



MOUNT ZION
MBC

SERMON SERIES

STRENGTHENING *Your* CORE

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. HABAKKUK 2:4



SHARING
CHRIST



REACHING
PEOPLE



BUILDING
LIVES



LOVING
LOS ANGELES
AND THE WORLD

Pastor
Kennedy Young, Jr.
SENIOR PASTOR



AUGUST 2 – DECEMBER 27

A SERMON SERIES | FOUR VALUES | ONE MISSION

AUGUST



SHARING CHRIST

THE GREAT COMMISSION:
OUR CALLING
MATT. 28:18-20

WEEK 1

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST
Matt. 28:18
Application: Pray for boldness
in sharing your faith.

WEEK 2

**THE COMMAND TO
MAKE DISCIPLES**
Matt. 28:19a
Application: Launch a
"discipleship partner" initiative.

WEEK 3

BAPTIZING AND TEACHING
Matt. 28:19b-20a
Application: Be apart of the
foundations of faith teachings
and start sharing your faith
to others.

WEEK 4

**CHRIST'S PROMISE
OF PRESENCE**
Matt. 28:20b
Application: Be apart of the
prayer walk at Zion.



SEPTEMBER



REACHING PEOPLE

COMPASSION AND INCLUSIVITY
LUKE 15:1-31

WEEK 1

THE LOST SHEEP
Luke 15:1-7
Application: Create a "lost and
found" listing to reach out to
those who have drifted away.

WEEK 2

THE LOST COIN
Luke 15:8-10
Application: Partner with our
missions, URM, Hope Gardens,
and Angeles House to invite
the marginalized.

WEEK 3

THE PRODIGAL SON
Luke 15:11-24
Application: We will have a
testimony night to share stories
of God's grace.

WEEK 4

THE ELDER BROTHER
Luke 15:25-32
Application: Facilitate discussions
on inclusivity and embracing
those we may find difficult
to accept.



OCTOBER



BUILDING LIVES

GROWTH AND MATURITY
EPHESIANS 4:1-32

WEEK 1

UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
Eph. 4:1-6
Application: Create small groups
focused on building relationships
across L.A. County.

WEEK 2

DIVERSITY OF GIFTS
Eph. 4:7-13
Application: Conduct a spiritual
gifts assessment and serve
in areas aligned with your gifts.

WEEK 3

GROWING TO MATURITY
Eph. 4:14-16
Application: Launch a mentorship
program for new believers.

WEEK 4

LIVING IN HOLINESS
Eph. 4:17-32
Application: Develop practical
holiness topics and create
accountability groups.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



LOVING LOS ANGELES AND THE WORLD

GENEROSITY AND SERVICE
II CORINTHIANS 8:1-24

WEEK 1

**THE EXAMPLE OF THE
MACEDONIAN CHURCHES**
II Cor. 8:1-5
Application: Launch a "Joyful
Generosity" campaign.

WEEK 2

THE CALL TO GENEROSITY
II Cor. 8:6-9
Application: Create opportunities
to serve with our missions
and F.I.A.

WEEK 3

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND
TRANSPARENCY**
II Cor. 8:10-15
Application: Re-Establish our
Vanguard stewardship team
to oversee projects and report
to Deacon Patrick Shepherd.

WEEK 4

**PRACTICAL STEPS FOR
LOVING OUR CITY**
II Cor. 8:16-24
Application: Join Zion's city-wide
service day or partner with local
churches for greater impact.



CONCLUSION

"Strengthening Your CORE" is not just about personal growth; it's about collectively fortifying Mount Zion as a dynamic, loving, and transformative community. Through sharing Christ, reaching people, building lives, and loving Los Angeles and the world, we will fulfill the mission of Christ and impact our community for His glory.

Let us commit to this journey together.

strengthening both our individual and collective CORE.

GET INVOLVED. MAKE AN IMPACT.



PRAY
BOLDLY



GROW
DEEPLY



SERVE
JOYFULLY



LOVE
GENEROUSLY



Mount Zion MBC
1300 E 50th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011



www.mtzionla.org



September 20, 2026

1300 E. 50th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90011

323-235-2103 | mtzionla.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:00 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

RESPONSIVE READING

PRAYER & PRAYER LIST

PRAISE & WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP IN GIVING

SELECTIONS

SERMON

PASTOR KENNEDY YOUNG, JR.

INVITATION

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN OF THE MONTH

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.



MISSION

Equipping believers to **follow God passionately**, love people **authentically**, serve Los Angeles **generously**, and **share the Gospel** bodily.

				
FOLLOW GOD <i>passionately</i>	LOVE PEOPLE <i>authentically</i>	SERVE LOS ANGELES <i>generously</i>	SHARE THE GOSPEL <i>bodily</i>	
Deepening our relationship with God and living out our faith with purpose.	Building genuine relationships that reflect Christ's love and grace.	Meeting needs and making a positive impact in our community.	Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.	

 **MOUNT ZION**
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Responsive Reading –Luke 15:8-10

- (L) 11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.
- (P) 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
- (L) 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.
- (P) "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- (ALL) 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

PRAYER *List*

LIFTING OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN PRAYER

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16

-  Mother Shirley Nevils went home to be with the Lord this week.
-  *Praying* for the Ashley and Smith Family.
-  *Praying* for Temre Britt and the Britt Family on the loss of her God Mother Valerie Rodgers.
-  *Praying* for healing for Mother Ella Arnold.
-  *Praying* for Sis. Chloe Lee.
-  *Praying* for Sis. Juanita Williams.
-  *Praying* for healing for Deac. Ben Ashley.
-  *Praying* for healing for Sis. Candace Blackshear.
-  *Praying* for healing for Sis. Glenda Moore.
-  *Praying* for healing for Sis Dominique Hutchins.
-  *Praying* for healing for Mother Oretha Yarzieh.
-  *Praying* for Sis Beverly Tryon, Mother Shirley Tyus, Mother Bernestine Mabrie, Bro. Leroy Mabrie, Mother Louise Campbell, Sis. Cookie Britt, Bro. AJ Black, Bro. Michael Stine, Rev. Bobby McGee, Sis. Verleen Harris, Mother Wilma Woodhouse, Rev. Mark Chiles.



*Prayer
Changes
Things*

FAITH
HOPE
LOVE
ALWAYS

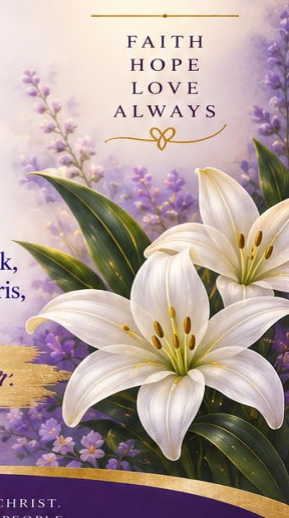
We continue to lift each of you up in prayer.

MAY GOD'S PEACE, HEALING, AND COMFORT
SURROUND YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TODAY AND ALWAYS.



MOUNT ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SHARING CHRIST.
REACHING PEOPLE.
BUILDING LIVES.
LOVING LOS ANGELES AND THE WORLD.



Offertory Statement:

Gracious Father, our provider and sustainer, we present these gifts, a symbol of the work You have given us to do at Mount Zion and abroad. Use it, use us, in the service of Your world, according to Your Word, will, and way to the glory of Your name.

Amen.

MZLA STRENGTHENING YOUR CORE SERMON-SERIES

Luke 15:11-21 × "Turning Points"

Thesis:

To reach a turning point with God, it is essential - to wholeheartedly surrender, accept responsibility for sin, and establish Him as the sole authority and supremacy of your life.

Objective:

When we take one step towards God, He comes running towards you.

Absurd Request vv.11-12

- Appalled _____ 12a
- Divided _____ 12b

Crushed Reality vv.13-16

- went too _____ 13
- spent too _____ 14-15
- stayed too _____ 16

Humbled Return vv.17-20

- _____ home 17
- _____ home 18-19
- _____ home 20a

Elated Reception vv. 20b-24

- Anticipated _____ 20b-21
- Restored _____ 22-23
- Celebrated _____ 24

We Outside Q+ A

Introduction:

Welcome to this weekend's Lifetouch group study. Life is a series of moments, choices, and shifts. Some choices lead us away from our foundation, while others bring us back to the heart of the Father. In this study, based on the sermon "Turning Points," we will walk through the familiar yet profound story of the Prodigal Son. This study is designed to help us reflect on our personal turning points, our need for God's grace, and our responsibility as a community to welcome others' homes.

Point 1: Absurd Request (vv.11-12)

Sermon Points:

- Appalled _____ (v. 12a)
- Divided _____ (v. 12b)

Q+A:

- In the ancient Near Eastern context, asking for an inheritance early was structurally equivalent to saying, "I wish you were dead." How does understanding the severity of this insult shift your perspective on the radical nature of human sin against God our Father?
- How difficult is it to let younger generations make their own mistakes? For the younger generation, how do we honor the wisdom of our elders even when we are eager to establish our own independence?
- In what practical ways do we sometimes treat God like a cosmic vending machine—wanting His blessings, protection, and provision without wanting His daily accountability and fellowship?

Point 2: Crushed Reality (vv.13-16)

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country, and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need..."

Sermon Points:

- Went too _____ (v. 13)
- Spent too _____ (v. 14-15)
- Stayed too _____ (v. 16)

Discussion Questions:

The young Jewish man ended up longing to eat the food of pigs, and animals are considered deeply unclean under Levitical law.

- How does this point to the way sin systematically devalues and degrades the image of God (Imago Dei) within us, reducing us to places we never thought we would go?
- In our community's history, we have seen loved ones drift into "distant countries"—whether through addiction, toxic environments, or emotional isolation. How can we, as an intergenerational church family, create a culture of transparency where people feel safe sharing their "crushed realities" rather than hiding them out of shame?
- The scripture notes that "no one gave him anything" (v. 16). When have you experienced a moment where the worldly things or worldly relationships you relied on completely failed you?
- What did that moment teach you about where your true security lies?

Point 3: Humbled Return (vv.17-20a)

Sermon Points:

- _____ home (v. 17)
- _____ home (vv. 18-19)
- _____ home (v. 20a)

Q+A:

- Verse 17 says, "When he came to his senses..." True repentance (metanoia) involves a radical shift in how we think about God and ourselves. How does the son's rehearsed speech reveal a shift from pride to humility, and why is confession to both God ("against heaven") and community ("against you") vital for true healing?
- How does the legacy and atmosphere of Mount Zion serve as a spiritual beacon for our youth who may wander?
- How can we make sure Zion's culture always looks like a place worth returning to?
- What is a specific, practical step you need to take this week to "return home" in an area of your life where you have drifted from God (e.g., your prayer life, your finances, your thought life)?

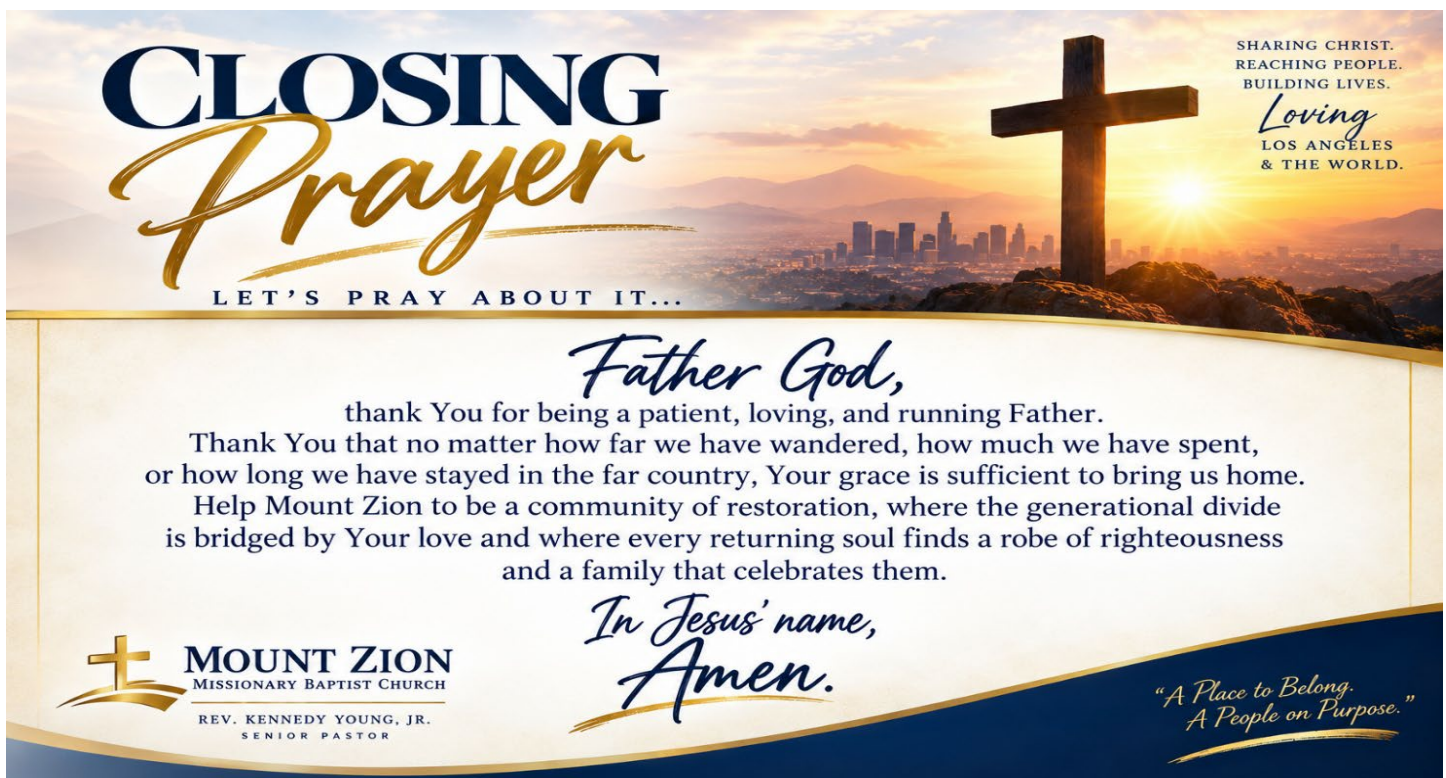
Point 4: Elated Reception (vv.20b-24)

Sermon Points:

- Anticipated _____ (vv. 20b-21)
- Restored _____ (vv. 22-23)
- Celebrated _____ (v. 24)

Q+A:

- What does the father's undignified run teach us about Jesus bearing our shame to secure our restoration?
- When people walk through the doors of Mount Zion looking for a fresh start, do we treat them like "hired servants" who must earn our trust, or do we embrace them immediately with the radical hospitality of the Father?
- Verse 24 ends with, "And they began to celebrate." Joy is a spiritual discipline. How can we as individuals and as a collective church family do a better job of intentionally celebrating the spiritual victories, testimonies, and turnarounds of the people sitting right next to us in the pews?



CLOSING
Prayer

LET'S PRAY ABOUT IT...

SHARING CHRIST.
REACHING PEOPLE.
BUILDING LIVES.
Loving
LOS ANGELES
& THE WORLD.

Father God,
thank You for being a patient, loving, and running Father.
Thank You that no matter how far we have wandered, how much we have spent,
or how long we have stayed in the far country, Your grace is sufficient to bring us home.
Help Mount Zion to be a community of restoration, where the generational divide
is bridged by Your love and where every returning soul finds a robe of righteousness
and a family that celebrates them.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

 **MOUNT ZION**
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. KENNEDY YOUNG, JR.
SENIOR PASTOR

*"A Place to Belong.
A People on Purpose."*

MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS

12:00 PM In Person & Online	7:00 PM Online Only
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Grab your lesson and prepare for Bible Study.
Come ready to learn, grow, and be encouraged!



JOIN US ON ZOOM
Meeting ID: 828 3310 4481
Passcode: 654944

Rev. Kennedy Young Jr.
Senior Pastor

MOUNT ZION MBC
Pastor Kennedy Young, Jr., Senior Pastor

HOPE GARDENS WATER DRIVE

GOAL: 100 CASES



We are asking all members to donate a case of water for Hope Gardens Mission.

Cases will be collected through **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

If you would like to donate toward the purchase of water, please write "WATER DRIVE" in the memo of your offering.

*Sharing Christ. Reaching People. Building Lives.
Loving Los Angeles and the World.*



LOADED NACHOS FUNDRAISER!

NACHOS & DRINK COMBO - **JUST \$10!**



JOIN US AFTER MORNING WORSHIP |
Sunday, September 20th

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH PROGRAMS.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
SHARING CHRIST • REACHING PEOPLE
BUILDING LIVES • LOVING LOS ANGELES & THE WORLD

LOCAL HEART. GLOBAL IMPACT.

GO. SERVE. SHARE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

MISSIONS MINISTRY Meeting

FAITH IN ACTION
SERVING HERE. REACHING THERE.

PEOPLE. PURPOSE. SERVICE. IMPACT.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th **12:00 PM** **CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM**

All are Welcome!

"And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'"
Mark 16:15 (ESV)

Rev. Kennedy Young, Jr. Senior Pastor | Sis. Veronica Etuk Team Leader

PRAY • SUPPORT • SERVE • GIVE • GO

MOUNT ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
SHARING CHRIST | REACHING PEOPLE | BUILDING LIVES
LOVING LOS ANGELES & THE WORLD

MINISTERS & DEACON'S Meet WITH THE PASTOR

PRAYER | DISCUSSION | ALIGNMENT | KINGDOM SERVICE

 **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH**

 **MINISTERS 10:00 AM** |  **DEACON'S 11:30 AM**

 **PLEASE BE ON TIME**

 **MEET IN THE PASTOR'S LIBRARY**

*Together in Ministry.
Stronger for His Purpose.*

*"For where two or three gather in My name,
there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 (NKJV)*

Rev. Kennedy Young, Jr.
SENIOR PASTOR

MOUNT ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Sharing Christ. Reaching People. Building Lives.
Loving Los Angeles & the World.

PEOPLE
OF SERVICE
A CHURCH
THAT CARES

MONTHLY USHER MEETING

SERVING WITH EXCELLENCE
1 CORINTHIANS 14:40 (ESV)
"Let all things be done decently and in order."

 **SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26TH
12:30 PM**

 **Mount Zion Church**

 **Now is a great time to join
the Usher Board Ministry!**

Rev. Kennedy Young, Jr.
Senior Pastor

Deac. David Thompson
Team Leader

SERVE | WELCOME | SUPPORT | MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TOGETHER
IN PURPOSE,
FOR HIS GLORY

Happy ANNIVERSARY

PASTOR YOUNG AND FIRST LADY RAYNA!

May you be blessed with many more.

SHARING CHRIST.
REACHING PEOPLE.
BUILDING LIVES.
LOVING LOS ANGELES
& THE WORLD.

LOVE,
YOUR MOUNT ZION CHURCH FAMILY

A Message from
The Mount Zion Black History Committee

EDUCATE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER • BUILD A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Get Out to
VOTE

PEOPLE ★ POLICIES ★ PROGRESS

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.
YOUR VOTE COUNTS.
OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES.



**VOTE TODAY
FOR A STRONGER
TOMORROW**

**What are the
consequences of
NOT voting?**

We want to hear
from you! Share your
thoughts, insights, and
concerns.

BE INFORMED ★ BE ENGAGED ★ BE THE CHANGE



Together We Build a Stronger Community.

Rev. Kennedy Young, Jr.

SENIOR PASTOR

MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH | LOS ANGELES, CA

SHARING CHRIST.
REACHING PEOPLE.
BUILDING LIVES.
LOVING LOS ANGELES
& THE WORLD.

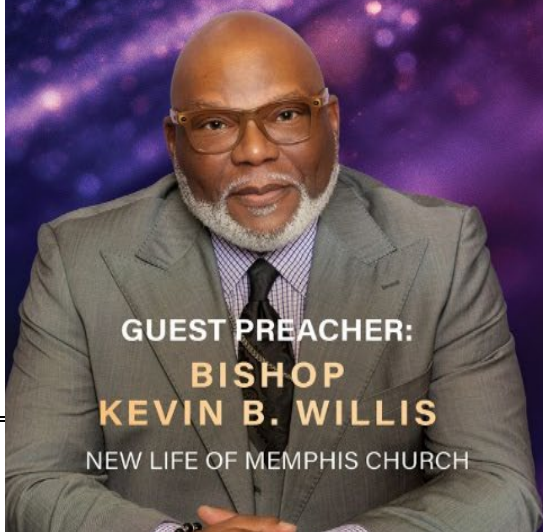
Pastor
KENNEDY
YOUNG, JR.



1st YEAR ANNIVERSARY

MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

OCT 11
10:00 AM *Sunday* **2026**



GUEST PREACHER:
BISHOP
KEVIN B. WILLIS
NEW LIFE OF MEMPHIS CHURCH



"He was faithful to the
one who appointed him,
just as Moses was faithful
in all God's house..."
Hebrews 3:2 NIV

MTZIONLA.ORG