

Men's Sabbath Sermon:

ALL IN MEN: No Time to Waste

Created by Blueprint for Men for the North American Division of SDA.

By Marty Miller, Founder | President and Mike Hansen, Communications | Podcasts.

Introduction:

Brothers, I want to talk directly to your heart today. Not as someone who has it all figured out, but as a fellow traveler on this journey. I've wrestled with the same struggles you face. I've felt the pull between comfort and calling. I've experienced the tension between fitting in and standing out for Christ.

This message isn't for men who are content with spiritual mediocrity. This isn't for guys who are satisfied with weekend Christianity. This is for the man who feels that restless stirring in his soul... that divine dissatisfaction with the status quo... who knows deep down that time is short and the stakes are higher than we've ever imagined.

Maybe you're listening to this while driving to work, wondering if there's more to the Christian life than what you're experiencing. Maybe you're at home, feeling the weight of responsibility for your family's spiritual direction. Maybe you're young and wondering what it really means to be a man of God in this crazy world.

Wherever you are, whatever brought you to this moment... God has something to say to you today.

Opening Scripture:

Jesus said: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." — Mark 12:30

Let's just... pause there for a moment. ALL your heart. ALL your soul. ALL your mind. ALL your strength.

Not halfway. Not when it's convenient. Not when the mortgage is paid off or when the kids are grown. Not when you finally feel "ready." God is calling men... right now... to be ALL IN.

Look around, brothers. We're living in unprecedented times. The world isn't just changing—it's convulsing. The moral foundations that held society together for generations are crumbling before our eyes. Our families are under assault from every direction.

Think about it: Our sons are growing up in a culture that tells them masculinity is toxic, that strength is aggression, that leadership is oppression. They're being handed participation trophies instead of learning the value of hard work. They're being taught to question everything except the lies the world is feeding them.

And what about our daughters? They're being told their worth comes from their appearance, their achievements, their independence from men, their sexual freedom—everything except their identity as daughters of the Most High God. They're searching for identity in social media likes, career success, and relationships that leave them empty.

And honestly? Many churches have become comfortable... comfortable with compromise, comfortable with cultural Christianity, comfortable with blending in instead of standing out. We've traded the fire of Pentecost for the warmth of fellowship halls. We've exchanged prophetic voices for popular opinions.

But here's what should keep you awake at night, brothers. It's not just the world that's changing—it's how we're responding to it. Too many Christian men have become passive observers instead of active participants in God's kingdom work. We've become consumers of faith instead of contributors to the cause.

But Jesus is coming soon. And that's not some tired church cliché we've been preaching for these decades meant to guilt you into better behavior. That's the blessed hope that should ignite every fiber of your being. That's the reality that should transform how you live every single day.

Romans 13:11 cuts right through our spiritual drowsiness: "It is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

Think about that phrase: "high time." The Greek word means it's past due, overdue, urgent. Like when you realize you're late for the most important appointment of your life.

This isn't the hour for spiritual window shopping. This isn't the season for dabbling in discipleship. This isn't the time to keep Jesus as your hobby while everything else gets your passion. This is the moment to get serious, to get focused, to get absolutely urgent about what God has called you to do.

Let me tell you about a man who understood what "all in" meant. His story challenges me every time I think about it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a young German pastor and theologian in the 1930s. Brilliant mind. Promising career. He had every opportunity to build a comfortable life in academia, writing books that other scholars would read while sipping coffee in their studies.

But when Hitler rose to power and the Nazi regime began corrupting the church, Bonhoeffer faced a choice that every man of God eventually faces: comfort or conviction. Safety or service. The easy path or the right path.

He watched as his beloved church—the church he'd grown up in, the church that had shaped his faith—began to compromise. Pastor after pastor started preaching Hitler's racial theories from their pulpits. Church after church hung Nazi flags next to their crosses. Christian after Christian chose political expediency over biblical truth.

Bonhoeffer could have stayed quiet. He could have focused on his theology books. He could have told himself, "I'm called to be a scholar, not an activist."

Instead, he chose to act. He didn't just speak against evil—he put his life on the line to stop it. He joined the underground resistance. He helped Jews escape to safety. He chose the dangerous path when the easy path was right there waiting for him.

Here's what gets me about Bonhoeffer's story: He wasn't reckless. He wasn't looking for trouble. He was a thoughtful, careful man who understood the cost of his choices. But he also understood that some things are worth dying for.

In 1943, he was arrested. While in prison, he could have recanted, could have apologized, or play it safe. Instead, he continued to minister to fellow prisoners. He continued to write. He continued to believe that God's truth was worth any sacrifice.

From his prison cell, he wrote these words that should echo in every man's heart: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

On April 9th, 1945—just days before the Allied forces would liberate his prison camp he was executed by hanging. He was 39 years old. Thirty-nine! The same age many of us are still trying to figure out what we want to be when we grow up.

His final words to a fellow prisoner were: "This is the end... for me the beginning of life."

Brothers, I'm not suggesting we all need to become martyrs. But I am asking this: What are you willing to sacrifice for your faith? What comfort are you willing to give up to follow Christ fully? What reputation are you willing to risk to stand for truth?

Because if you died today... if you were called to give an account right now... would your children say, "My dad was all in for Jesus"? Would your bride say, "He led our family closer to God"? Would your community say, "That man lived like he believed Jesus was really coming"?

Scripture gives us another powerful model of what "all in" looks like. His name was Caleb, and his story absolutely demolishes every excuse we make about age, timing, and readiness.

Let me set the scene for you. The Israelites have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. Forty years! An entire generation has died off. Most of Caleb's contemporaries are dead. The few who are still alive are thinking about taking it easy, about letting the younger generation take over. After all, they were about to enter the Promised Land!

Picture this: Everyone his age is thinking about retirement, about slowing down, about taking it easy. They're talking about their aches and pains, their good old days, their right to rest after decades of hardship.

But not Caleb. At 85 years old—85!—he says something that should echo in every man's heart:

"Give me this mountain." — Joshua 14:12

He wasn't asking for a vacation home in Florida. He was asking for the most difficult assignment available. He wasn't looking for ease. He was looking for a challenge. He wasn't thinking about what he'd already done—he was focused on what God still wanted him to do.

But here's what really gets me about this story. The mountain Caleb asked for wasn't just any mountain. It was occupied by giants. The Anakim. The same giants that had scared the other spies 45 years earlier. The same enemies that had caused an entire generation to doubt God's power.

Caleb looked at those giants and essentially said, "I'll take them."

God said of Caleb in Numbers 14:24: "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land."

A different spirit. That's what separated Caleb from everyone else. Not different abilities. Not different circumstances. Not better luck or fewer problems. A different spirit.

What made his spirit different? Caleb never stopped believing that God's promises were bigger than his problems. He never stopped believing that God's power was greater than any obstacle. He never stopped believing that his best days were ahead of him, not behind him.

We need men with that different spirit today! Not double-minded men who are spiritual on the weekend and secular on Mondays. Not distracted men who are more passionate about their fantasy football team than their faith. Not defeated men who think their best years are behind them.

We need devoted men. All in men. Men who follow fully, no matter what giants they're facing, no matter what mountains they're asked to climb.

Let me paint you a picture from God's creation that changed how I think about Christian brotherhood and completely revolutionized my understanding of spiritual strength.

If you were to visit Northern California you could stand among the giant redwoods. These trees are absolutely magnificent—some reaching over 350 feet into the sky. That's like a 30-story building! Majestic. Powerful. They've been standing for thousands of years, weathering countless storms, earthquakes, droughts, and fires.

As you stood there, craning your neck to see the top of these giants, consider this one simple question: How do they do it? How do trees this massive stay standing?

You might be surprised to know their roots are incredibly shallow. Sometimes only 6 to 12 feet deep. Think about that—a 350-foot tree with 12-foot roots. In engineering terms, that should be impossible. These giants should topple over in the first strong wind.

But they don't. They've survived for millennia.

So how do these giants survive the storms? How do they grow so tall and strong? How do they weather the California earthquakes and the Pacific storms? Their secret isn't in how deep their individual roots go—it's in how far their roots spread and how they connect with each other.

Their roots interlock with the trees around them. They create an underground network of support that can extend 100 feet in every direction. When the storms come, they don't stand alone—they stand together. When the winds howl, they bend together. When the ground shakes, they support each other.

That's how they weather the storms. That's how they reach heights no single tree could reach alone. That's how they've survived for thousands of years while smaller, seemingly more self-sufficient trees have fallen all around them.

Brothers, God never designed you to be a lone wolf Christian. You're not supposed to white-knuckle your way through temptation in isolation. You're not meant to figure out biblical manhood by reading books in your basement. You're not called to fight spiritual battles as a one-man army.

You need other men whose roots are locked with yours. You need brothers who will hold you up when the storms of life threaten to knock you down. You need men who will challenge you when you're drifting, encourage you when you're struggling, and celebrate with you when you're winning.

The storms are coming—they're already here. Inner moral storms that challenge your integrity. Financial storms that test your faith. Family storms that threaten your peace. Spiritual storms that would topple any man standing alone.

But when you're connected to other strong men of God, when your roots are intertwined with theirs, you can weather anything. You can grow taller than you ever imagined. You can stand stronger than you ever thought possible.

Start building those connections now. Start growing those roots now. Start linking up with brothers who will walk with you into battle. Because isolation is not strength—it's vulnerability waiting to be exposed.

As Adventists, we don't just believe Jesus is coming—we believe His coming is imminent. We see the signs all around us. We understand the times we're living in. We know the story is reaching its climax, and every day brings us closer to that ultimate moment.

Look at the world around us. Wars and rumors of wars. Natural disasters increasing in frequency and intensity. Moral decay accelerating at breakneck speed. The love of many growing cold. False prophets rising up. The gospel being preached to all nations through technology that didn't exist just decades ago.

But here's what concerns me, brothers. I meet too many Adventist men who believe Jesus is coming soon with their heads but live like He's coming eventually with their hearts. They know the doctrine, but they lack the urgency. They understand the prophecy, but they don't feel the passion.

Matthew 24:44 warns us: "Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Jesus didn't say, "Get ready when you see the signs." He said, "BE ready." Present tense. Right now. Today. This moment.

You don't prepare for Christ's return by tweaking your life here and there. You don't get ready by making minor adjustments to your routine. You don't become prepared by adding a few spiritual activities to your already busy schedule.

You prepare by surrendering everything. By cutting compromise at the root. By getting absolutely serious about your calling as a man of God. By living each day as if it could be your last day before Jesus returns—because it very well might be.

Let me ask you something: If Jesus came back tonight, would you be embarrassed by how you spent today? Would you wish you had prayed more, loved more, served more, witnessed more? Would you regret the time you wasted on things that don't matter, in light of eternity?

The time for playing church is over. The time for cultural Christianity is finished. The time for being "mostly committed" has expired. The King is coming, and He deserves subjects who are ALL IN.

So what does being ALL IN look like? Not someday when you feel more spiritual. Not next month when life calms down. What does it look like TODAY?

First: Wake up before the noise does. Get into God's Word before the world gets into your head. Start your day talking to your Father instead of scrolling your phone. I'm not talking about a quick devotional thought. I'm talking about real time, real conversation, real connection with the God who loves you.

Second: Burn the bridges to sin. Delete the apps that compromise your purity. Confess the habits that are stealing your spiritual power. Remove the entertainment that's polluting your mind. Stop negotiating with temptation and start walking in the freedom Christ died to give you.

Third: Lead worship in your home. Tonight. Yes, even if it feels awkward. Even if your kids roll their eyes. Even if you've never done it before. Gather your family, open God's Word, and lead them in prayer. Your home should be a sanctuary, not just a place where Christians happen to sleep.

Fourth: Find your brotherhood. Join a men's group or start one. Find men who will ask you the hard questions, who will pray with you when you're struggling, who will celebrate with you when you're winning. Iron sharpens iron, but only when iron is willing to get close to iron.

Fifth: Step into your mission field. Stop waiting for someone to hand you a ministry. Start mentoring a younger man. Start serving in your community. Start speaking truth in your workplace. Start leading by example everywhere you go.

When men choose comfort over calling, their families drift spiritually. The man becomes a weekend Christian, going through the motions while his heart is somewhere else. His wife stops looking to him for spiritual leadership. His children learn that faith is something you do, not something you are.

When men choose career over Christ, their children learn that faith is optional, that God is fine as long as He doesn't interfere with the really important stuff—like making money, climbing ladders, building empires that will crumble the moment Jesus returns.

When men choose silence over speaking truth, evil advances unopposed. When good men do nothing, bad men do everything. When Christian men stay quiet about what matters most, the loudest voices in the culture become the ones shaping our children's worldview.

Here's the brutal truth: We're not just responsible for our own souls. We're responsible for the souls God has placed under our influence. Your bride is watching how you prioritize God. Your children are learning what matters most by watching what gets your best time, your best energy, and passion.

If your phone gets more attention than your Bible, your kids notice. If your career gets more passion than your calling, your family notices. If your hobbies get more excitement than your relationship with God, everyone around you notices.

The world is full of half-hearted Christian men, and their families are paying the price. Their churches are paying the price. Their communities are paying the price. Their own souls are paying the price.

But God is looking for a different kind of man. A man who burns with holy passion. A man who leads with humble confidence. A man who loves with sacrificial commitment. A man who is ALL IN.

I want you to imagine something with me. Imagine it's 20 years from now. Your children are adults. Your grandchildren are sitting on your lap. They ask you to tell them about the time when the world seemed to be falling apart, when it looked like evil was winning, when many Christians were giving up hope.

What story will you tell them?

Will you tell them about the man who played it safe? The man who waited for someone else to take the lead? The man who kept his faith private and his impact minimal?

Or will you tell them about the man who decided enough was enough? The man who went ALL IN for Jesus? The man who loved God with ALL his heart, ALL his soul, ALL his mind, and ALL his strength?

Your legacy isn't determined by your past—it's determined by your next decision. Your impact isn't measured by where you've been—it's measured by where you're willing to go from here.

So here's what I'm asking you to do. Not think about. Not pray about indefinitely. DO.

Before this day ends, I want you to get alone with God and have an honest conversation. Tell Him about the areas where you've been holding back. Confess the ways you've been playing it safe. Acknowledge the compromise you've been tolerating.

Then—and this is crucial—surrender it all. Not just the big, obvious sins. Everything. Your career ambitions, your financial security, your reputation, your comfort, your plans, your timeline, your conditions for following Him.

Tell God: "I'm done with halfway. I'm done with delay. I'm done with excuses. I'm ready to be ALL IN."

And then live like you mean it.

Jesus said: "Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes." — Matthew 24:46

Brothers, let Him find you working. Let Him find you leading. Let Him find you loving. Let Him find you living like His return is the most important reality in your universe.

Let Him find you ALL IN.