. Just be lazy about your Christianity. Those of you who did not bother pulling out the notes to fill them in, you know what I am talking about. Just be lazy. Just kidding with you. Just be lazy. You ever see the guys on the street and there is one guy digging a hole in the street and there are 14 guys leaning against shovels staring at him. You know what I am talking about. The master is not there so they figure why work? We are going to get out paycheck anyway. Many Christians are that way. They think well I'm going to go the heaven anyway so why bother serving the Lord while I'm here. Why obey him? I'm going to heaven anyway. I'll just give you a challenge. You really ought to check what your faith is if you really know the Lord, if that is the way that you think. If you live your life not caring because you figure you are going to heaven anyway, why serve the Lord. I'm going to tell you that the Word of God teaches that the

Spirit of God when it indwells you, it motivates you. It convicts you. If you never feel conviction or motivation, you ought to check, do you really know the Lord. And the third thing, if you want to just stay uninvolved, stagnant, distant in the air-conditioned bus, don't look in the mirror. For heaven's sake, don't look in the mirror. That means, don't analyze your life. Remember Dracula could never look in the mirror because he did not show an image. He was like (making faces), well that's the same thing. A lot of people just never pass the mirror. They don't want to look really honestly at what their life is like.

Let me give you a challenge. What if you looked in the mirror with the Lord one day and said, "Okay, Lord, I want my children to be as obedient to me as I am to everything you teach in your Word that I am to you." Would your house be more chaotic or less? Think about it. What if in your home the level of your children's obedience to you was directly proportionate to your level of obedience to God and everything He commands in the scripture? It makes you a little less angry with those children who don't obey because the bottom line is what are they seeing in you in relationship to your father. This is the moment in the sermon where everything gets really quiet but it is true. You see, we desire obedience to us when we are in a position of master but when we are in a position of servant do we give the allegiance to our master that we demand when we are in charge. It is something we need to have as a paradigm shift for us as believers. The best way to look at it and ask, "Lord, am I honoring you with my time, with my money, with my service, or am I simply being lazy?" If you look in that mirror folks, you may actually get a response from God where He says, "Go here, minister there, serve here, help there." That means open the bus door and get out because that little child with leprosy who just fell on the sidewalk needs to be picked up. Don't hope that somebody else goes and picks him up. Don't just pray that somebody goes and picks him up. Open the door and get out and pick up that child, hold him in his arms and tell him that Jesus loves him. Let him know Jesus before he dies. Share with him, touch him, sense what he is going through and experience it in Christ. Yeah, that is what God wants in the body of Christ. Live Christ. The best vitamins Christians could take for Christianity is to be one. We

need the B 1 vitamins. We have to be Christians. We have to live Christ. We have to flush it out where our passion is not just for Tiger Woods or for football or the Cowboys or whoever and there is nothing wrong with enjoying those things, but is your passion greater for Christ or is it for the stuff in the world. It is a challenge. Every day we have to look in the mirror. Now, there are ways to avoid looking in the mirror. First, A, if you will fill it out. Keep life noisy, busy. Keep life noisy. Turn on the radio in the morning to some station, go take a shower, go eat breakfast, have the TV on just to distract you and then go to work and be distracted all day long, come home, watch TV, and be busy and distracted. Keep it noisy and you will never have to look in the mirror. How noisy do we have our lives? True story about a young man many years ago, this was back when the telegraph was the mode of communication. There was an ad in the paper that said "Looking for employees". This young man went to this office, a telegraph office. He sat in the lobby filling out some forms. Now, he noticed that there were other people sitting there and he could tell from the conversation that some had been there for hours. They had filled out their forms and they were sitting there waiting and the boss' office was attached to this room where they were at and they just sat there. He sat down, filled out his form in a couple of minutes, stands up, walks across the room, opens the boss' door, goes inside, and closes the door behind. The other people are going, "Wow! Look what he did. He is going to get in trouble. He will never get hired. He was not told to come in there. He walked right into the boss' office." Five minutes later, the boss walks out with his hand on the young man's shoulder and says, "Okay, you guys can go home. I have hired this young man." Well, one of them was irritated and said, "Wait a minute! This kid just came in here. We have been waiting for hours. What's the deal, man? You can't hire this guy." The boss said, "No, you don't understand. You all have been sitting in this office and you hear a little noise from offices around you and you hear this tick, tick, tick that is coming over the wire and what the tick, tick, tick was Morse code and it says, 'If you can understand this, get up, walk into my office, you get the job.' He understood the code." No one else understood the code. Nobody else was listening, but he was

listening and he understood the code. That is why he got up and got the job. I'm going to tell you something, a lot of us keep our lives busy so that we don't hear God's code. So, we don't hear that message that is really cutting through. We don't want to be able to translate what He is telling us to do because we don't want to do it. It is okra. We don't want to get near it. Then, there are those people who travel through this world as aliens but they listen for the code. They listen for it because they want to obey it because they know that on the other side of that door is blessing from the boss. Do we live our lives noisy? That is one way to avoid it. The other is to fill your life with superficial friendships. People that talk about nothing. I went to lunch one day by myself. I was going to study. I could not even pay attention much. I was not listening to the people next to me but these people were talking with a volume like they felt that the entire restaurant should hear their conversation. You know what table I am talking about. They yell at each other across the table. Anyway, they were sitting right next to me, three women and a man. This is true, from the beginning to the end of their conversation, they spoke the entire time about Mel Gibson and whether or not in these movies he wears a hairpiece or if he simply sprays that little bald spot dark on his head. Now, I'm thinking this is like a 10-second conversation. Does he do it? I don't know. Don't talk about it. To me, that's the conversation. I don't care whether he wears a hairpiece, I don't care if he sprays it, and I don't care if he has a bald spot. These people spent an hour lunch doing nothing but talking about Mel Gibson's bald spot and I'm thinking, "Get a life. You've got to be kidding me." The most superfluous waste of an hour. Friendships and relationships are important but build it upon something other than Mel's bald spot. Build it on something. Knit socks that someone can wear. Do something productive with your time. As I listened to this, I thought to myself what does the world fill their time with. What do Christians fill their time with? With the superfluity of our culture. Superficial friendships. If you want to make sure that you never grow in the Lord, keep filled with superficial friendships. They do nothing for you. They don't grow you. You can either use a friendship as a stepping stone for the greater good for the kingdom or babble your time

away with people who like to babble about stuff that is irrelevant. Let me tell you. Proverbs 27. Let's read this verse quickly. For as iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another. Let's do it again and do it louder so that everyone reads it together. For as iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another.

God wants you to have your conversations create sparks. When iron hits iron and iron hits other metals and when iron hits flint, sparks happen. Fires happen. Live your life sparking somewhere. I look back in my life and I can tell you right now. I can actually look at points and I can see my greatest growth in life. I can trace back to people, specific people that I spent time with. That's where my greatest growth came. My growth from my childhood. My dad was a brilliant theologian, what little time I had under him, but I sat under him. My growth, understanding, and doctrine came because I was under a man who knew volumes more than I could comprehend. I spent a day with Dr. Baugh last week, the scientist, brilliant man. I spent time with him. I can trace back because I have been doing research on some Ugaritic and some cuneiform writings and things that have certain phrases in it that I think prove a scientific theory and so I took them over to him and wanted to show them to him but I spent the day with him because his scientific knowledge is so much more vast than mine is, but what it does is that it sharpens my iron. It creates a spark. I benefited that day with Dr. Baugh. It opened my mind to a thousand more exciting things for the kingdom of God. Look at this incredible phrase, a godly man, Moses in Exodus. Let's read it Together out loud. This is our last verse. Moses said to the Lord, please Lord, Adonai, I have never been eloquent Neither recently nor in time past nor since thou has spoken to thy servant. For I am slow of speech and slow of tongue and the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth or who makes him dumb or deaf or seeing or blind. Is it not I, the Lord? Now, then go and I, even I will be with you mouth and teach you what you are to say." But he said, "Please, Lord, now send a message by whomever thou will." Then, the anger of the Lord burned against Moses. What's going on here is that Moses goes to Him. I want you if you will to

Circle the words "Lord, Adonai" in the first line. Please go to the effort to Circle that word, "Lord, Adonai". See what irritates God at the end is that if You understand the Hebrew; you understand why God is irritated. It is not Just because God says to Moses, "Moses I want you to do this" and he does "Could you ask someone else to do that?" It says that God was angry. It is Because he starts the conversation off, he mixes up his nouns, his adjectives, and he mixes up his definitions. He starts off by going "Dear Adonai" which means boss, Lord, master, here I am I will do whatever you want. So, he goes up saying, "Hey, I'll do whatever you want." God says do this and Moses says, "No not that one". That's what irritates God, he leads the Lord to hear submission but then he does not submit. When you pray and say, "Dear Lord," you have literally opened either a can of worms or a can of blessings. It is based upon what you do with it. God was angry at Moses because he said, "Get somebody else." What he was saying was, "Lord, I think that you can do all kinds of miracles, probably part the Red Sea, because fires on the mountains, kill giants, whatever, but my mouth?" You know why God was angry. It was because Moses said, "God, Adonai. I think you can do anything and everything you say except you can't handle this two inches right here. You can't do anything with this two inches. I don't have enough faith." What you are actually saying is I don't have faith God that you can handle this two inches here. I believe you can conquer thousands of square miles, but you can't conquer these two inches. Do you see how dumb that sounds? God can handle the conquering of a nation, can handle the conquering of Palestine, can raise the dead, can open seas, but He cannot fix your mouth. He can't give you the words to speak. What that is actually saying is when it comes down to real practical terms, this goes back to the guys saying, "Lord, Lord" but

He says, "I don't know you." These are the people who say, "Oh, I believe the big things. I believe" but then when it comes down to really opening your mouth and saying, it is "No, not that part." Let's be honest. When it talks about the stuff out there God can do it and we believe it, but when he talks about the stuff He can do here, we are not full of faith. Don't be full of faith in what He can do out there, be full of faith in what He can do in here with you and with me. You got to get out of the bus. Ooo, looking through the glass. Wow, I hope those Christians really reach those people. I hope those people get healed. I hope somebody feeds them. What's for lunch? You hate it when I step on my toes, but I'm stomping on mine at the same time. Isn't it true? God is calling Christians to be real about their faith. He is calling us when we say, Adonai, Lord, that we mean it. It says then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses. You know, I talked about when daddy smiles and tells us to do it, it is a lot better than when he frowns and we inevitably do it but it is not during the joyful time when he tells us to do it. I just want to encourage you in that a good master always provides and let me tell you folks, I believe the miracles of the Bible. I believe every single Word in this Bible is inspired, but I also mean by saying that if God gives Peter Spencer a job and I am convicted and I know that God is directing me in His Word to do, I should not just look there and say yeah all this stuff is possible. When He talks to me, I should say and that as well. It is easy to look at the past and say that is possible, look at the future and say that is possible, look outside and say that it is possible but it is really hard when it is inside. Today, let the Red Sea be parted, let your lips be parted. Let God conquer them as well. Closing story, a little girl, her name is Jenny. She goes to the store with her mom. You know how at the checkout counter they always have junk there

to buy and you have to stand there for five to ten minutes so during that time the children pickup the candy and unwrapped so that you have to buy them so you negotiate with your children, which is the least sugar coated or filled item. So, little Jenny is going through but this day what they have at this store is instead of just candy they also have little trinkets and there is the beautiful little pearl necklace made out of plastic. Jenny sees it and she says, "Mommy, can I have this?" Her mom looks at it and it is \$2.50 for plastic pearls. Her mom says, "Honey, that's a lot of money, \$2.50." She says, "Oh Mommy, Mommy, I have a dollar because Grandma gave me that for my birthday and I made fifty cents from babysitting last week. You only have to a dollar. Please, Please." So, finally mom says, "Fine." That is a really special gift for Jenny so when she gets home, she takes them out and puts them on and goes in front of the mirror and puts funny hats on and does what little girls do. She looks at how pretty it looks as she wears those pearls. She just loves those plastic pearls. Now, a few weeks later, she is still walking around the house, wearing these plastic pearls and always keeping them with her. Then, one night as her mom and dad come into the room they pray with her and read Bible stories as they do every single night. At the end of the prayer, the dad stops and looks at her and he says, "Hey, Jenny, do you love me?" She says, "Oh, daddy, yes, I love you." He says, "Can I have your pearls?" She looks at him and says, "Daddy, you know that real expensive doll grandma gave me last year, it is worth a lot more than the pearls, why don't you take the doll?" He says, "That's okay baby." He smiles, gives her a hug, kisses her good night, and he leaves. The next night, he comes in and he and his wife sit and read the Word of God with her and they pray with her and before he gets up, he says, "Jenny, do you love me?" She says, "Yeah."

He says, "Can I have your pearls?" She says, "Daddy, Jimmy left his glove and ball here. You're a guy and you could have a lot more fun with his stuff. Why don't you take that?" He says, "That's okay baby." He hugs her and kisses her and he leaves the room. Night after night this goes on for three or four nights and it come to the end of the week and now they come in and they read a little Bible story and they pray with Jenny and afterwards, the father looks up and Jenny looks up. Her lips are trembling and she knows what's coming. Before daddy can say anything, she pulls her hands out and there are the pearls. "Did you still want these?" He says, "Yeah." As he takes the pearls from her hand, he places them in his pocket and in the same motion he takes from his other pocket a little velvety box and he opens this velvet box and he shows it to her. Inside are these rare, natural pearls. They are on a necklace. They have been handed down for three generations and are worth thousands of dollars and he hands her these pearls. She stares at them. He had them all along. He wanted to give them to his little girl but before he gave them to her. Before he gave her the little pearls, the new pearls, the perfect pearls, the beautiful pearls, the expensive pearls, he wanted her to give him cheap pearls. To give up the cheap pearls so that she could have the fine refined pearls. When I read that story, I thought to myself, when the master who is the authority in our life says, "This is what you must do." We always go, "I don't want to give up my pearls." You and I are clinging to cheap pearls in our life. Things that are valuable to us but they are cheap pearls, pleasures, statements, actions, thoughts. They are cheap pearls. God says, "Trust me. Do you love me?" "Yeah." "Do you really have faith that I can do anything?" "Yeah." "Hand me the pearl. Hand me the cheap pearls." What we have to understand as believers is when he says give me the busted up tape. It is not so that we can't have a tape but so that he can give us the best and when he asks us for

the cheap pearls, it is not so that he is a dictator who takes from us our joy, it is so that he can give us something finer that is not distracted by the cheap pearls in your life and mine. God is calling believers to treat him when we say, "Lord, Adonai" that we are saying I will obey you and then in that prayer when he says you have these cheap pearls. I have something better for you, that though it is like the okra, though it is like letting go of those cheap pearls that instead of resisting we need to learn that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Now, let's live it. When we put our hands out in that prayer. Hopefully, when we open those palms of ours, at least one palm in our prayer will have sitting in it some cheap pearl in our life because folks when you say to God, "Okay, you can have the cheap pearls", it is an act of faith because you are saying I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe what He did. I believe that He is God. I believe He is Lord. I believe He should rule our lives, but you can't let go of the cheap pearls because you think that you are not going to get something better in return. Learn to trust Him for who He is because that shows a lack of faith. When you let go of the cheap pearls that means that you trust Abba. Today I want to encourage you in your prayer life in your personal life, are you clinging to cheap pearls? A waste of time, distractions, noise, things that keep you from growing in grace and knowledge hanging on to cheap pearls where you just want to watch T.V. programs but you never have time to come to a Bible study or ministry. Because you are holding on to that cheap pearl and you have to watch that Fox T.V.. You have to watch this T.V. show or that T.V. show but you never have time to come and be sharpened metal against metal. You're never going to know the power and the glory of the pearl of great price if you can't let go of your cheap pearls and get in there and open the door and touch the lepers of this world, if you can't go and meet

God where He is and sharpen iron against iron to be refined and perfected. If you want mediocrity then you'll get mediocrity and you're going to cling to cheap pearls until you die but if you want power let go of your cheap pearls and meet the pearl of great price and the blessing He gives to you. So profound, it is unexplainable from this pulpit but to experience it you have to give up the cheap pearls of life. Amen? Let's close in prayer.