

I'll Keep It Short This Morning

Matthew 6:6-8

I don't often do this, but I want to assure you that I'm going to give you a short sermon this morning! Now before you get all excited, I'm not talking about duration! I want to focus our time this morning on some things in scripture that are short.

Most prayers we have a record of that Jesus made were **short**.

1. Example: ***"Father, glorify your name."*** (John 12:28).
2. The Model Prayer contains only 66 words.
3. After all, Jesus taught the principle that it is not **how much** we say, but **what** we say that matters (Matt. 6:6-8).

Christ's preaching career was short, about 3 years.

Christ's miracles were short.

Most of His parables are short.

Most of our acts of worship are short.

- The Lord's Supper is **short**.
- The Contribution is **short**.
- Some of the best songs in our songbook are **short**.
- Many of our public prayers are **short**.
- So, what's wrong with a **short sermon**?

Our lesson this morning has 7 **short** points.

1. The pleasure of sin is short.

Moses chose ***"rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"*** Heb. 11:25.

Sin has a kick - but it also has a “kick-back” (Rom. 6:23). There is no sin which you can commit that you won’t be sorry for later.

2. The happiness of the wicked is short.

“that the exulting of the wicked is short, and the joy of the godless but for a moment?” Job 20:5.

Men like Ted Bundy indulge themselves for a while, raping and killing taking anything they want. Bundy died a Methodist, the religion of his youth. He had no connection to God according to his biographer. He never spoke of God or eternity. If that is true – how do you suppose he is doing now? And if he is in Tartarus – that is a very long sentence.

3. The suffering of the saints is short.

Living on this earth is not easy. The wicked have a hard time – but so can Christians. The Apostle John wrote about the saints who asked, *“How long, O Lord?”* (Rev. 6:10). Paul wrote, *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (2 Cor. 4:17). Life is difficult, live life in Christ?

4. The Devil’s spree of wickedness is short.

John wrote, *“Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”* Rev. 12:12

Later John wrote that *“he must be loosed a little season”* (Rev. 20:3).

That’s why the Devil doesn’t sleep. That’s why he doesn’t give up. Someday, God will say, “That’s it.” So, the Devil has but a short time.

5. Time is short.

“But this I say, brethren, the time is short” (I Cor. 7:29).

“The night is far gone the day is at hand” (Rom. 13:12).

Tomorrow is a maybe: *“yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.”* (James 4:14). Now is all we have (2 Cor. 6:2). David said, *“Remember how short my time is”* (Psalm 89:47).

6. Life is short.

Job 14:1 says man’s days are *“few and full of trouble.”*

James wrote, *“For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away”* (James 4:14).

The older you get, the more you realize the truth in this. Young people think they will live forever. Old people know they could go at any time. Why is it that we baptize so many more young than old? It is because of *“the deceitfulness of sin”* (Heb. 3:13).

7. A man’s best attempt to live righteously is short.

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). That tells me my best efforts will not measure up to God. That tells me I can’t do it by myself. No matter how hard I try, I still come up short.

This used to bother me, until I read Rom. 7:24-25: *“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”*.

I need Jesus Christ, and I need Him every hour.

CONCLUSION.

The question for you is, do you need Jesus?

Paul said that *“that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us”* Acts 17:27.

That means that you can quickly and easily be “in Christ”. You can quickly restore your relationship with Christ. Don’t wait – time is short!

Belief is **short**.

Confession is **short**.

Repentance is **short**.

Baptism is **short**.

If you've done these things but have fallen away, repentance is still **short**.

Do not forget that your opportunity is **short**.