

## Open Air Message- “Death”

By Kerrigan Skelly



- Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please!
- I would like to speak to you about something very important
- And I would just ask you to stop what you are doing for just a second and listen to what I have to say
- There are thousands of men and women throughout the history of our country that have died so I can do what I am doing right now
- So I can exercise my right to the freedom of speech
- In fact, there are many right now who are fighting all around the world, not only to protect our right to the freedom speech, but to also give others that right
- So, at least out of respect for their sacrifice take a listen to what I have to say today
- I want to speak to you about something that none of us like to talk about
- It is something that is very uncomfortable to even thinking about
- And that is DEATH
- Most of us don't think about it until we have a close encounter with it ourselves
- Maybe we got in a car accident or had some other personal brush with death
- Or maybe we know someone who has a terminal disease or someone who has even died recently
- Maybe we have even been to a funeral recently
- And when those things happen, they make us think about DEATH, something that is very scary for most of us to think about
- And one of the main reasons that most don't like to think about DEATH is because they have no idea what is on the other side
- Is it reincarnation?
- Is it nothing?
- Is it some white light?
- Is it Heaven?
- Is it Hell?
- Is it just being eaten up by worms in the ground?
- Most people really have no idea what awaits them on the other side of death!
- Yet it is probably the most important thing to be sure about this side of death!
- A man once said, “If you were to look at a tombstone, this life is just but a ‘Dash’ between two dates on a tombstone”
- Friends, this life is fleeting
- It is but a breath in our nostrils when put in comparison to eternity
- It is just the snap of a finger
- It is just a blink of the eye
- In fact, if you were to stretch out a 3,000 mile tape measure from Los Angeles to New York
- And that tape measure represented this life on Earth and all of Eternity put together...
- Life on earth would only be the first half an inch on that tape measure
- With the rest of that 3,000 mile tape measure representing Eternity
- That is what it is like when you compare life on Earth to Eternity

- So it is VERY IMPORTANT to know where you are going to go when you die
- Well, the Bible says that you go to one of two places
- You either go to Heaven or Hell
- And the Bible also teaches that you can know which place you will go before you die
- So, you don't have to be confused about it
- You can know what will happen after you die without any shadow of a doubt
- I'd be willing to bet that each person here wakes up every morning and looks in the mirror
- You do so to see how you look, how you got messed up in the night
- To see if you need to fix your hair and your makeup
- To see if you need to shave and brush your teeth
- And I hope everyone within the sound of my voice brushed their teeth this morning
- Well the Bible has a sort of a mirror that you can look into to see if you are "Good Enough" to go to Heaven or not
- The Biblical mirror is the Ten Commandments
- So let's take a look and see if we are "Good Enough" to get to Heaven or not
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment says, "Thou shall not lie"
- Have you ever lied, even once?
- You may say, "Well, I have stretched the truth, told a fib or a white lie or two"
- Come on friends, let's be serious...a lie is a lie isn't?
- Let's not try to justify our actions
- Let's be truthful
- Let's be honest liars
- If you can say with all seriousness that you have never lied before, then that is at least your second lie
- If you can say with all seriousness that you have never lied before, then you TRULY ARE a LIAR
- I know that I have lied many times before
- So, if you have lied, what would that make you?
- It would make you a liar
- One lie makes you a liar
- One murder makes you a murderer
- One rape makes you a rapist
- So, you'd be a liar if you have broken the 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment says, "Thou shall not steal"
- Have you ever stolen something before?
- You may say, "Well, I have borrowed without returning" or "Maybe something small a long time ago"
- Friends, it doesn't matter how long ago it was or what the value of the item was, if you have taken ANYTHING that doesn't belong to you, then you have stolen
- I don't know about you, but I have stolen many times in the past
- If you have stolen before, that would make you a thief
- This next commandment is the one that really got me, so listen up, especially men
- The 7<sup>th</sup> commandment says, "Thou shall not commit adultery," but Jesus took it a little further and said that if you look at someone with lust in your heart for them, then you have ALREAY committed adultery in your heart with that person

- Have you ever looked at someone with lust before?
- Have you ever had sex outside of marriage?
- Have you ever looked at pornography or watched a movie that had nudity in it?
- If you have then you have committed adultery in your heart with that person
- You may say, "But I'm not married"
- It doesn't matter friends, because God sees not just your words and actions, but also your thoughts
- So you will be judged by those as well
- If you have looked at someone with lust in your heart, then that would make you an adulterer at heart
- **(You Can Continue On With More of the Law or Just Go to the Next Step)**
- How are you doing so far?
- Did you break all three?
- I know that I have broken all three
- If you have broken just those three of the Ten Commandments, that would make you a liar, a thief and an adulterer at heart
- And let's not be too easy on ourselves
- We haven't just broken each of those a couple of times each
- Most of us can say that we have failed those three horribly
- Think about it like this...if you sinned just once a day over a period of 20 years, just once a day...that would mean that you had sinned 7,000 times over a period of 20 years
- That's a lot of sins!
- Over 40 years, that would be 14,000 sins
- Over 60 years, and most live to see 60 years old, that would be 21,000 sins
- So do you see the enormity of your sin friend?
- What would happen if you had broken the law of the land that many times in that period of time?
- 7,000 crimes over 20 years!?
- You'd be in BIG TROUBLE!
- You would either be thrown in jail with multiple life sentences or you would get the death penalty!
- Your fine would be so high that all of the money in the world wouldn't be enough to set you free!
- So do you see the trouble you are in?
- God is a Holy and Just God
- And the Bible says that he will not let sin go unpunished
- In fact the Bible says that God hates sin
- Not only that, but the Bible says that sinners are enemies of God through wicked works and evil thoughts
- God WILL punish Sin and He WILL punish Sinners
- Think about it like this:
- It is kind of like a judge here on Earth
- If a criminal stands before an Earthly judge, he must punish him for his crimes
- If a judge let a criminal go free, he would be a corrupt judge
- What would you think of a judge who let someone go who had raped and killed your mother or sister?

- You would think he was wicked and unjust
- A good and just judge will punish criminals for their crimes...it is as simple as that
- Their job is to uphold the Law and administer Justice
- And God, being infinitely more Good and Just than any Earthly judge, must punish those who break His Law
- On top of that, the Bible makes it very clear that no adulterer, no thief and no liar shall enter into the Kingdom of God, into Heaven
- But that all such lawbreakers will have their part in the lake of fire
- They shall be cast into Hell
- That makes sense doesn't it?
- I mean we are criminals
- We chose out of our own free will to break God's Law and therefore deserve to be punished for our sins
- So the Bad News is that if God gave each one of us Justice, we will be damned to Hell forever
- And He has EVERY RIGHT to do so
- Here's the Good News though: Not only is God Holy and Good and Just
- But He is also full of Mercy, Love and Grace
- And it is because of His Mercy, Love and Grace that He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for us
- Jesus came into this world, born of a woman, and walked a sinless life all the days that He was on Earth
- And then He willingly offered His life up for us on the Cross as a sacrifice for our sins
- He who had no sin became sin for us
- It is kind of like this: you broke the law, Jesus paid your fine
- If you were in a court room it would be like someone stepping in to pay your fine when you couldn't pay it yourself
- And that is exactly what our detriment is
- There is nothing that we can do to make us right before God
- No matter how many good deeds we do, they will not wipe out our crimes against a Holy and Just God
- If someone murdered once and then did good deeds all the rest of his days, he still has to be punished for murderer
- Likewise, we must be punished for our sins
- The only thing that can save us from our sins is someone stepping in to pay our fine that we can't pay and take the penalty for our sins
- And that is what Jesus did 2,000 years ago
- In Love, He stepped in for us
- And in doing so, God's Justice and Goodness and Holiness and Wrath is satisfied
- The Wrath of God fell upon Him so it wouldn't have to fall upon You
- So the big question is what will you do with this truth?
- Will you say to the one who offered His life up to you, "Thank YOU!" and then live your life for Him?
- Or will you reject His offer of Grace and Mercy and Love and continue to live the way you want to live?
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- If you are one of the ones that is humble
- If you are one who wants the Grace God offers, then this is what you must do:
- You must Repent of your sins and turn in Faith to Jesus Christ
- Repent means that you must Turn from your Sin
- It means to have a change of mind resulting in a change of life
- In its most literal sense, Repent means to think the same about your sin that God does
- You must HATE IT
- And if you have ever hated something before, you want NOTHING to do with it
- God will only pardon criminals who are willing to turn from their crimes and live a life of obedience to Him
- And when I say put your Faith in Jesus Christ, I am not talking about “asking Him into your heart” or just mentally agreeing that He lived, etc.
- I am talking about putting your Faith IN HIM
- It is kind of like jumping out of a plane
- I can give you a parachute and you can believe it exists and believe that it will save you from going “Splat!” when you hit the ground
- But, it is only those who put on the parachute who won’t go “Splat!”
- And if you will Repent of your sins and put your Faith in Jesus Christ, He WILL Save you!
- He will remove your sins as the East is from the West
- He will forgive you and make you Born Again
- He will give you a New Heart and New Desires...Desires to Obey Him and Follow Him
- If you won’t Repent and put your Faith in Jesus Christ though...
- He WILL send you to Hell
- But the thing is that God did not even create Hell for you
- He created it for the Devil and his angels
- God desires for all to be saved and for none to perish into the flames of Hell
- What will you do?
- You really are only left with two options from this very clear message
- You can reject the truth, reject the one who died for you on the cross, continue in your sins and live your life the way you want to...
- And in the end go to Hell
- Or you can accept His gift of Grace through repenting of your sins and putting your faith in Jesus Christ, living the rest of your life for Him...
- And in the end go to Heaven
- If you choose to stay in your sins and go to Hell in the end, then you are saying two things:
- First, that you love your sins more than your own life
- And second, that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you means nothing
- But, what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet loses his own soul?
- Most here wouldn't sell their eyes for all the money in the world because they love to see the world through them
- Yet your eyes are just the windows to your soul
- They are the windows that your soul, your life looks through to see the world
- Why then are you willing to sell your entire soul for a little bit sin, a little bit of pleasure that will last for only a season?

- If Jesus' sacrifice on the cross means nothing to you, then you are literally spitting in the face of the Son of God
- Does that really sit well with you?
- Do you really want to spurn His Love in such a way?
- I know that I don't
- I want to live a life of gratitude for what He did for me on the Cross
- I want to show Him my love for Him, because of the love He first showed me!
- If you do choose to repent of your sins and put your faith in Jesus Christ, know this: It is NOT easy to be a Christian in this world full of evil and sin
- You must be willing to live a life that is filled with temptation to do things you don't want to do, a life of selflessness and life of obedience to God and His Word
- You must be willing to live a life of dying to self, taking up your cross and following Jesus
- So you have a choice to make today
- And I do mean TODAY!
- For today is the day of salvation!
- You may not have tomorrow my friends!
- Not one of us is guaranteed our next breath, let alone our next day
- Please consider what I have said today!
- If anyone has any questions, I will be hanging around for a little while to answer them