



Anthems

5 – I Speak Jesus

Pastor Ted Cunningham

Today is kind of a mashup as we close up this series called *Anthems*. It's Mother's Day meets the last song in this series. We're looking at *I Speak Jesus*. Before we do, let me see the hands of all the moms of toddlers. Do they rise up every day and call you blessed in the morning. Do they rise up every day and any time you do something for them they are just over the top thanking you for all that you do? This could be my favorite toddler clip online. It's 15 seconds. I have to show it twice because you're going to miss it the first time. You are going to see this little boy and want to squeeze his little cheeks. Check this out as he thanks his mom for cleaning his room.

Video plays – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3gGT6l0JO8>

When we were sitting around putting this series together a few months ago, Katie brings a list of 20 or 30 anthems, the songs we love to sing and worship together as a church. We picked the songs, and then you've got to put them in order. When we got to Mother's day at the last part of this series and chose *I speak Jesus*, it was this line in the song that when we read it, we were like that definitely has to go on Mother's day. "Jesus for my family. I speak the holy name of Jesus." You should have seen the moms around the table go "Yes, that's the perfect song." And that's why we are launching with that today.

In Psalms 71... I want every mother and every grandmother, across campus and online today, to take this deep into the crevasses of your soul. ***"God, you have taught me from my youth and I still declare your wondrous deeds. Verse 18 – "And even when I am old and gray..."***

We honor the moms in here that have had resilience and perseverance over the years. No matter what seasons and stages of life have come your way and no matter how difficult it may have been that you have stayed faithful to discipling your family. ***"...God, do not abandon me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come."***

Mom, that you would continue to proclaim the name of Jesus until he returns or calls you home. Even when you are old and gray and you are tired. And even when you don't have the energy. Maybe you can't get on the ground and play anymore with the grandchildren, that you would still today, as we look at this simple, simple anthem, proclaim the name of Jesus over your family. We have a saying around here. We share it often. "The days go slow, but the years go fast."

I share a lot of country music over the years that reinforce this message. My son graduated last week from high school, so I'm kind of in a numb place right now again where Amy and I are becoming empty nesters. We're thinking about how fast the years have gone. I've been playing on repeat in my truck to try to help me, Trace Adkins' song, *You're going to miss this*. Add that to your play list if you want a good tear or two. It's three verses. They are all sung from a different perspective. The first verse is mom dropping her teenaged daughter off at school. The teenaged daughter is just wanting to get through high school. That's some of you in here. Some of you had friends who graduated, and you want to graduate and move out of this town and get on with your life. I've met them. They are ready to go. I'm here to tell you it will be here tomorrow. It goes fast. Those are the old people around you going, "Yes it does! It's a blink!"

The first verse is the daughter going, "Mom, just drop me off right here and let me get out." And what does Mom say, "You're going to miss this."

I love the second verse. It's from dad's perspective. He stops by. His daughter is now married. He stops by her apartment, and she starts talking about babies and buying a house and dad shakes his head and says, "Slow down, baby girl, you're going to miss this."

Verse 3 is sung from the perspective of a plumber. And that's why I love country music. You don't get that in your hip hop and pop. You don't get no verses from a plumber. But the song goes like this, "Five years later there's a plumber working on the water heater. Dogs barking, phones ringing, one kid's crying, one kid's screaming. And she keeps apologizing and he says, "They don't bother me. I've got two babies of my own. One's 36, one's 23. You're going to miss this. You're going to want this back. You're going to wish these days hadn't gone by so fast."

I had a moment this week. Carson's graduation was actually last Thursday. I had an event in California and I said, "I want you and your mom to go with me and we are going to celebrate your high school graduation. To live out your childhood, I want to take you to Disneyland one more time and we're really doing it for me and not you, just so we understand. We're going to go on all the rides that I know teenagers and young adults don't like to go on. We're on 9:30 our time, but it's 7:30 there so we got in the park early and were able to get to the Cars ride in Radiator Springs. Cause he was dying to go on the Cars ride at Radiator Springs. Again, this is for your mother and I, get on this ride.

We were going through the cue, and we get to the front and they have a height indicator. There was a family of maybe 11 people in front of us. They have all sorts of kids, I could tell there were grandparents. One kid is not going to reach the height indicator. This kid comes close. I've never seen so much stress and pressure put on a child in a theme park in my whole life. They start cheering this kid on. "You got it!" He just got this look of panic on his face. He goes over and he stands in front of it and he's too short. He's trying to stretch as high as he can.

How many of you have ever lied about your child's age to get them on a ride or a cheap meal at Denny's. I'm not going to judge you because I still weigh 155 on my driver's license. But I had never heard about lying about your child's height. This was a first for me. They're cheering them on. The employee at the ride gets over there and she gets down and she's cheering him on too.

Then the employee says, “Raise your hands as high as you can.” He still can’t do it. Probably the best mom move I’ve ever seen in my life. She grabs both wrists, yanks him up, and the employee goes, “You’re good to go.” And he goes on the ride. Mom move of the year – you lie about their age, you lie about their height... I’m sitting there going, “Carson don’t blink. It was just last week that was you.” Let me tell you something. Next week, that kid will hit it no problem.

How many of you took your kids to Silver Dollar City, with the highest soul shoe you could find? “We’re going on these rides.” It will happen fast enough, Mom. This is what we know about parenting. Parenting has long days. They go very slowly. Parenting also has good days where your child rises up and calls you blessed. “Thank you for cleaning the room.” But then there are those days they’re mad at you for making them clean their room. Parenting can have very difficult and very challenging, very hard days. Today has many lessons that won’t be seen until years from now.

I’ve become a huge NBA fan. Do we have NBA fans in the house. I’m loving the playoffs right now. My favorite team is the Milwaukee Bucks, primarily because I look good in hunter green. I have a Bucks hoodie I wear three times a week. I love when people approach me in public and go, “Sorry, what happened to your team.” I just love the color.

My son and I are on an NBA stadium tour, and we got to see the Milwaukee Bucks play. Before the Lord returns or calls me home, I hope we can get through all the stadiums in Carson’s or my lifetime. My favorite player in the NBA is Giannis. He’s one of the humblest players I’ve ever heard. I just love his interviews. They were kicked out of the playoffs. They lost. He gave an interview. When I was listening to the interview, I thought *He’s talking about basketball, but really this applies to parenting*. I know when we talk parenting, there are parents in here right now that you live with so much regret. You feel like such a failure in this area. This is not a church that will ever be part of feeding your regrets. Don’t feed your regrets; ask Jesus to redeem your remaining days.

His perspective on the long game, not just what happened in this series, but he looks at this report and his humility... You’re going to see his humility pour out in this interview. I want you to see this from the perspective of a parent who thinks they’ve failed.

Video plays – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZwIAzr44ys>

But now I’ve had a whole year to think about it. He was ready for that. Today has many lessons for your kids and for mine that won’t be seen until years from now. Your child is taking in so much in the days ahead, but you won’t see it maybe well into their adulthood. We measure parenting success in years, not days. Our children, as we are going to see in the text today, need consistent, not perfect parents. Parents day in and day out, working, providing, speaking the name of Jesus, as we are going to see today. As we look at parenting and then let’s keep discipleship in the home simple. Let’s not over complicate it.

What we are going to see today in Deuteronomy 6 is consistency is established in days, but it’s measured in years. Our challenge today is for us to make the decision as parents, speaking the name of Jesus, we are going to do this consistently, day in and day out, even when we’re not getting the

accolades from our kids. That's not what we are going for. We are going for children who leave our home loving Jesus, prepared for the responsibility of work and relationships.

Deuteronomy 6 is a mission statement verse for our church, so this is a vision Sunday as well to remind all of us

Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 - **4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** There are four truths we've always taught in this verse. There is a God, there is only one God, he is the Lord, he is our Lord. I've recently added a fifth with what we've been dealing with in our culture. And we need to remind ourselves and our children You are not God. You don't get to determine truth. You don't get to let your feelings drive the bus. We can listen to them, we can care for them, we can validate, we can do all of that, but they are just not going to be the decision that you are not God. I am not God. Why? Because there is a God, there's only one God. I am not him. He is the Lord, and he is our Lord. So those are the truths I want my children to have.

I also want my children to have a love for the Lord. **5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** This next verse, Mom and Dad, this is for us. **6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.** Why? Stephanie Watson says it up here all the time at child dedication. Our children see everything we do, they hear everything we say, they forget nothing, and then they repeat. They are watching, listening, remembering, and repeating.

How many of you had a singing mom? She sang everywhere you went. My mom wasn't just a singer, she was an early riser singer. I know your teenagers say they don't want you singing to them at 5:00 and 6:00 am. They are just saying that, they do. They want for you to do what my mom did when she would come into my room or my brother's room and throw open the curtains singing, "This is the day, this is the day... Let the redeemed of the Lord say..." My mom always had that. I'm a singer to this day and I'm convinced it's because of my mom.

I'm almost 50 years old. I have tithed my whole life. Do you know why I tithe? You're like the Bible and Dave Ramsey. No. It's because of Ron Cunningham. My parents taught me how to tithe. They didn't just show me how to tithe or teach me how to tithe. They were participating in it with me. If I made ten dollars mowing a lawn, I'd bring that home and my dad had envelopes long before Dave Ramsey ever came up with envelopes. This was 40 years ago my dad had these and there was a tithe envelope, a mission's envelope, a savings envelope and a spending envelope. You can imagine there wasn't much left in the spending envelope. We didn't spend money in our home growing up. I still do that today because it was something I saw, something I heard, something I remembered, and now I repeat. This is the power of what's on your heart finding it's way into the hearts of your children.

Verse 7 gives us the power of the day. Just to see the consistency of the day. **7 Impress them on your children.** What are we impressing on our children? There is a God, there is only one God, you are not God. He is the Lord, and he is our Lord, and a love for the Lord. How do you do this? **Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.**

Today, as we go into this final anthem in our series, that from the time you get up in the morning until the time you go to sleep at night, as you drive along the road, as you sit at home, as you're in line at Target, as you're waiting at Walmart, wherever your day takes you. As you're eating at Chick Fil A, as you're picking up Chick fil A, speak the name of Jesus over your children, over your family.

In our curriculum... we use the Orange Curriculum here at Woodland Hills. This is one of my favorite quotes that they share – “No one has more potential to influence a child than a parent.” I’ve been sharing this with a lot of parents lately who are just freaking out over something done in the schools, something in our community, something going on in our country. Yes, there are a lot of influences out there over our children, but, Mom and Dad, never forget you’re the primary author of your child’s heart. You’re the primary influence. Get that right first. We spend too much time in our culture today creating environments for our children to succeed, rather than teaching them to succeed in environments they can’t control. So, speak the name of Jesus, be consistent with that.

As we’ve been teaching our kids, we want you to have a walk with Jesus that works anywhere in the world. We don’t want you to have a walk with Jesus that just works in Branson, Missouri. We want you to put scripture in the driver’s seat, not tradition, not a denomination, not a sub-culture, but scripture in the driver’s seat and do what Jesus did and say what Jesus said. But a parent is not the only influence a child needs. That’s why this church desires to be a second voice in the life of your child. Some of you... if I can just talk to those who have gone into the old and gray season, you're not done. You have so much influence. I want influence as we become empty nesters. I want influence in the life of kids. How do I get influence in the life of my kids? I continue to speak the name of Jesus and I surround them with other voices. This church desires to be that voice for you. If you're in a season where you're like, “I don’t know what to do at Woodland Hills. How can I be an additional voice in the life of a child?”

Serve in Critter Street. Serve in Wildwoods, I’d encourage that to be some of your takeaways today that when you leave here today, stop back at the Welcome Center and talk to Julie or someone back there. Ask for a Sweet Spot card and say I am ready to reinforce what I know Mom and Dad are already teaching at home or what we hope Mom and Dad are teaching at home. We say it here often as well, “Parenting is a journey from control to influence.” The most control you’ll ever have with your toddler is right now. With every year of your toddler’s life, you're losing control, but we hope you're replacing it with influence.

Some of you went through the study Jim Burns put together called *Doing Live with your Adult Children*. the subtitle of the book is worth the price of the book. *Keep your Mouth Shut and the Welcome Mat out*. If you want a good relationship with your adult children, keep your mouth shut and the welcome mat out. I’ve told you before, my mouth is not the problem, it’s my face. My face screams “That’s not how I would do it!” My face screams, “What were you thinking? Don’t hang around that person!” That’s my face. But if you want influence, Mom and Dad, and I know every parent in here does. If you want influence, be consistent. No perfect parents... we’re not going to reach perfection. We are going to have the hard days where we say what we didn’t mean to say that, and we wish we never would have never said. Don’t feed your regrets; ask Jesus to redeem your remaining days.

So, let's get into this Anthem and how that relates to us all throughout the day, whether you sing this over your children, pray this over your children, speak this over your children... *I Speak Jesus* is our anthem today.

*I just wanna speak the name of Jesus
Over every heart and every mind
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence
I speak Jesus.*

Now of all the anthems we've done, this is the simplest of messages. The group that wrote this... It's actually a collective of worship pastors, *Here Be Lions*, wrote this. I just want to share some of their words about this anthem so you can see the reason they went with such simple words.

They say the songs on this project have a sense of simplicity, almost childlike. As writers, we can have the tendency to over complicate everything. It is good to do our best when writing songs to describe Jesus in the most awesome and majestic ways possible, but at the end of the day, the words all fail to compare to the His greatness. Sometimes the best thing we can do is just say his name and be captured again by the wonder of who he is. These songs are simple truths that have powerful declaration. Just speaking the name of Jesus over our families, over our communities, over our situation is the most effective thing we can do.

*I just wanna speak the name of Jesus
'til every dark addiction starts to break
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom
I speak Jesus.*

For some of you, this is going to be praying and singing today over a prodigal, a child who is far from God. They've left the faith, they've left the church, they've left everything you've ever tried to teach them. You've lost hope in many ways. This is the day where you begin declaring the name of Jesus over your family. I know sometimes declaring the name of Jesus can be difficult. There are those that will say things like "the man upstairs." "The higher power" May we be a church that never refers to him as the higher power or the man upstairs, but refers to him as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This is my last country music illustration today, I promise. And I'm not going to sing anything, I'm just going to share this story.

I love Cody Johnson. He's a phenomenal singer. We did his song as a series called *Till You Can't*. In his concerts, he used to always refer to the man upstairs. Finally, his pastor confronted him. And this is going to shock you, but Cody goes to a cowboy church in Texas. He said it was all he needed to hear. His pastor confronted him right before his career broke lose when he was asked to go fill in for somebody who couldn't make it to the Houston Rodeo. Anybody here ever been to the Houston Rodeo? About 60,000 people show up. He got to go and that was the first time on stage that he declared the name of Jesus Christ. He has a song that he sings called *The Name of Jesus*. We don't have time to listen to that song today, but I wanted you to hear from Cody his words leading into that song.

Cody Johnson: I want to dedicate this song to my friend, Randy Weaver. He is the pastor of the Lone Star Cowboy Church in Montgomery Texas. His father was a preacher, his brother is a preacher. He's a cowboy. For a long time, I was saying I'd like to thank the man upstairs for giving me a career. Randy gave me the convictions. Randy, as eloquently as he could be sometimes said, "Would it kill you to say Jesus Christ? Would it kill you to say his name?" So, the first show we played after that was my first time at the Houston Radio in front of about 60,000 people. That was the first time I said, "I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Ted Cunningham: Why say his name? The chorus that we get into is:

*'Cause Your name is power
Your name is healing
Your name is life
Break every stronghold
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire.*

Let's just go kind of rapid fire through the scripture. What the scripture says about the power, the healing, the life that is found in the name of Jesus. And even what Jesus said about the power, healing, and life in his name.

Romans 10: 13 – ***"For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*** Let's start with our salvation. In Luke 10: 17, Jesus sends out 72, 2 by 2, to declare the good news of Jesus and when they come back, the Bible says they come back with joy. And here's what they say, ***"Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."***

I've seen this once in my life where a pastor was preaching in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I think it was the first time I had ever experienced a demon possessed woman. She came forward in the middle of the message and confronted him and it was... I can't even explain it, but it was overwhelming. You just felt the darkness. She was just babbling. This pastor, an ex-marine, stood to the side and looked at this woman and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, shut your mouth. It was probably the first time I recognized the power of his name. Don't use that in your home today. Do not take that out of context. But the demons are hushed, the demons submit, the demons can't stand the name of Jesus.

In Acts 3: 6, we see the healing power. Peter and John are on their way to the temple. They meet a lame beggar who asked for money. What does Peter say? He says, ***"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*** This is why when you come forward for prayer at Woodland Hills, what do we do? We spend time praying in the authority of the name of Jesus. In the power of the good name of Jesus.

In Matthew 18:20 Jesus tells us that we even gather in his name. And as we have always been a church to remind everyone that gathering is important and it will always be important. It is something we should do. Why? Because when we gather, we gather in his name. ***20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."***

In Matthew 5: 11, we see that if you identify with the name of Jesus, you call yourself a Christian, don't be shocked, don't be caught off guard. Jesus said, **11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.** And because of the name of Jesus.

We are to pray in the name of Jesus. John 14: 13 – 14 says, **13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**

We preach in the name of Jesus. Luke 24: 47 - **47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father in the Name of Jesus.

We read in John 14: 26 – **26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

Mom and Dad, if you want to be consistent with the power, the healing, and the life that is found in the name of Jesus, I just encourage us all with this simple understanding today. For our children to know this power, we must speak the name of Jesus every day from the time you get up in the morning till the time you go to sleep at night, as you sit at home, as you walk along the way, as you drive along the way, speak the name of Jesus.

We know that as we enter into this time of worship together, Mother's day is a time of mixed emotions. There are a lot of mixed emotions around this day. I saw people saying churches need to stop even recognizing Mother's Day because of all the hurt and pain that go with this day. I just sit there and go, don't allow a bad marriage or a bad spouse to cause you to dishonor marriage, something God created. We know there is pain and difficulty, but we can still honor motherhood and honor fatherhood. I just want to recognize that I know the pain that's in here today.

There are some of you struggling with fertility. You desire so badly to be a mom, and today is a painful day for you. Some of you have suffered a miscarriage, some of you have suffered multiple miscarriages. Some of you had an abortion early in life and this day is just bringing all of that up and you've never asked God for forgiveness. Some of you have lost a child, you've experienced the loss of a mom. I know there are many today who this is your first Mother's Day without her. There are single moms in here that are doing the job of two parents and it's difficult and it's not something you went looking for, but now you're just doing the best you can to get through.

There are so many broken relationships represented in here. You have a mom who won't talk to you or a daughter or son who won't talk to you and reconciliation is your prayer today. You're hoping that today would be the day for a phone call. You'd settle for a text. Today, we want to pray for you and with you as we declare the name of Jesus together. And as we do, we also want to pray for the Winan family who, on vacation, having the time of their life with family... It can all change in just a second. They were in a car accident this week in Florida, many of them were injured. We've been praying specifically for

Sawyer and for his head injury. As a family we need to gather around them now and pray for them as we enter into this time of worship together. I'm going to ask that you join me in prayer.

Father, we pray in the authority of the name of Jesus, and through the power of that good name. We start by praying for the Winan family. Yes, there is so much brokenness in their bodies right now that needs healing, bones that need healing, a brain that needs healing, but also to pray for peace of heart and mind to know the trauma that comes in such a time as this in an accident like this. Give the doctors wisdom and timing in all the procedures. That this church family would gather around them and care for them during this time.

For the mom struggling today with a child in the home or out of the home and it's just been a struggle the entire lifetime. That today there would be peace. We just pray in the name of Jesus that there would be breakthroughs in family, that forgiveness would be given.

For the regret and failure that so many parents feel, that today would be a day of walking in new life and understanding that the days ahead can be redeemed in the name of Jesus.

We pray for every single mom in here, for every mom who has gone through a miscarriage or an abortion, and what they are dealing with as they seek life and power and healing in the name of I, that today would be a day that they declare that as they worship you.

May this church always be a church that comes along as an additional voice in the life of the parent. Never to feed regrets or the message of failure, but to ask in the authority of the name of I for hearts and minds to be healed.

I just pray for mom, for grandma, right now whose son or daughter, who we have to recognize as well, who had a bad mom, a bad dad who maybe left them, neglected them, wanted nothing to do with them and the pain that comes up on this day. We pray peace for them as they turn to Jesus, their Savior for healing.

For the one who has never trusted Jesus as savior, that today would be the day they turn to Jesus for life and call on the name of Jesus and they will be saved. We pray all of this in the authority of that name.

And everyone agreed and said... Amen.