

“EITHER THEY DON’T KNOW. DON’T
SHOW. OR DON’T CARE ABOUT
WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE HOOD!”
DOUGHBOY IN BOYZ IN DA’ HOOD

HELP WANTED TO SAVE A GENERATION!

MARK 9:16-19; 25-27
June 21, 2026

Dr. Darryl T. Canady | Rodman Street Church

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DR. DARRYL T. CANADY

JUNE 21, 2026

Title: Help Wanted to Save a Generation

Sermon Summary: This Father's Day sermon addresses the crisis facing today's youth, particularly in urban communities experiencing "teen takeovers" and violence. This powerful message centers on Mark 9:16-27, where a desperate father brings his demon-possessed son to Jesus after the disciples failed to help. The sermon identifies three critical movements: the crisis of the child, the concern of the father, and the compassion of Christ. We're challenged to see that today's generation faces similar crises - not always physical bondage, but mental, emotional, and spiritual chains that manifest in violence, hopelessness, and a desperate search for belonging.

The teen takeovers happening in our communities aren't just behavior problems; they're symptoms of children crying out for guidance, mentorship, and genuine community. What strikes deeply is the father's refusal to give up - he kept bringing his son to where help could be found. This mirrors what we must do: bring our children, our youth, our struggling generation to Jesus. We cannot save them alone through programs, money, or even good intentions. The disciples tried and failed, but Jesus succeeded because He had both power and compassion. The message reminds us that before we criticize this generation, we must ask what kind of village we've provided them.

Are we arguing about trivial church matters while children are dying in the streets? The call is clear: we need fathers, mothers, mentors, and churches willing to stand in the gap to "bring children to Jesus". The sermon also illustrated Rodman Street Church's commitment through initiatives like LIFE Male STEAM Academy and the Safe Zone youth program to create safe spaces, and actively invest in saving a generation that desperately needs to encounter the transforming power of Christ.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Crisis Facing Our Children

We are confronted with the urgent reality that our children are in crisis, facing spiritual, emotional, and social bondage that manifests in violence, hopelessness, and destructive behavior.

Chapter 2: The Concern of Faithful Fathers

Every child in crisis needs someone who cares enough not to quit, and the greatest act of faith is refusing to stop showing up and bringing our children to Jesus.

Chapter 3: The Compassion of Christ

Jesus demonstrates that when people and institutions fail, His compassion never fails, and He has the power to deliver, restore, and lift those whom society has counted out.

Chapter 4: Our Call to Action

We are challenged to stop talking and start being about the work of saving our children by creating programs, partnerships, and safe spaces that bring them to Jesus.

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Mark 9:16-19** - The main text about the father bringing his demon-possessed son to Jesus
2. **Mark 9:25-27** - Jesus commanding the spirit to come out of the boy
3. **Ezekiel 22:30** - "I'm looking for a man to stand in the gap and I couldn't find one"

Scripture Allusions and Themes:

Direct Allusions:

4. **Psalm 121:1-2** - "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, where would I be?"
5. **Psalm 50:10** - "I got a God that got cattle on a thousand hills"
6. **Isaiah 43:19** - "God can make a way out of no way"

Relevant Verses for Main Themes Discussed:

Fatherhood and Parenting:

- **Proverbs 22:6** - "Train up a child in the way he should go"
- **Ephesians 6:4** - "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** - Teaching children diligently

Saving a Generation:

- **Joel 2:28** - "Your sons and daughters shall prophesy"
- **Psalm 78:4-6** - Telling the next generation about God's works
- **Matthew 19:14** - "Let the little children come to me"

Bringing Children to Jesus:

- **Mark 10:13-16** - Jesus blessing the children
- **Matthew 18:5-6** - Receiving children in Jesus' name

Faith and Power:

- **Matthew 17:20** - Faith moving mountains
- **Philippians 4:13** - "I can do all things through Christ"
- **Matthew 19:26** - "With God all things are possible"

Community and the Village:

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - Not forsaking the assembly
- **Galatians 6:2** - "Bear one another's burdens"

QUOTES:

Before we criticize this generation, we must ask what kind of guidance has this generation received? Before we condemn this generation, we must ask whether we have invested the resources into this generation.

The crisis is what necessitates the miracle. In other words, if there was no crisis, there would be no need to have a miracle.

If the children are the future, then their right now is important.

The greatest gift a father can give to his child is not money. It's not a car. It's not the inheritance. It's not property. The greatest gift a father can give a child is Jesus.

You got to catch the fish before you can clean the fish. It doesn't matter what you got on your head. It only matters what you got in your heart.

Compassion is seeing pain and refusing to remain passive. Compassion don't just fix, it listens. Compassion don't just speak, it hears.

Jesus didn't just deliver him. Jesus lifted him. Jesus didn't just rescue him. Jesus restored him. Jesus didn't just save him from something. He raised him for something.

Every child in crisis needs somebody who cares enough not to quit. Sometimes the greatest act of faith is simply refusing to stop showing up.

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5-Day Devotional: Bringing the Next Generation to Jesus

Day 1: The Crisis Requires Compassion

Reading: Mark 9:14-19

Devotional: Before there can be a miracle, there must first be a crisis. The father in this passage brought his tormented son to Jesus, acknowledging a problem he could not fix alone. Today, we see children in crisis—struggling with identity, depression, violence, and hopelessness. Like this desperate father, we must first acknowledge the reality of their pain before we can bring healing. God is calling us to see beyond behavior to the brokenness beneath. Not every crisis bleeds or screams; some children suffer in silence, masking pain behind smiles and social media posts. Ask yourself: What crisis in my family or community am I being called to

acknowledge today? Compassion begins when we stop ignoring the pain and start bringing it to Jesus.

Reflection Question: Who in your life is silently crying out for help?

Day 2: A Father's Persistent Concern

Reading: Luke 11:5-13

Devotional: "I brought you my son." These words reveal a father's heart that refuses to quit. This father could have given up, accepted defeat, or blamed his child. Instead, he kept showing up, kept seeking help, kept believing something could change. Fatherhood—and spiritual parenthood—is not about having all the answers but about refusing to abandon those God has placed in your care. The greatest act of faith is sometimes simply showing up consistently, praying persistently, and bringing your children before the throne of grace again and again. You may not be able to fix every problem, but you can always bring them to Jesus. Your persistence matters. Your prayers are heard. Your faithfulness is planting seeds that will bear fruit.

Reflection Question: Who needs you to refuse to give up on them today?

Day 3: When the Church Cannot Help

Reading: Mark 9:17-18, 28-29

Devotional: "I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." Sometimes the church is present but powerless. Religious activity continues while children remain in bondage. The disciples were arguing while the boy was suffering. This is a sobering reminder that programs,

buildings, and religious routines cannot substitute for authentic spiritual power that comes through prayer and fasting. We can be so busy with church business that we neglect the broken people standing right in front of us. The father's disappointment with the disciples should challenge us: Are we offering real help or just religious performance? Jesus did not make excuses—He stepped in where others failed. We must return to our knees, seek God's power, and become conduits of His compassion, not obstacles to His healing.

Reflection Question: Where have I substituted religious activity for genuine spiritual power?

Day 4: Jesus Sees What Others Overlook

Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

Devotional: Jesus had compassion because He truly saw people. He did not walk past the suffering boy or tell him to come back later. He stopped, listened, asked questions, and acted immediately. Compassion is seeing pain and refusing to remain passive. In our fast-paced world, we often overlook the hurting—the single mother struggling alone, the father carrying silent burdens, the child masking depression with a smile. Jesus models compassionate presence: He sees the tears others ignore, hears the cries others dismiss, and values the lives others discard. We are called to do likewise. Stop doing all the talking and start listening. Use your two ears and one mouth in proportion. When we truly see people as Jesus sees them, we become agents of His transforming love.

Reflection Question: Who have I been overlooking that Jesus is calling me to see?

Day 5: Lifted to Stand Again

Reading: Mark 9:25-27; Psalm 40:1-3

Devotional: The boy looked dead, but Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet. Jesus does not just deliver us from something; He raises us for something. He does not merely rescue; He restores. He does not simply save; He lifts us to stand with purpose and dignity. This is the hope we offer a broken generation—not just freedom from bondage, but restoration to destiny. Every child written off by society can be lifted by the Savior. Every young person counted out can be raised up. Every life destroyed by trauma can be rebuilt by grace. The compassion of Christ does not leave us lying in our deliverance; it lifts us to walk in our calling. Bring them to Jesus, and watch Him do what only He can do—turn their crisis into testimony and their mess into a message.

Reflection Question: Who needs to hear that their story is not over, that Jesus can lift them to stand again?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, give us eyes to see the crisis around us, hearts that refuse to quit on this generation, and faith to bring every struggling soul to You. Raise up fathers, mothers, mentors, and churches who will stand in the gap. Lift our children from bondage and restore them to their divine purpose. In Your mighty name, Amen.

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Small Group Guide: Help Wanted to Save a Generation

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to give your group compassion for the next generation.

Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: Share about someone who invested in you when you were young. How did they make a difference in your life?

Key Themes & Discussion Questions

1. The Crisis of the Child (Mark 9:16-18)

Key Takeaway: Our children are facing battles—some visible, some hidden. Before we can help, we must first acknowledge the crisis.

Discussion Questions:

- What crises do you see young people facing in our community today?
- The sermon mentions that "not every crisis bleeds, screams, or is visible." What are some silent struggles young people face?
- How does social media contribute to the struggles of this generation?
- What's the difference between criticizing a generation and understanding their needs?

Scripture Reflection: Read Mark 9:17-18. What does the father's description of his son's condition teach us about being honest about our children's struggles?

2. The Concern of the Father (Mark 9:17-18)

Key Takeaway: The greatest act of faith is sometimes simply refusing to stop showing up. Concerned fathers (and mothers) don't just complain—they contribute.

Discussion Questions:

- The father in the text said, "I brought you my son." What does it mean to actively bring children to Jesus rather than just talk about their problems?
- Pastor Canady shared about the father with seven children who created a flyer for the Safe Zone program. What's the difference between pointing out problems and becoming part of the solution?
- How can we balance holding children accountable while also showing them compassion?
- What barriers prevent adults from getting involved in the lives of young people?

Personal Reflection:

- Are you currently investing in any young person's life? If not, what's holding you back?
 - What gifts, talents, or resources do you have that could benefit the next generation?
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3. The Compassion of the Christ (Mark 9:19, 25-27)

Key Takeaway: When people fail, Jesus never fails. He sees what others overlook and specializes in people who have run out of options.

Discussion Questions:

- The disciples couldn't help the boy, but Jesus could. What does this teach us about our limitations and God's power?
- Jesus asked, "How long has he been like this?" even though He already knew. Why is listening such an important part of compassion?
- The boy looked dead after the demon left, but Jesus lifted him up. What does this tell us about the process of deliverance and restoration?
- How can the church be more like Jesus and less like the arguing disciples when it comes to helping hurting people?

Scripture Reflection: Read Mark 9:23-24 (the father's response about belief). How does this apply to our faith when praying for this generation?

Practical Applications

Individual Actions:

1. **Pray Daily** - Commit to praying for one specific young person by name every day this week
2. **Listen** - Have a conversation with a young person where you listen more than you talk

3. **Mentor** - Consider becoming a mentor through your church or a local organization
4. **Support** - Find out what youth programs exist in your community and how you can support them

Group Actions:

1. **Volunteer Together** - Identify a youth program or school where your group can serve monthly
2. **Sponsor a Child** - Collectively support a young person's education or extracurricular activities
3. **Create Safe Spaces** - Discuss how your church or group can provide safe gathering places for youth
4. **Bridge the Gap** - Partner with parents who need support in raising their children

Church-Wide Opportunities:

- Safe Zone Youth Program (mentioned in sermon)
- LIFE Male STEAM Academy support
- Mentoring programs
- Vacation Bible School
- Scholarship funds

Key Quotes to Remember

"If our children are our future, their right now is important."

"Don't talk about it—you got to be about it."

"You got to catch the fish before you can clean the fish."

"The crisis is what necessitates the miracle."

"The greatest gift a father can give to his child is not money... The greatest gift a father can give a child is Jesus."

Commitment Challenge

This Week: Each person commit to ONE specific action:

- Reach out to a young person in your family/community
- Volunteer with a youth organization
- Donate to a program serving youth
- Pray daily for the next generation
- Have a conversation with someone about getting involved

Share your commitment with one other person in the group for accountability.

Closing Reflection

Read together: **Ezekiel 22:30** - "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."

Final Question: Will you be the one who stands in the gap for this generation?

Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- The young people in your community facing crisis
 - Parents, especially fathers, who are concerned about their children
 - Your church to have the compassion of Christ
 - You and other group members to take action
 - Specific youth programs and initiatives in your area
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For Next Week

Come prepared to share:

- One action you took from your commitment
 - One story of hope you witnessed or heard about involving young people
 - One person you invited to get involved in helping the next generation
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Remember: "Bring them to Jesus. He's able to break those chains, change those minds, heal those hurts, restore those families, redeem those mistakes, and redirect their destiny."

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we as a church community distinguish between criticizing a struggling generation and compassionately addressing the root causes of their crises?

2. In what ways might adults be contributing to the bondage of young people through neglect, distraction, or misplaced priorities, and how can we change this pattern?
3. What does it mean to truly 'bring children to Jesus' in practical terms, beyond simply taking them to church services?
4. How does the father's persistent concern for his son in Mark 9 challenge our own commitment to the children and young people in our lives, especially when solutions seem impossible?
5. Why do you think Jesus asked the father how long the boy had been suffering when He already knew the answer, and what does this teach us about compassionate ministry?
6. What are the modern-day 'spirits' that rob our youth of their voice, throw them to the ground, and seek to destroy them, and how can the church specifically address these?
7. How can fathers and father figures step into their role as spiritual leaders who guide children toward Christ rather than trying to fix everything themselves?
8. In what ways has the church sometimes been like the disciples who could not help the boy, and what must change for us to operate in the power and compassion of Christ?
9. What does it mean that 'if the children are the future, then their right now is important,' and how should this shift our priorities in ministry and resource allocation?
10. How can we create safe spaces and villages for young people that offer them the community, identity, and significance they are desperately seeking in unhealthy places?