

2026-04-19 Points

Title: The Midnight Ride: A Warning to Prepare for Christ's Return

Sermon Summary: This sermon draws a parallel between Paul Revere's midnight ride warning colonists of impending danger and God's consistent warnings throughout Scripture calling His people to repentance and preparation. The message emphasizes that America was founded on godly principles by pilgrims seeking to live under God's law rather than human authority, but the nation and church have drifted from these foundations. Using the account of the siege of Samaria and four lepers who discovered deliverance, the pastor challenges believers to recognize that we possess "good news" that we're keeping to ourselves. The sermon warns that judgment is coming, emphasizing the reality of heaven and hell, and calls Christians to live righteously in anticipation of Christ's return rather than conforming to worldly patterns. The central message is that God provides for those who trust and obey Him, but requires genuine surrender and faithful living, not mere mental assent to faith.

Key Points:

- God has always provided warnings before judgment, just as Paul Revere warned the colonists
- America was founded on biblical principles with God as King, His Word as authority, and government serving to protect God-given rights
- The Israelites repeatedly rebelled despite God's provision and deliverance, a pattern repeating today
- Christians often want enough Jesus to get to heaven but not enough to change their lives
- We are keeping the good news of the gospel to ourselves instead of sharing it
- Fine linen in Revelation represents the righteous acts of believers, not just positional righteousness
- Cowardice includes failing to speak up when we should defend truth
- Christ is returning soon and we must live in anticipation of His coming
- Judgment is real - names not in the Book of Life will face the lake of fire
- God promises to provide for those who seek first His kingdom

Scripture Reference:

- 2 Kings 6:24-7:20 (Primary focus - the siege of Samaria and the four lepers)
- Genesis 12 (God's promise to Abraham)
- Romans 12 (transformation by renewing of mind)
- Matthew 6 (God's provision, seeking first the kingdom)
- Revelation 19:8, 11-16 (fine linen, Christ's return)
- Revelation 20:11-15 (Great White Throne judgment)
- Revelation 21:6-8 (the cowardly, unbelieving, and immoral cast into lake of fire)

Stories:

- Michael Goodwin's comedy routine about "two things to worry about" (original or extra crispy)
- The founding of America by pilgrims seeking religious freedom to live under God's law
- The Israelites' exodus from Egypt and 40 years of wilderness wandering
- The Israelites' failure to completely drive out inhabitants of the Promised Land
- Paul Revere's midnight ride warning colonists that "the British are coming"
- The siege of Samaria where famine became so severe that a donkey's head sold for 80 shekels of silver and dove's dung for 5 shekels
- Four lepers who discovered the abandoned Aramean camp and initially kept the good news to themselves before recognizing "we're not doing right - this is a day of good news and we're keeping it to ourselves"
- God causing the Aramean army to hear phantom sounds of chariots and horses, causing them to flee in panic
- Personal testimony about needing God's help during a painful tooth extraction