

He Takes Away to Establish: Trusting God Through Loss, Delay, and Change, Pastor John Kilpatrick

HE TAKES AWAY TO ESTABLISH

TRUSTING GOD THROUGH LOSS, DELAY, AND CHANGE

All right. Today I want to bring a message that I hope will encourage you. There are so many things happening in people's lives. So much going on in the world. But we must never lose sight of who we are—and more importantly—of the God we serve.

If you're not careful, it's easy to take your eyes off the Lord. Just like Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves—it's an easy thing to do. I could have done it myself. In fact, I probably would have—and so would you. Distractions are powerful.

But I want to talk to you today about the subject: "**He Takes Away to Establish.**" That's the title of today's message.

Let's read from Hebrews 10:9 (KJV):

"Then said He, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second."

Look at those words again: **He takes away that He may establish.**

There may be times when God pulls something out of your life—or out of your family—and when He replaces it, it may not be bigger... but it will be **better**. How many of you understand that if the Lord ever takes something from you, He's not trying to punish you—He's trying to **bless** you?

That's what I want to encourage you with today.

You may be seated.

The Spirit of Delay

Today I want to talk about the **spirit of delay**.

God's people have been under a strong spirit of delay for quite some time. Many have been languishing, waiting. Things they've prayed about seem clogged up—stuck in the pipeline. You've waited and waited, and nothing has moved. Many things feel **detained, held back** by opposing forces.

Now, in the **Hebrew calendar**, there's a month called **Tammuz**. And during this month, the Jewish people remember two key failures—two times they didn't trust God.

The first happened when **Moses went up Mount Sinai**. God called him up to receive the Ten Commandments. Israel waited for him to return, but he took longer than expected. They grew impatient. They gave up. And they didn't just give up waiting—they took matters into their own hands. They **didn't trust God**, and they **didn't trust their leader**.

They said, "This Moses fellow isn't coming back," and so they created a **golden calf**. They even got **Aaron the high priest** to go along with it. And when they finished crafting it, they presented the golden calf and said to Israel, "This is the god who brought you out of Egypt!"

They **replaced God** with an idol.

To this day, the Jews use the month of **Tammuz** as a time to **repent** for those failures.

The second failure happened right before they were to enter the **Promised Land**. God had already told them:

“It’s a good land. It’s flowing with milk and honey. It’s rich with pomegranates, agriculture, minerals—precious jewels. I’ve secured it for you.”

But right before they stepped in, they stopped trusting God’s **word** and **sent out spies**. They wanted a **human report** instead of trusting what came from the mouth of God.

And because of the **negative report** those spies brought back, Israel ended up **delayed**—not for days or weeks—but for **40 years**.

God said, “For every day you doubted Me, you’ll spend a year in the wilderness.” So they wandered in circles for 40 years—delayed by fear and unbelief.

That’s what the month of Tammuz represents: **times when God’s people refused to wait on Him and trust His wisdom**.

God Begins in the Evening

Now let me talk to you about something very important.

God’s days always start in the evening.

The Bible doesn’t say “the morning and the evening were the first day.” It says:

“The evening and the morning were the first day.” (Genesis 1:5)

Evening comes first. Why? Because that’s how God works. He begins when it’s **difficult to see clearly**, when things feel uncertain—when it’s getting dark.

“And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day...” (Genesis 1:5)

“The evening and the morning were the second day...” (Genesis 1:8)

“The evening and the morning were the third day...” (Genesis 1:13)

God’s creative process **starts in the evening**—when things are getting harder to recognize. It goes through the night, and only **in the morning** do you begin to see **what God has been up to**.

That’s how He works. That’s His **divine pattern**.

The Process of Change

Think about it. Before we're born, we're safely nestled in our **mother's womb**. It's secure, it's familiar, it's comfortable. But after nine months, God says, "It's time." And He pulls us out of that place.

The womb has done its job. Now it's time for you to come into the **light of day**, to see the opportunities I've prepared for you, and for the world to see what I've been forming in secret.

And that's just **one** of many transitions where we must trust God's wisdom. We must **embrace the change**.

The Scripture in Hebrews says:

"He takes away the first, that He may establish the second."

He removes the **temporary**, that He might establish the **permanent**.

He removes what we've grown used to, in order to give us something **better**.

And if God ever takes something from you, He is **not penalizing** you—He's preparing you for something **greater**. But you have to trust Him until that "greater" manifests.

A Bad Report Precedes a Miracle

Most of the time, before there's a **miracle**, there's a **bad report**.

You don't usually get a miracle unless something first goes wrong.

You don't see the supernatural unless there's a **need**—a **crisis**—that demands it. That's how God sets the stage.

Something shows up on the **X-ray**, or in the **blood work**, or on the **MRI**, and it's troubling. But right behind it, **God shows up** with a miraculous report.

So I want to say to you: **don't fear the bad report—because it usually means the best is coming**.

There's no **testimony** without a **test**.

There's no **breakthrough** unless there's first been some kind of **crisis**.

Now, a crisis usually doesn't last forever—but it can last for **days**, **weeks**, maybe even **months** or **years**. But here's the key: a crisis is often just the **prelude to a breakthrough**.

That's God's pattern. It always has been.

Joseph: A Picture of the Process

Let's look at **Joseph** for a minute.

Joseph had a **great dream**. He had a **coat of many colors**—a symbol of favor. It was evident to everyone that he was special. He was upright, outstanding, even handsome.

And then—**bam**—the lights went out.

He was **betrayed** by his own brothers.

He was **sold** into slavery.

He was **lied about** by Potiphar's wife.

He was thrown into **prison**, where he stayed for **years**.

But then—**bam**—the lights came back on.

And suddenly, he was elevated—put right under Pharaoh—and given authority over all of Egypt.

God **took away the first** (his family, his freedom, his position), **that He might establish the second** (his destiny, influence, and fulfillment of the dream).

I need to tell you something you may not want to hear—but it's the truth: **bad things are going to happen**. Undesirable things will happen. But **that is not the end of the story**.

Hang on to God. Keep your hand in His hand. He's going to turn this thing for good in Jesus' name.

Can you say **Amen**?

In the next portion, Pastor Kilpatrick continues this theme with practical encouragement, discussing how God takes things from *bad to best*, and how we often resist the new by clinging to the old. Ready for me to continue with that section?

From Bad to Best

When God takes something away, He doesn't always promise that what's coming will be *bigger*—but He always promises it will be **better**.

That's His specialty. **He takes things from bad to best.**

Now, let me say this kindly but clearly: if you don't have the **stomach** for the bad, you probably won't experience the **joy** of the best.

So when something bad happens, take some *Pepto-Bismol*—because it's not going to be long before God comes through and sets your feet on higher ground.

And here's what I really want to tell you:

Stop pining over what's been taken away.

Stop it.

Start rejoicing that **God has something better**—something that's about to knock on your door. You may not hear the knock yet, but it's coming.

Jesus Went Away... to Give Us Better

Jesus Himself said:

"It is better for you that I go away." (John 16:7)

He told the disciples, "If I go not away, the Comforter cannot come. But if I go, I will send Him to you."

Now think about it—Jesus was physically present on the earth. People say, "Oh, Brother Kilpatrick, I wish I could've lived when Jesus was on earth."

Sure. But **most people never got close to Him**. There were always *thousands* of people surrounding Him. Only a **select few** got to hear Him up close.

But when Jesus **went away**, the **Holy Spirit came**—and now He's available to *everyone, everywhere*.

Jesus was present, but He was not **omnipresent**. The Holy Spirit **is**. So Jesus going away wasn't a loss. It was a **transition into something better**.

The Holy Spirit came to **seek and save the lost**, to **convict**, to **heal**, to **comfort**, and to **empower**. And if you've been saved, it's because the Holy Spirit found you.

A Better Covenant

Now look at this: here's the **Old Covenant**. So much revelation. So much history. But Jesus said:

"I have come to fulfill it."

"I'm not leaving you without a covenant. I'm giving you a **better** covenant."

Hebrews 8:6 says:

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”

Not a **bigger** covenant—a **better** one.

Not more **pages**—more **power**.

Not just **rules on paper**—but **laws written on your heart**.

“I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.” (Hebrews 8:10)

In the Old Covenant, people didn’t have the Holy Spirit living inside them. But under the New Covenant, God says:

“They will all know Me—from the least to the greatest.”

“I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and I will remember their sins no more.”

That’s what **Jesus established** when He took away the first.

You Can’t Mix the Old and the New

Jesus said something powerful—something people had **never heard before**. He taught in a way no one had ever taught.

He gave a parable:

“No man puts a piece of new cloth on an old garment.

If he does, the new will tear, and the patch won’t match the old.” (Luke 5:36)

In other words, if you try to **mix the new with the old**, it will tear everything up. It won’t hold together.

Then He said this:

“No man puts new wine into old wineskins.

If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined.

But new wine must be put into **new wineskins**, and both are preserved.” (Luke 5:37–38)

But then He added something many miss:

“No man, having drunk old wine, immediately desires the new. For he says, *The old is better.*” (Luke 5:39)

And **that's where so many people live.**

We have the **new**, but we still prefer the **old**.

We talk about the old days, the old way, the old place—forgetting what God is doing **now**.

We want God to do something **new**, but we won't let go of the **old**.

God brings us into a new season...

He brings us into a new opportunity...

He gives us a better job, a better church, a better family...

And all we do is **talk about the pain of the past**.

Still Talking About the Old

I've had women tell me their stories—what they went through in surgeries, in hospitals, how scared they were. And I understand. I've prayed with them, I've visited them. They'll say:

“Brother Kilpatrick, I'll never forget when they wheeled me down that hallway.

The lights passing overhead, the sound of the gurney wheels...

I didn't know if I was going to make it!”

And I ask them, “But how are you now?”

“Oh, I'm doing great!”

Then **why** are you still rehearsing the old trauma instead of **rejoicing in the healing**?

You see, sometimes the **old pain** is so embedded in our spirit that we have **no room** for the new joy.

God has brought us into the new. He's been faithful. He's done what He said He'd do.

So why are we still **stuck in the past**?

I've seen people go through divorces—terrible ones—and then God gives them a new spouse, a beautiful family, and a fresh start. But all they want to talk about is how bad the old was.

Let me say this: **Tammuz**—this month we're in—is a time to say:

“We missed God before, but we're not going to miss Him now.

We failed to trust Him once, but we're going to trust Him today.”

When the Brook Dries Up

Let me tell you what the Holy Spirit said to me:

“Tell My people to be careful what they say before Me.

Tell them to speak only those things that bring **glory to My name**, not what glorifies the devil.”

We’re coming to the end of a season.

The end of a month.

The end of a year.

The end of a chapter.

That’s how God moves. He cycles us out of one thing and into something else.

But here’s the truth:

Many times, **God’s will for your life exceeds your desire to move into it.**

Let me say that again—because it’s critical:

God’s will for you is bigger than your willingness to step into it.

If left up to us, we’d stay in the same place, do the same thing, and miss what God has planned.

Let’s look at **Elijah**.

In 1 Kings 17, Elijah delivered a word of judgment. Then God told him:

“Go hide yourself by the brook Cherith.

I’ve commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

And they did. Ravens brought him **bread and meat** in the morning and in the evening. He drank from the brook.

It was miraculous provision—supernatural, daily, faithful.

But then...

“The brook dried up.”

Why?

Because **God’s will had shifted**, and Elijah was still comfortable at Cherith.

He liked the familiar rhythm. He liked the meals. He liked the sound of the brook. But the brook dried up.

And that's how **God moves us**.

We usually don't come into alignment with His next will until something **dries up**.

So God told Elijah:

"Arise, go to Zarephath. I have commanded a widow there to sustain you." (1 Kings 17:9)

God May Use Unlikely People

Now listen to this: God didn't send Elijah to a rich man.

He didn't send him to a palace.

He sent him to a **poor widow**.

And just like He used **unclean ravens**, He used a **gentile woman with nothing but a handful of meal and a little oil**.

Don't be surprised if **God chooses someone unexpected** to bless you.

He may use a person you'd never expect—a sinner, someone from your past, someone outside your comfort zone.

Why? Because **God's ways are not your ways**.

If something in your life is **drying up**, don't panic. It could be a sign that **God is transitioning you into something new**—something better.

Worry vs. Trust

Before I close, I want to talk to you for a few minutes about **worry**. I felt strongly that the Holy Spirit wanted me to share this today.

There are many Christians who **love God**, but they **talk like atheists**.

Let me give you a few truths about worry—write these down if you can:

1. Worry is always about the future.

Worry is not about what's happening now. It's about what *might* happen.

It's a **distorted mindset**—a belief that if we obsess enough, think hard enough, or stress long enough, we can stop something bad from happening.

But you can't.

Worry is **not the same as guilt**. Guilt is trying to reshape your past. Worry is trying to control your future.

And you can't do either. Only **Jesus Christ** can deal with your past, and only **faith in Him** can secure your future.

2. Worry strangles faith.

Worry **chokes out** the creative, hopeful, faith-filled flow of God in your life.

Faith says, "God is going to come through. He's with me. Change is coming."

Worry says, "I can't see how. I can't see when. I don't think it will happen."

You can't have **powerful faith** and **crippling worry** at the same time.

One will cancel the other. You must choose which one will win.

3. Concern is different from worry.

Concern is **reasonable**. It focuses on what's **controllable** and motivates you to make wise decisions.

Concern says, "God, help me act wisely. Show me what to do."

Worry says, "There's no way out. I'm stuck. I'm doomed."

Concern gets up and does something.

Worry sits down, paralyzed.

4. Worry is an attempt to be God.

When you worry, you leave the present moment and become a **spirit** that tries to travel into the future—to control things you were never meant to control.

Worry says, "I'll shape this outcome."

Faith says, "God is already in my tomorrow."

Remember what God told Israel about the Promised Land? He said, "It's good. I've prepared it. It's flowing with milk and honey."

But they didn't believe Him. They sent **spies**.

They wanted a **human report** instead of trusting the voice of God.

That **hurt God**. And it **delayed their destiny**.

5. Worry magnifies the wrong thing.

Worry takes a **50-cent problem** and turns it into a **\$5 billion crisis**.

You get a pain under your rib, and suddenly you're thinking:

"It's a tumor. It's cancer. I'm going to die."

But it's probably just gas. (Yes, I said it!)

But when **worry grabs hold**, you've already imagined your funeral.

You've pictured the casket, the flowers, the eulogy.

Stop it!

Don't **feed your fear**.

Don't hand it bread like those ducks I fed at Lake Parker.

Starve it.

6. What you talk about grows.

The more you talk about the problem, the **bigger it gets**.

You keep rehearsing it, rehashing it, sharing it with everyone—and it grows.

But if you stop feeding it, it'll shrink.

What Worry Reveals

Here's what I want you to understand:

Whatever you worry about the most is often what you've made your god.

Worry **reveals where your trust is**.

Remember when Israel made the **golden calf**? They said, "This is the god that brought us out of Egypt." They made it **absolute**. They replaced trust in God with trust in something they could **see and control**.

Some people say:

"What if I lose my job?"

Well, maybe your **job** has become too important—more important than **trusting God** as your Provider.

“What if I lose my investments?”

Then maybe your **security** is in money, not in the God who supplies all your needs.

Paul said:

“My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.” (Philippians 4:19)

How Much Is Enough?

Let me ask you:

- **How good of a job would you need** to feel completely secure?
- **How much money would it take** for you to stop worrying?

Five million dollars? Ten million?

Even then, you’d still worry:

“What if the economy collapses?”

“What if the banks fail?”

“What if I lose it all?”

And what if you did?

You’d still have God.

And the same God who gave it to you once can give it again.

What About Health?

What would it take for you to stop worrying about your **health**?

A perfect doctor’s report?

Flawless blood work? A clean scan?

Even then, some people say:

“Well, I’m fine today... but what if something happens tomorrow?”

You see, **worry is relentless.**

It won’t let up until you **bring it under the blood of Jesus.**

When you worry, you talk like an atheist.

You act like you're on your own.

You leave God completely out of the equation.

You sound like there is **no Provider**, no Helper, no Deliverer.

Abraham: From Worry to Worship

Let's go back to **Abraham**, the father of our faith.

God said:

"I'm going to make you the father of many nations."

But when Abraham went into Egypt, he **feared for his life**.

He told Sarah, "Say you're my sister, or they'll kill me and take you."

Wait a minute, Abraham!

Didn't God already promise that you would father nations?

But Abraham **worried** and acted out of fear.

He told the same lie **twice**—once in Egypt and once to Abimelech. Both times, it nearly brought disaster.

But later—**he changed**.

When God told him to take Isaac, his only son, and offer him on Mount Moriah, Abraham rose early and obeyed.

And this time, he said:

"The lad and I will go yonder and worship... and **we will come back to you**." (Genesis 22:5)

That's **faith**.

When Isaac asked, "Where's the lamb?" Abraham replied:

"My son, God will provide." (Genesis 22:8)

He bound Isaac, raised the knife—and **still believed** that God would provide.

And God **did**.

A ram was caught in the thicket.

Abraham named that place **Jehovah Jireh**:

"The Lord will provide."

Final Word: God Will Provide

So here's what the Holy Spirit told me to tell you today:

"The things you're worried about are useless. Stop worrying. I will provide."

You may be standing in the middle of **loss**, **delay**, or **uncertainty**.

But the Lord is saying, **He takes away to establish**.

You're not being punished.

You're being **positioned**.

A Call to Respond

If God has spoken to you today—if you needed to hear this word—stand where you are.

Let's make this declaration:

"My God shall supply all of my need according to His riches in glory." (Philippians 4:19)

I stand before you today—**healed**, **provided for**, and **sustained**—because God is faithful.
And **He will be faithful to you**, too.

Message Title: He Takes Away to Establish

Speaker: Pastor John Kilpatrick

Key Scripture: Hebrews 10:9 (KJV)

"He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second."

SECTION OUTLINE:

1. Encouragement in a Distracting World

- Keep your eyes on Jesus, not the wind and waves.
- Distractions can cause you to lose sight of God.

2. The Spirit of Delay (Month of Tammuz)

- Israel's failures to wait on God at Mount Sinai and at the border of the Promised Land.

- Delay exposed their unbelief and caused decades of setback.

3. God Starts in the Evening

- Biblical days begin at evening: “And the evening and the morning were the first day.”
- God often starts His work in darkness, confusion, or discomfort—before the light breaks through.

4. He Takes Away to Establish

- God removes what is temporary to establish what is permanent.
- He’s not punishing—you’re being positioned for something better.

5. A Bad Report Often Precedes a Miracle

- Crises often set the stage for supernatural breakthroughs.
- Example: Joseph’s journey from betrayal to rulership.

6. Let Go of the Old to Embrace the New

- Parables of new wine and old wineskins.
- People prefer “the old” and resist the new, even when it’s better.
- Don’t live in the pain of the past when God has brought you into the blessing of today.

7. When the Brook Dries Up

- Elijah at Cherith: God’s provision shifted when the brook dried up.
- Obedience meant moving to Zarephath, where provision was waiting.

8. Worry Versus Trust

- Worry is about the future and strangles faith.
- Concern is wise; worry is paralyzing.
- Worry tries to play God by attempting to control outcomes.
- Starve fear—don’t feed it.

9. What Worry Reveals

- NOTES -

- You're likely worrying about what you've made your source (job, money, health).
- Your worries reveal your misplaced trust.
- Let go of idols. Trust God alone.

10. Abraham: From Worry to Worship

- Abraham lied twice out of fear, but later trusted God fully on Mount Moriah.
- Declared, "We will come back"—faith in God's provision.
- Jehovah Jireh: The Lord Will Provide.

11. Final Word and Call to Action

- God says, "Stop worrying. I will provide."
 - Stand in faith. God is positioning you, not punishing you.
 - Response: Trust Him and declare His promises.
-