



Sunday Night Online Prayer Meeting

SPONSORED BY MOTHER OF GOD COMMUNITY

4/19/2020



Don James

OVERCOMING INERTIA

Overcoming Inertia

- God wants us to overcome inertia
- Death & resurrection of Jesus = Mercy as forgiveness only?
- **Jesus came to destroy the corruption of body and soul due to sin so that we might live a new life**
- God wants to share as much of his glory with you as he can **now!**

Overcoming Inertia

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

¹For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation ³if indeed, when we have taken it off, we shall not be found naked. ⁴For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment.

Overcoming Inertia

- Do you ever groan?
- Do you ever feel weighed down with frustration, sadness, fear, addiction, loneliness, aimlessness, guilt, or any number of things?
- Do you have a desire for change but seem to be unable to take the steps to change?

Overcoming Inertia



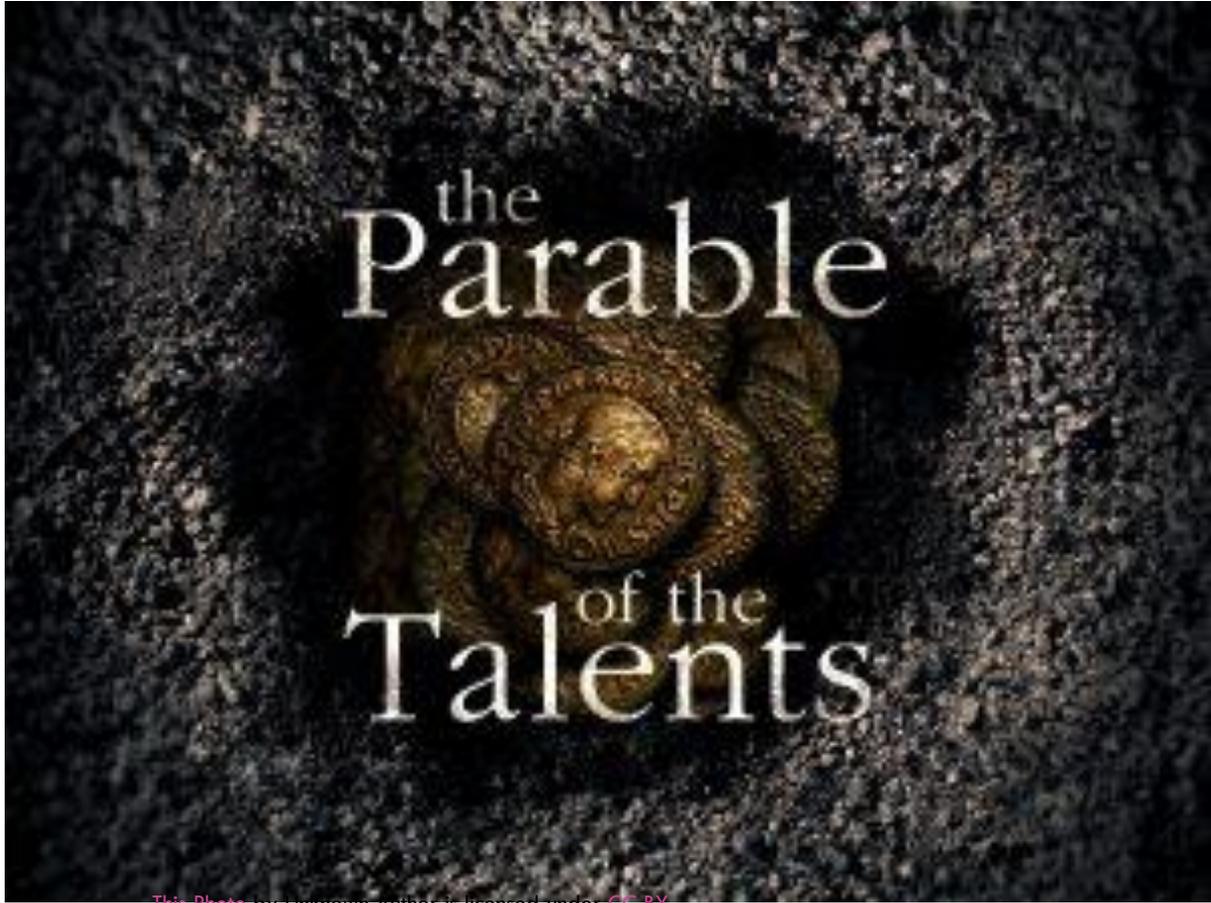
Most of us do not like change: we do not like to try new things; we do not like to give up things; we like our rest; we prefer hanging out with those we know rather than expanding our circle to befriend others.

Overcoming Inertia

We are in a process of transformation, of going from the *nakedness (or bankruptcy) of a heart fixed on earthly living* to being clothed with the *glory of God (richness of life)*, according to the measure that ***we put on Christ.***



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Overcoming Inertia

Mathew 25: 23

You were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.

Which servant am I?

Overcoming Inertia

There may be situations we face where things seem to go well or when things seem difficult or unexpected. Some doors may open and other doors may close. How we respond will determine how well we clothe ourselves with Christ. Fruit is born in 2 places (**in our hearts and in the hearts of others**) and just like with the parable of the talents, the more fruit is born in our heart (humility, faith, hope, love, greater ability to abide in Christ, ...) the greater our ability to bear fruit in the lives of others. But if we don't seek to bless others, we will also fail to bear fruit in our own lives.

What is required? Action in faith.



Overcoming Inertia

The poor widow's offering gave Jesus the occasion to show everyone what God delights in — that *she gave her all* in that small amount.

Her generosity with what God gave her continues to move hearts and minds even today.

Overcoming Inertia

**Let God Finish the Masterpiece
He's Created You to be!**

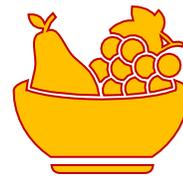
We don't want to live our life
half-painted or half-clothed,
we want God to complete His
work in us!



Overcoming Inertia

When you say “yes” to the Lord, and **step out in action** for the Lord, the Holy Spirit will inspire you and your joy will overflow as you experience God working through you. This is all about letting God transform you into the masterpiece he created you to be.

Each time we follow the Holy Spirit for his glory is like putting a new stroke of paint on the canvas of our heart. All it takes is saying “yes” to the Lord and **actively walking in his footsteps in the power of the Holy Spirit.**



YES!!

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Praise & Worship
April 19, 2020
Overcoming Inertia
Don James

Hello everyone, it is so good to be on this call with all of you, this **Divine Mercy Sunday!** God has **so much** in store for us... in fact, what we have already experienced from the Lord is just the beginning! As I've been praying this week after Easter, and praying for this call, the word that came to me was that **God wants us to overcome our inertia.** Do you all know what inertia means? It's when you want to move a boulder, and it just won't budge. In our spiritual life, God wants us to be **actively engaged** in the **Divine Life** that he won for us to live, ... but we can face big boulders like our habits, vices, desires, or ways of thinking that can prevent us from moving freely with the Lord.

When most Christians think about the death and resurrection of Jesus, they tend to see the central purpose of that act of mercy as forgiveness. And forgiveness is certainly necessary for us, but that **cannot express the fullness** of why Jesus died and rose for us. **What good is forgiveness if we cannot stop sinning? Right?** That's like receiving a presidential pardon when we are in jail, and deciding to remain in prison.

The central thing Jesus came to do, is to **destroy the corruption of body and soul due to sin so that we might live a new, heavenly life.** People often simplify this by saying he destroyed death. But when we limit this to the word "death", we can tend to think of some future event in our lives rather than the **here and now.** God wants to share **as much of his glory** with you as he can **NOW!** Amen?

In 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, St. Paul speaks of it like this:

*¹For we know that if our **earthly dwelling**, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a **building from God**, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. ²For **in this tent we groan**, longing to be **further clothed** with our **heavenly habitation** ³if indeed, when we have taken it off, we shall not be found naked. ⁴For while we are **in this tent we groan and are weighed down**, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed, **so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.** ⁵Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment. (2 Cor 5:1-5)*

Do you ever groan? Do you ever feel weighed down with frustration, sadness, fear, addiction, loneliness, aimlessness, guilt, or any number of things? Do you have a desire for change but seem to be unable to take the steps to change? We experience these things just because we have not yet been fully clothed with Christ, or perfected. Like the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane who just could not stay awake, in various areas of our lives, we can often fall into a spiritual apathy.

What are some signs of inertia? Most of us do not like change, right? We do not like to try new things; we do not like to give up things; we like our rest; we prefer hanging out with those we know rather than expanding our circle to befriend others. We like to choose what we want to do with our time rather than ask the Lord **how HE would have us use it.** We put off things that we know we need to do.

We are in a process of transformation, of going from the **nakedness** (or bankruptcy) of a heart fixed on earthly living to being **clothed with the glory of God, according to the measure that we put on Christ.** This is why God has given us the Holy Spirit as a **first installment** of the life he created us for. **In other words, this is just the beginning!** God has **so much more for us.** He gives us the Holy Spirit to bring us to life in Christ!

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What do the words “first installment” bring to your mind?

For me, it brings to mind the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-29. Each of the three servants are given a deposit, a certain number of talents **to put to use** and **produce fruit**. Those given the 5 and 2 talents doubled the amount their master gave them to which the master replied:

“Well done good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” (Matt 25:23)

But the servant given the 1 talent buried it, and even though he didn’t lose it, he didn’t **use it**—which in the end cost him not only the 1 talent he was given, but his relationship with the master as well.

We don’t want to be like this poor servant, right? **God wants us to enter into his eternal joy!** This involves **being actively engaged with the Holy Spirit**, putting what he has given us (like our life, health, time, possessions, our choices, our understanding, our experience, charisms, ...) putting these to work **for HIM** according to the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, there may be situations we face where things seem to go well or when things seem difficult or even unexpected. Some doors may open and other doors may close. **What matters is using what God has given us, to serve HIM in the opportunities that are available to us now**). How we respond will determine **how well** we clothe ourselves with Christ. **Fruit is born in 2 places:** (a) in our hearts and (b) in the hearts of others.

The **more** that fruit is *born in our own heart* (like humility, faith, hope, love, a greater ability to abide in Christ, ...) the **greater** our ability to bear fruit in the lives of others. *And...* if we don’t seek to bless others, we will also fail to bear fruit in our own lives, because the fruit God desires most of all is love.

So How do we overcome inertia?... WE TAKE ACTION IN FAITH!

Take the poor widow who gave 2 small coins to the temple treasury. She could have said to herself, “why bother to give,” believing she was too poor for her contributions to amount to much. But she gave, even though it took her out of her comfort zone, since she gave in her need.

I’m certain that when Jesus saw her, he rejoiced with her inner beauty, because he spoke about it to all who could see, *to show everyone what God delights in – a heart that gives it’s all for God*. She gave what she could in her poor circumstances, and **her generosity, with what God gave her, continues to move hearts and minds even today**.

Each one of us, on this call, can produce such fruit. What you do to obey the Lord can have implications for future generations! Do you believe this? It doesn’t matter how much or how little you think you have. St. Therese of Lisieux served in a very lowly, hidden way, yet she is one of the most well-known saints. It doesn’t matter how much talent, wealth, time, opportunities or anything else you have, nor does it matter what your circumstances are. What matters is that you **actively use what God has given you to serve him, in the circumstances you find yourself in**, and he will bear fruit in ways you cannot imagine, both for yourself and for those around you.

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Let God Finish the Masterpiece He's Created Each of Us to Be

Think of the most beautiful or impressive painting that you've ever seen. Now think what that painting would look like if the painter stopped painting it 80% of the way through, or 60%, or 40%... would it strike you as much? No. There is a beauty that the artist hasn't finished putting to canvas yet. And that is like our lives – God is not done with us yet. But to paint on the canvas of our hearts, we need to let him do his work in us by **We don't want to live our life half-painted or half-clothed, right? We want God to complete his work in us!**

When you say "yes" to the Lord, AND STEP OUT IN ACTION, FROM THAT YES, the Holy Spirit will inspire you, and your joy will overflow as you experience God working through you. This is all about letting God transform you into the masterpiece he created you to be.

God intends on making each one here a unique masterpiece. **He desires it more than we do!** And **each time we follow the Holy Spirit for his glory is like putting a new stroke of paint on the canvas of our heart.** All it takes is **saying "yes" to the Lord and actively walking in his footsteps in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

And "Yes" means ACTION, right? We don't want to say "Yes" tonight, and then remain passive, right? So can we take another step away from what weighs us down and step into the love and mercy of God? We will have another praise song now, and I just ask that you let the Holy Spirit move you. Use this as an opportunity to give your heart more fully to the Lord and ask him to help you break the inertia that all of us face in some form or another.

Called to
Step Into
Our Identity

CHILDREN OF
GOD RISE UP

BY KINDAY TOTO

Background

The book of Judith tells the story of a Jewish heroine in the period after the Babylonian exile who saved her city by assassinating the general of the besieging gentile army.

Judith is likened to the Blessed Virgin Mary in that God used a woman to take down the “lord of this world”

Specifically, we learn that King Nebuchadnezzar, who is the ruler over the Assyrians in the great city of Nineveh, sent a message to several nations around him to rally with him and fight his war; however they ignored him. Because they did not fear him, King Nebuchadnezzar, who felt disrespected decided to come after those nations, which include the people of God.

We learn about the strength of his army that is very impressive. And notably he calls himself the great King Lord of the whole world. So the people of God find themselves before an enemy that is way too big for them.

Fear Sets In

Judith 3:8

... he was allowed to destroy all the gods of the land, so that every nation might worship only Nebuchadnezzar, and all their tongues and tribes should invoke him as a god.

Judith 4: 1-2

When the Israelites who lived in Judea heard of all that Holofernes, the ranking general of Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians, had done to the nations, and how he had looted all their shrines* and utterly destroyed them,² they were in very great fear of him, and greatly alarmed for Jerusalem and the temple of the Lord, their God

A Nation at Prayer

Judith 4: 9-10

All the men of Israel cried to God with great fervor and **humbled themselves**.¹⁰They, along with their wives, and children, and domestic animals, every resident alien, hired worker, and purchased slave, girded themselves with sackcloth. ¹¹And all the Israelite men, women, and children who lived in Jerusalem fell prostrate in front of the temple ...

Judith 4: 13

The Lord heard their cry and saw their distress. The people continued fasting for many days throughout Judea and before the sanctuary of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem

The Enemy Army Strategizes

Judith 5:1, 3-4

It was reported to Holofernes, the ranking general of the Assyrian forces, that the Israelites were ready for battle, had blocked the mountain passes, fortified the high hilltops, and placed roadblocks in the plains. ... Now tell me, you Canaanites, what sort of people is this that lives in the hill country? Which cities do they inhabit? How large is their force? In what does their power and strength consist? Who has set himself up as their king and the leader of their army?⁴ Why have they alone of all the inhabitants of the west refused to come out to meet me?"

Judith 5: 5

Then Achior, the leader of all the Ammonites, said to him: "My lord, please listen to a report from your servant. I will tell you the truth about this people that lives in the hill country near here. No lie shall escape your servant's lips

He proceeds to give them the account of the people of God and how God struck Egypt and parted the sea before them, etc.

Judith 5: 17

As long as the Israelites did not sin in the sight of their God, they prospered, for their God, who hates wickedness, was with them

The Enemy's Reaction

Judith 5: 23-24

“We are not afraid of the Israelites,” they said, “for they are a powerless people, incapable of a strong defense.²⁴ Therefore let us attack, master Holofernes. They will become fodder for your great army.”

Because he defended the Israelites, Achior was handed over to them.

Achior told the Israelites what happened, and they fell to the ground and worshipped God. All night they called on to the God of Israel for help.

The Enemy Increases the Pressure

In chapter 7 we learn that enemy vows to “lick the whole country clean”.

They cut the water supply to the nearest town.

Judith 7: 19-22

The Israelites cried to the Lord, their God, for they were disheartened, since all their enemies had them surrounded, and there was no way of escaping from them.²⁰The whole Assyrian army, infantry, chariots, and cavalry, kept them thus surrounded for thirty-four days.* All the reservoirs of water failed the inhabitants of Bethulia,²¹and the cisterns ran dry, so that on no day did they have enough water to drink, for their drinking water was rationed.²²Their children were listless, and the women and youths were fainting from thirst and were collapsing in the streets and gateways of the city, with no strength left in them.



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Israel Resolves to a Human Solution



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Judith 7: 30-31

But Uzziah said to them, “Courage, my brothers and sisters! Let us endure patiently five days more for the Lord our God to show mercy toward us; for God will not utterly forsake us.³¹ But if these days pass and help does not come to us, I will do as you say.”

Meet Judith

WHO SHE IS

- Widow
- Fasted for 3yrs & 4 months
- Devoutly feared God
- Charming
- A woman of prayer
- Knows the Lord
- Practiced chastity

HOW SHE REACTS TO THE DECISION

- Points out how they bound themselves by an oath (5 days)
- They worship a god made with human hands
- Judith 8: 27
He has not tested us with fire, as he did them, to try their hearts, nor is he taking vengeance on us. But the Lord chastises those who are close to him in order to admonish them

Judith 8: 36 “May the Lord show you a way to take revenge on our enemies”

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is inviting us in this time to put our ears to the heart of the father.

Judith's Approach

- Threw herself face to the ground – Humility Posture
- Prayer:
 - Acknowledges the sovereignty of God's purposes
 - Invokes the power of the name "The Lord, the shatterer of war yours alone is the title of Lord"
 - Calls out the plan of the enemy to profane the House of God
 - "Break their pride by a woman's hand"
 - Does anyone identify with this?
 - God of the humble
 - The help of the oppressed
 - The support of the weak
 - The refuge of the forsaken
 - The savior of the despairing
 - Demonstrate to every nation, every tribe, that you are Yahweh, God almighty, all-powerful

Taking Down the Enemy:

Moving from Prayer to Action

- She knew how to be in the world but not of the world. She makes herself ready and the Lord supernaturally added to her attractiveness since all this dressing-up proceeded not from sensuality, but from virtue. (Vulg)
- She obtains the blessing of the elders prior to heading into the enemy camp and they pray “May the God of our ancestors keep you in his favor! May he grant your purposes fulfillment”.
- She enters the enemy camp. She is “shrewd as a serpent” in her speech. She speaks his language
- The enemy praises her: “God has done well to send you ahead of your people” ... “if you do as you have promised, your god shall be my god, and you yourself shall make a home in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar” [Remember he is the lord of the whole world i.e. the lord of this world]

Faith Based Prayer Acquires Supernatural Strength

Judith 13: 4-7

When all had departed, and no one, small or great, was left in the bedchamber, Judith stood by Holofernes' bed and prayed silently, "O Lord, God of all mighty, in this hour look graciously on the work of my hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem."⁵Now is the time for aiding your heritage and for carrying out my design to shatter the enemies who have risen against us."⁶She went to the bedpost near the head of Holofernes, and taking his sword from it,⁷she drew close to the bed, grasped the hair of his head, and said, "Strengthen me this day, Lord, God of Israel!"⁸Then with all her might she struck his neck twice and cut off his head.

Fruits

- Supernatural victory over the enemy
- Conversions – Judith 14: 6 Now Achior, seeing all that the God of Israel had done, believed firmly in God. He circumcised the flesh of his foreskin and he has been united with the house of Israel to the present day
- Unity – Judith 15: 5 As soon as the Israelites hear the news, they fell on them as one man ...
- Joy – Judith 16: 20 For three months the people gave themselves up to rejoicings in Jerusalem before the Temple, where Judith stayed with them

Prophetic Sense

URGENT CALL TO PRAY FOR
THE “LOST SHEEP OF THE
HOUSE OF ISRAEL”

