



The Adventures of Mike and Mandy

Part 5 – Why Every Millennial Needs a Mentor

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We are wrapping up. This is the end of a five-part series called *The Adventures of Mike and Mandy*. Ted will be back in the saddle next week to kick off a brand-new series on baptism. If you like what you hear today, you can go back online at woodhills.org and catch the other four messages of the series.

Here is part five – *Why Every Millennial Needs a Mentor*. I would add that every mentor needs a millennial, or my other subtitle version of this title today is *Mike and Mandy meet Melvin and Margaret*. I'm not making fun of your name, I just Google searched the most popular M names in the 50s and 60s and Melvin and Margaret are what came up for the letter M.

We're going to look at why mentorship is important and why it matters. ***Walk with the wise and become wise for a companion of fools suffers harm.*** Proverbs 13: 20. I interact with Millennials a lot and Generation Z. As a matter of fact, last week, you heard me say I'm spending time with 13 year olds to 25 year olds about 340 days a year. The question I get a lot from Millennials and Generation Z is "How far is too far?" or "Is this right or wrong?" In coaching this younger generation, I try to encourage them to stop asking me if something is right or wrong, rather ask the question "Is it wise?" I think there are a lot of things in life that aren't necessarily wrong, according to scripture, but I don't know if they would be beneficial or wise for us to do. I think having a companion of wise people or walking with wise people or older people that have gone before us, helps us make wise decisions verses those who have a companion of fools and suffers harm.

This video kind of unpacks it another way. [video plays]

*I once heard a man say you are the average of the five people you spend the most time with. Another one of my friends always says you are who your friends are. Scripture says, in 1 Corinthians 15: 33, **Do not be deceived for bad company corrupts good character.** To say it another way in Proverbs 27: 17, it says, **As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.***

Have you ever been to Target or Walmart and walked down the Nerf aisle? You know, where all the Nerf footballs and Nerf basketballs and Nerf guns and Nerf darts... Everything is Nerf and everything is soft. But have you ever, in that aisle, laid eyes on a Nerf sharpener? Of course not; that's just ridiculous, that's silly because Nerf doesn't sharpen Nerf, therefore, a Nerf sharpener doesn't exist.

As scripture suggests, iron sharpens iron. So, the question that remains is are the people you hang out with Nerf or are they iron. Do they push you towards accountability? Do they tell you what you need to hear and not what you want to hear or are they friends that just simply dull you?

[video ends]

So, I believe when Mike and Mandy meet Melvin and Margaret, there is an iron sharpening that takes place. Let's take a second today and ask ourselves why mentorship is important. Woodland Hills has five purposes that it believes is carried out through Matthew 23, 28, and then in Book of Acts as well. Of those five, they are equally balanced. We don't think that one is more important than the other.

We think **worship** is one of those five. So, you guys get to come on Sunday mornings and we get to worship. But, we don't believe worship just stops on the stage. We believe you get to worship all throughout the week. As I'm watching this crazy storm last night, I'm worshipping God.

We also believe that you get an opportunity to **serve**. This is a purpose of the church. You get to help with kids' ministry and parking and security team and everything else. We believe that is one of the five purposes of the church.

We also believe in **fellowship**. We believe we should do life with one another. We believe in life groups and small groups and DivorceCare and all these other things where we get to come along and have fellowship with one another and be together.

We believe in **evangelism**. We believe in sharing the gospel with people in Stone and Taney Counties that don't have a personal relationship with Jesus and understand the saving grace in the knowledge of knowing so.

And then the fifth one, which I think is the most difficult, but equally balanced with the other four is **discipleship**. Why do I think it's the most difficult? It's because it's the messiest. It takes time, it takes work, it takes effort, but I think it's extremely important.

For the sake of the message, I call it mentorship because I think sometimes we get intimidated by the word *discipleship*, but when I say you can be a coach, a life coach, a mentor... By the way, all of you in here have a lot to offer as mentors.

Let me tell you some reasons why I think mentorship is extremely important. The first one is **Jesus commissioned it**. In Matthew 28: 19, ***Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*** That's mentorship – teaching, life on life, coaching.

I want you to know this is called The Great Commission, not the gray commission. He didn't say, "Hey, if you're great at mentorship or if you're great at discipleship, then do it." No, this was a call for all of those who are regenerated believers in Jesus Christ. He commissioned us to it, so all of us should be mentors. Why? Because he has equipped us.

Some of you in here think *Man, there's no way I could disciple or mentor a millennial*. Melvin and Margaret are thinking *There's no way I have any connection with Mike and Mandy*.

You don't have to go to seminary, you don't have to be a scholar to impact the lives of younger people. You have way more to offer them than you think. The fact that you're 60, 70, 80 years old and still walking with Jesus tells me that you have so much to offer Mike and Mandy. And Mike and Mandy, whether they realize it or not, need it.

Here is the second reason that mentorship is extremely important. **It changes the course of human lives**. We see this all throughout scripture, but mentorship, discipleship, literally changes the course of human lives.

Let me show you some statistics on how the trajectory of humanity and the lack of mentorship has taken place. This represents female and male head of the family or you might have heard it matriarch and patriarchal head of families. Post-World War II, 1950, there has been a steady flat line of patriarchal head of families, male head of families. All of the sudden we are starting to see this climb because dads are starting to realize the importance of having more influence on the home. There is nothing wrong, however, with moms being in the home and taking care of kids. There is actually a lot of biblical beauty in it. We see that in proverbs 31. I actually think there is a lot of value.

If I rewound this 200 years, this is what you have to understand. Dad used to do all the teaching in the home. This is pre-industrial revolution where Dad would get on the ox and teach the kids how to farm and ranch and take care of the house and take care of all things. Dad and son would be together doing all these things and learning all these things.

Then, as you know, the industrial revolution takes place. It misplaced all these dads from the home and now they are in factories helping the assembly line go faster and now moms are the ones raising all the kids. This was never the case in biblical times and this was never the case in pre-industrial times. What we have is a lot more female influence than male influence and this is what happens when we stop seeing a lot of male influence in the home.

Check these statistics out:

Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crimes.
Nine times more likely to drop out of school.
Twenty times more likely to end up in prison.

Here are some more statistics:

85% of men in prison today grew up in fatherless homes.
63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
90% of all homeless and runaway kids are from fatherless homes.
80% of rapists motivated by displaced anger are from fatherless homes.
75% of adolescents in drug abuse centers are from fatherless homes.
70% of juveniles in state institutions come from fatherless homes.

72% of adolescent murders come from fatherless homes.
71% of teenage pregnancies come from fatherless homes.

Now, hold on because I know some of you in here have gone through tough divorces or family breakups or Dad is not around. That's where mentors come in. There is a lot of hope. All these statistics complete drop when there is a mentor or a coach in a young man or young woman's life. All these statistics change when there is just even a male figure – an uncle, a coach, a friend or whatever the case may be. So, that gives us responsibility, Melvin and Margaret. Rather than complaining about the kid that doesn't have a dad around, you get that role. You get to love them when they come in and encourage and support them. "That kid keeps picking a fight with my kid. He doesn't have a dad around." No, that's not the body of Christ. That's not how Jesus responds. Of course he's acting like that.

There was a study done at San Diego Zoo ten years ago. There were these two young bull elephants. They were tearing apart the exhibit. They were throwing their feces everywhere and just trashing the exhibit. They put a female elephant in there and the young elephants kept doing it. The zookeepers couldn't figure it out and it was driving them nuts. Finally, they took an African Bull Elephant and placed it in the exhibit and the young elephants stopped trashing the place. You see, the power of a spiritual male figure has a deep impact on the lives of the children.

Women are equally important, but there is something to be said about your opportunity as a faithful man of God and the impact you can have. Rather than complaining about Mike and Mandy and how wayward they may be, you've got an opportunity to come along and coach them.

Here's another reason why I think mentorship is important. **It grows both the mentor and the mentee.** In all my experience of discipling and mentoring young people, it has had a deeper impact on me far greater than it probably ever had on them. You'll see the same. Melvin and Margaret, you'll learn a lot from Mike and Mandy, believe it or not. They actually have a lot to teach you.

They did a research in 2015. They took retirees and senior citizens... They surveyed 1,000 of them. They asked them how much time they spent with Millennials and Generation Z, outside of their grandkids. The average was ten hours a year. That's it. There is less intergenerational contact now than there has ever been. I know what you're thinking, Melvin and Margaret. *Of course, because Mike and Mandy are always looking at their phone. How am I supposed to have a conversation with them?* I get that, but I think there is an opportunity for you to be... You're intimidated by them just as much as they are intimidated by you, right? And they need a coach. When I say they need a coach, remember I did not say lecturer. They need a coach, not someone to lecture them on how lazy they are and everything they do wrong. They need someone who believes in them and coaches them.

Here's the other reason why I think mentorship is important. **It maximizes individual potential.** Tell me one professional athlete, one professional singer, one professional in any arena that hasn't had a coach or someone to help them achieve to the best of their ability. We all need mentors.

I can give you my list. Keith Harrington, Inasaneg Manuka (sp), Joe White, Kyle Unruh, Don Steadman, Darrel Shemwell, John Jensen. The list goes on of mentors in my life. I'm not a product of anything Adam Donyes has done. I'm a product of mentors in my life that have been willing to sacrifice their own time and invest in my life. I can't tell you how important mentorship is.

For the last four years, Ted Cunningham has been a phenomenal mentor in my life in teaching and coaching and pastoring and everything. He has mentored me and shepherded me so well. Those of you that have been here, you couldn't stand me four years ago. Some of you still can't, but we're getting closer, right? That's a product of Ted. "Adam, speak slower." "Adam, be more sensitive." He's coaching me and I'm receiving that because I need mentorship if I want to maximize my potential.

Let's see what Deuteronomy 6 says about mentorship. As a matter of fact, this is beautiful. It's called the Great Commandment. Jesus repeats it in Mark 12: 29-31. It says this in Deuteronomy 6. ***4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*** This idea is saying it takes a village. It wasn't just talking to parents; it was talking to the whole community of Israel. Teach your children... It wasn't just their biological children, it was the children of Israel.

I think, as a church body at Woodland Hills, we all have a responsibility to teach the younger generation, the Mike and Mandys, the Generation Z and those that are going to come after them. As older people in the church, you have so much to offer them. You have wisdom lived well. You've had a life with trials and difficult circumstances and you have so much to offer. I think the greatest travesty that you could encounter is when you get to walk into the presence of Jesus, and I know your time is shorter than most in here, but when you walk into the presence of Jesus and you had all this wisdom and everything that God taught you from a lifetime of walking faithfully with him and you never passed that on to another generation. This room just reeks with the amount of wisdom in here. There are so many people that are sitting in here that are way wiser than I'll ever be and it's because you have faithfully walked with Jesus for so many years. Pass that onto Mike and Mandy, Melvin and Margaret. Pass that onto them, spend some time with them.

Continuing on, we have to look at how serious mentorship is. It's all throughout scripture. Jethro mentored Moses. Moses mentored Joshua and the elders of Israel. Joshua mentored the remaining leaders of his army. Eli mentored Samuel. Samuel mentored Saul and David. Also, David was mentored by Nathan, who told him what he needed hear and not what he wanted to hear. As a result, we see Psalm 51, which was a repentant Psalm and it's because someone rebuked him before he got to a place of brokenness. He had a mentor help him to that place.

David mentored Solomon. Solomon mentored the Queen of Sheba. Elijah mentored Elisha. Elisha mentored Jehoash. Daniel mentored Nebuchadnezzar who was a king and then he humbled himself before God. Mordechai mentored Esther and King Artaxerxes. Naomi mentored Ruth. Pricilla and Aquilla mentored Apollos. This resulted in a much-improved ministry for Apollos.

It continues and look at this. Jesus mentored the 12 apostles and they mentored thousands which became millions. Paul mentored Timothy. Timothy mentored Epaphras. You see the value of mentorship. None of us are sitting here today, worshiping and praising Jesus without mentorship in somebody's life. I think it would be a travesty if we allowed mentorship to stop. It's not a gray commission; it's one of our five purposes at Woodland Hills.

According to Dr. Tim Elmore, here are **four lies that Mike and Mandy tell themselves about Melvin and Margaret**. This is what Millennials believe about the older generation that I just think are lies.

1. "They don't understand what I'm going through." Mike and Mandy, I would tell you they do. I would tell you that Melvin and Margaret have been through a whole lot more than you've been through in your day of technology and struggling to survive on that couch.

Mike and Mandy, I was praying for you last night to make sure you guys were all safe from the tornados and the storms and then I realized that you are in Mom and Dad's basement; you'll be fine anyways. I'm kidding. I know some of you are extremely responsible. Did you at least get a good selfie of the storm? I know there are some extremely responsible Mike and Mandys. It was a joke.

But they do understand what you are going through. They very clearly know what you're going through. They've been through it. They've been through the trials. They have the scars of life. And scars are proof that they've gotten through it. Listen to what scripture has to say about this, Mike and Mandy.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1

Now remember, Melvin and Margaret, coach this, don't lecture this. Mike and Mandy don't want to be lectured. They've been lectured, they've been stereotyped, they've been judged. They despise that. But, if you can coach and love them through this, they're going to receive it extremely well. In my own experience, when I coach through similar dumb decisions I've made, which is a lot, I've seen myself able to coach Mike and Mandy. I've seen myself able to coach Generation Z. So, that's extremely important

2. "I'm better than they were." I'm pretty sure, Mike and Mandy, they are called the builders and boomers for a reason. The product of everything you are enjoying is because of them; they built this for you. But also, Melvin and Margaret, you've got to realize they are also a product of our own parenting, whether it be over parenting or under parenting.

I just saw an article this last week in the New York Times where New York City offers adulting classes. These are classes that Millennials are signing up for to learn how to change a tire or change the oil how the silverware goes because their parents didn't teach them. They were either too busy or uninterested or they did that all for them. So, we can sit here and point fingers at Mike and Mandy and be upset and frustrated, but that's also on us, Melvin and Margaret. That's also on how we coached them with giving them responsibility and teaching them those things.

So, be careful to think that you're better than Melvin and Margaret because Melvin and Margaret have done a phenomenal job giving all the freedom. As a matter of fact, it's given birth to a lot of entitlement, which I'm passionate about eradicating. One of the things I think we can eradicate is here in 1 Peter 5: 5 which says **5 *In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."***

I would put this on Melvin and Margaret too. I think, believe it or not, Mike and Mandy have a lot to teach you. And not just how to scroll through Snap Chat and Instagram and everything. I actually think they have a lot... It's crazy, right? Melvin and Margaret complain about how Mike and Mandy just sit on couch and hang out at coffee shops and how they're not doing anything with their lives and how they won't by houses. You sit there and complain about Mike and Mandy until your Wi-Fi doesn't work and they fix it before you. Now they became the genius of the world, right? Be cautious of complaining about them. They have a lot to offer. But, I think this humility goes a long way. If every time Ted corrected me on a sermon or something I said or something I did, I got a defensive posture, I'm not going to maximize my potential as a communicator. I'm not going to maximize who God is wanting me to be.

God uses three things in our lives to really shape and mold us. One is his word; he speaks to us through his word. He speaks to us through prayer and his Holy Spirit. And he speaks to us through his people. So, when I hear that retirees and senior citizens spend about ten hours a year with younger generations, that breaks my heart because I think God wants to use you to speak to this younger generation. I think God wants to use you to speak truth to them, encouragement to them, provide opportunity to them, and potential will just arise from the ashes. I'm confident of that, Melvin and Margaret.

3. "They don't want me here." No, they want you here. They want you to be responsible with the gifts you've been given. I think if we communicate that, Melvin and Margaret, in a humble way, showing them where you have made mistakes, and we lead out with humility, Mike and Mandy would be much more receptive to the advice and coaching we have for them. I really do.

When I lead out with a Millennial or a younger generation and say, "Let me tell you some really dumb decisions I've made," they really want to hear how dumb I am. It gives them hope and lets them know that you don't get there overnight; it's a process. Discipleship and mentorship is a process and that's why I told you I think it's one of the hardest out of the five purposes we believe here at Woodland Hills. It takes time and it takes work, but all the rewards of seeing that is amazing.

I Timothy 4: 12 says this: ***Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*** Set a good example, Mike and Mandy, and I promise you that Melvin and Margaret might start flocking to you... at a slow pace, but they'll start flocking to you.

4. "They don't need me." Yes, we do. We all need each other. As Deuteronomy 6 eludes to, we all need each other. Younger or older generations, we all need each other and the more we get separated, the more there is no unity in the body of believers. So, I don't care if your six years old and you have a

personal relationship with Christ or your 80 years old, Paul and Jesus call for this unity among the body of believers. When we disassociate ourselves just because we don't know their technology or their language or what they're into and it's too intimidating for us or vice versa, that's not unity and I think there is value in unity.

Here are the four lies that Melvin and Margaret tell themselves about Mike and Mandy. These are lies your telling yourselves about the younger generation.

1. "These young people don't care about anything but themselves." That's not true at all. I work with a lot of Mike and Mandys. They are actually extremely passionate about social causes and the right things. They care deeply about things; they just need to be shown the opportunity on where to care about those things. I've seen a lot of people raise thousands of dollars for water wells in Africa and malaria nets and social justice causes and sex trafficking. They want to be a part of things that matter, but they don't maybe have all the administrative or business mindset that some of you would have. So, I think it's important for you to coach them.

For example, my wife and I are looking to make some big financial decision, so I met with a mentor of mine this week, John Jensen. He is just further down the road and he knows numbers and finances a whole lot better than I do. So, I just said, "Help me out, John, I need to know how to manage this." My wife met with Suzette Brawner with the same thing. We're managing this and we're seeking out mentors because we don't have it all figured out.

Mike and Mandy, even though you think you have it all figured out, I promise you that you don't. You can ask any Melvin or Margaret. It seems like the older we get, the more we realize we don't know anything. Let me show you this picture that I think is important for Melvin and Margaret. "If you want to advertise something to me, you should first know who I am." William Goodall, Student, digital native.

I think, Melvin and Margaret, when you look at this and you automatically make an assumption, you miss out on an amazing opportunity to coach this young individual and pull out all that potential. There is actually a lot of amazing potential right here. That may intimidate you, Melvin and Margaret, that may worry you, but I'm telling you that you have so much God-given wisdom and knowledge. Your life and your purpose is not done because you're nearing 80 or you're in 80s or 90s. God still has so much for you. You're holding this baton. Are you going to hand it to him or are you going to say, "He doesn't want to talk to me. All he does is talk on his technological device. He has no time for me." He will if you show him you believe in him.

2. "Their attention span is too short to go into any deep topic." Now, I think in some cases, that is a valid point, but that's not true at all. I've seen Mike and Mandy spend six to eight hours on a Netflix binge. They've got attention spans. It's just on Melvin and Margaret to captivate their attention with the right topics. If you strike a chord with something they are passionate about, watch what happens to their attention span. But, when you get to lecturing them, watch what happens to their attention span.

I just had a conversation with a Mike individual yesterday and it was a 45 minute conversation and he was locked in and engaged. But, I was talking about things that this individual was extremely passionate

about. We started talking and coaching ways he could go about what he wanted to do and how he needed to do it and the steps to get there, etc. They have great attention spans, Melvin and Margaret. It's just that the attention span is towards the right things. And if you lecture them and bore them, remember, they don't have to put up with that on YouTube or their social media apps, so they're not used to that. If you engage them with something they're passionate about, if you strike a chord with things they get excited about, watch what happens to their attention span.

3. "They won't take risks." Well, I think they will. I've seen young people take risks, but I think it takes encouraging and coaching from Melvin and Margaret to help them take risks. I explain it to parents all the time when I start coaching their young person. I tell them it's like riding a bike. What Mike and Mandy need from you, Melvin and Margaret, is they need you to get behind that bike when those training wheels first come off. As they start going and the seat starts wobbling and they fall over and they scrape their knee and they're ready to cry, you be like "No, no, come here. It's okay. Let's put some Neosporin on it and a bandage on it and let's talk about why you crashed. You stopped pedaling and when you don't have that motion going forward, it messes up your balance, so let's try this again. This time, don't stop pedaling."

Let's see what happens as Melvin and Marvin are behind the bike of Mike and Mandy and if they let them go, they can say, "There you go, keep it up, yes, good job. Look out there's a tree coming." And now you're coaching Mike and Mandy and they're doing things and they're taking risks because you've instilled hope in them, you've instilled belief in them. All those statistics I showed you, they all change when a Melvin and Margaret begin bestowing coaching and belief in a Mike and Mandy.

4. "These kids don't follow our example in ethics and work ethic." Whoa, Whoa, these kids are a product of your ethics and work ethic, of either your over or under parenting. But, I'm not here to discourage or berate any older people at all. I'm here to encourage the snot out of you. I think you have so much opportunity before you. I look up to so many of you in here. You guys have way more to offer than I do. You guys are wise and you've been through more, you've seen more, you've experienced more. I can't even tell you how much potential is in this room. The example you set will dictate that.

Last week, remember what I said with dating that it's crazy that we think young people should be excited about getting married when they see our attitude towards marriage when they come home. But, we get to change that. We get to be an example. And when you set that example for Mike and Mandy, I think the volcano is going erupt with the direction Mike and Mandy head in. I think they all need coaching.

Dr. Tim Elmore said this: *"Kids rarely listen to their elders, but they always tend to imitate them."* Melvin and Margaret, they'll imitate you. I'll tell you what I've discovered with Mike and Mandy. They are listening and watching way more than you realize. Could you imagine if we became a body of believers that got excited about mentoring and coaching young people rather than playing golf every day or collecting sea shells. I'm willing to bet that if I took a time capitol of like your bank account, but it was your time account for the year, there are time pockets in there where you could begin coaching young people.

Remember, Melvin and Margaret, you're going to get way more out of this than Mike and Mandy are. It's going to impact your life in ways you can't even possibly grasp or imagine. It's going to have a significant impact. Why? Because God has given you all the gifts you have, Melvin and Margaret, not to be holding them to yourself, but to pass that onto Mike and Mandy. To pass that on to all these guys that are driving us crazy... That's why God has given you that gift so you would imitate and model for them and pass onto them. I think we've got to close this intergenerational divide to be the body that Christ called us to.

Paul says it best in 1 Corinthians 11 - ***1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.***

One of the benefits of my mentors and my coaches is they always point me back to this. I love every mentor I mentioned up here today. If they've never had an answer... They don't always act as if they do know. Mike and Mandy see right through that, Melvin and Margaret. They see through the bologna. If they don't know an answer, every single one of them will say "Let me get back to you on that." As a mentor, all you have to do is keep pointing young people back to this.

My opinion changed... My favorite color has changed in the last ten years. The dates I like to go on, the things I like to do have changed. But this never changes. So, it's important when we give young people advice that we point them back to something that is unchanging, that's constant because they need stability; we all do. So that's why it's important when you seek out mentors or as you're mentoring, Melvin and Margaret, that you just point them back to God's word. By the way, if you don't know answers to questions, there are websites that give you great, sound, biblical answers to all that stuff. Just say, "I'll get back to you." Then you guys can talk about it and discuss.

I don't know if you remember Successories. Successories had a flash high success and then they came crashing down. Does anybody remember these? This was actually one of my favorite Successories. I actually have a smaller version of this in my house. It's a little kid standing by the lake. It says, "Priorities. A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But, the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Melvin and Margaret, the world may be different because you were important in the life of Mike and Mandy.

I was just preparing for this sermon this week and I had this thought. I don't know if it was a God glimpse or whatever; I'm not saying that at all. It was just on my heart. I thought after we wrap up this Mike and Mandy series, God would just show me a little vision of the stories that are going to come out of this service because Melvin and Margaret realized how much gifting they have to give to others, how awesome they are, how in their last lap of life, God's not done with them yet and they have so much to give Mike and Mandy.

And then like a year from now, I'm going to hear these stories from you, Melvin and Margaret, of how you've impacted the lives of Mike and Mandy and the Mike and Mandys that have turned around and started doing things we knew they could do; we just needed to tap into it.

I run this program called Ling Year. This year we started a Shark Tank. We call it Lion's Den, our version of Shark Tank. We brought in four Melvins and Margarets and we had five Millennials present their business ideas. Two of them landed investors and now they're in partnership together as they take this idea. You see, Mike and Mandy have a tone of potential. They need Melvin and Margaret to believe in them. And because it's not the gray commission, it's The Great Commission.

God, we do thank you so much for this church, for Woodland Hills. Once again, we pray for all the families that have been affected by the flooding.

God, we pray for Melvin and Margaret. I pray that even today, you would collide their course with a Mike and Mandy. That you would intersect their normal routine with a younger person and you would use all the gifting and all the wisdom and all the love and all the knowledge you have put into them for 50, 60, 70, 80 years and they would transfer that onto Mike and Mandy.

God, would you do that? Would you use this church body? Would you use the older people in this church: the builders and the boomers and the generation X to pour into the Millennials and Generation Z, that they would live out one of our five purposes of this church. Would you encourage them to know you have great things in store for them. I pray that you would.

It's in the matchless, mighty, powerful, pure, high, and holy name of Jesus we pray. And all God's people said... Amen.