

Spoken Word #17

“Misunderstood Motives Misunderstood Word”

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This morning we will read from paragraph 10 of Brother Branham's opening prayer for his sermon **“The Spoken Word is the Original Seed”** and we will examine why it is that the people so many times misunderstand the motives of the ministry that God has placed here to teach them His vindicated Truth.

Now, we are going to read several paragraphs this morning so please bear with me as we begin with paragraph 10 where brother Branham said, *And now, O Lord, Who separated me from my mother, Who's fed me all the days of my life and has brought me to this hour, by Thy grace, feeling it was Thy will that **I should explain to the people why that I have acted and did the way I have done**; may it be in such a way that people will have a better understanding, Lord, of **the peculiarity of Thy servants**. Grant these things, Father, these Scriptures and a text and words that we have written here through the week, praying and studying. May they fall on good ground everywhere they are heard, a ground that can hold them and nourish them, and then all praise shall be given to Thee, for we ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

11 *To the people out in the cars who can't get in, I'm attaching a little instrument here now, and turn on your radio to 1150 and you'll get the message right on your radio in your car. Now, is this... The connection here it's on is it, for the tapes?*

12 *Now, to all my friends both here and wherever these tapes may travel, I feel that I owe it to the people for **an explanation of many things that I have said and done**. So many times people has come to me and said, "Our pastor says, '**Why would you do that, Brother Branham? Why did you say this? And what makes you do it this a-way?**'" Now, with all my heart, everything that I have done, I have done it with the best intention I know how. And everything that I have said I've said it from my heart. And **I've did it for a purpose**; and I'll try this morning by God's help to explain from the Bible the purpose and why I have done it.*

13 *And now, there perhaps, in a group of people this size, there's probably many ministers setting here, and there'll be many hear this, and I wish we had enough time to put all that I had thought of and brought the Scriptures to the people. But to my brethren: even though that you might've disagreed with me... Now, I'm speaking both here and for the tapes, you might've disagreed with me much because of my stand towards what I think to be right. And you have a right to disagree with me as you may see it different; but I hope that me, by the help of God this morning, I'll be able to show you the reason why that I have took this stand.*

14 *And I have never,... there's been many times that I have scolded churches, denominations, the dressing of women, the acting of men. I think I have thoroughly supported that by Scripture. And never one time, God knowing my heart, have I ever had a bad feeling towards anyone. No matter if they disagreed with me as far as the east from the west, **I still loved them**. And as long as **I have the Spirit of God in me I'll always love His church, His people**. No matter what they do, or **how they treat me**, that won't have anything to do with it. I still love them.*

Now, I want you to notice what Brother Branham is saying here is no different than what the Apostle Paul said to the Galatians after many had turned back from what he had taught them, not understanding his motives for teaching them so strongly concerning the Grace of Christ. And in reading you will also see that the reason for the people slipping back into the law from whence they came out is because false brethren had come in amongst them, and turned them from Paul's teaching.

Galatians 4:12 *Brethren, I beseech you, become as I am; even as I became as you are: you have not injured me at all. 13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you the first time I came to you. 14 And the test to which you were subjected and which was in my flesh, you did not loathe nor utterly despise, but as a messenger of God you received me, as Christ Jesus. 15 Where is then the blessedness you used to speak of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. 16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? 17 They zealously have affected you, but not well; yea, they would shut you off from hearing me, that you might covet them. 18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again, for I am longing that Christ be formed in you and openly manifested in you, 20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.*

Just like brother Branham, Paul was saying that the ministers were having an influence on the people and were questioning the motives of Brother Branham as to why he was so strong on the issues of holiness that he brought out here in his opening statements after his prayer.

The same thing has happened to me not only here among those who left us years ago, but also among some ministers in some of the places where I have gone to teach. They say, "why do you speak so strongly against organization?" "Why do you come and stir up our people?" "Why do you cause such a division among us?" And yet, all I teach is the Doctrine of Christ right from this Bible, and from what William Branham taught concerning the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

And it saddens my heart to know that the truth causes so much animosity in the people. Don't they know that William Branham said, "I am only teaching what Paul taught? Didn't the People know that what Paul taught them came right from the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Christ?"

Don't they know that what brother Vayle taught is exactly what William Branham taught? Don't they know that I can do no other than to teach what I have been taught from an indicated Teacher and a vindicated prophet?

As Paul said, "when I came to you at the first you were overjoyed to see me. Why is it that when I began to teach you the truth, you have become so distanced from me?" And then Paul tells us what it is that is doing this to the people.

He tells us that the ministry has turned the people against hearing him. And what do you think the motive is for the ministry to do such? Well Paul said that it had to do with a sort

of courting of the people. In other words, popularity. And why popularity?, Because popularity means control. Let's look for ourselves in the Scriptures at several times where the wrong motive was used to control the people to do evil against God's servants who were teaching the truth of God's Word.

*Acts 6: 9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke. 11 Then they suborned men, (they bribed men to commit perjury or false witness) which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. 12 And **they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes,** (they deliberately provoked the people, elders and scribes to come to action against Stephen) **and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,***

*Acts Chapter 13: 42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. 44 And **the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.** 45 **But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy,** and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48 **And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.** 49 **And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.** 50 **But the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women,** (now, listen, if you want to cause a stir against the Word of God, or the ministry that God has sent, then just get the most religious, self-righteous women involved. They'll jump on the band wagon every time. And Paul also said,...) **and the chief men of the city,** (that's those men who want to be leaders, as brother Vayle said, it isn't the true Five-Fold ministry that cause any problems, it's those elders who want to control everything that cause the problems, and they will jump on the band wagon to try to bring down God anointed preachers every time, because that's their nature to control, and when they loose control over he people because of the Word setting them free, they will do everything they can to gain back that control evening inducing to evil actions and speech against those who are expounding the truth. You can't tell me any different. It's the elders who have cause me more grief than any minister has been able to do. It is the elders that caused brother Vayle and brother Branham their problems.) **and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.** 51 **But they shook off the dust of their feet against them,...** 52 **And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.***

*Acts 14: 1 And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that **a great multitude both of the Jews and also of***

the Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

Again we see in **Acts 17: 13** *But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.*

Acts 21: 27 *And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,*

Acts 19: 23 *And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.*

God being misunderstood 61-0728E 70 You know, misunderstanding gets us in a lot of trouble. Many times that people say things that they repeat after somebody else, where they misunderstood them. That gets a person in trouble. I believe it would be good for us if we just, well, wait till we understood what we was talking about. Don't you think so? I know it would be for me, a very good for me to find out first and then say it. See? But we're always, seem to be, misunderstood. And here David is speaking of Israel misunderstood His miracles when they were in Egypt. Now, to misunderstand is just not to say, "Well, I didn't hear what he said," but to see something done and misunderstand what it's for, that's a--that's you're missing the boat all completely then.

71 Now, God doesn't do miracles just to say, "See, I'm God." **God does a miracle for an understanding. See? God does it for a purpose.** And did you notice the reading of the **Psalms** here in this **7th** verse? I think it's so beautiful; I want to read it over again. **Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt;**... (see, they didn't understand it)... *they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even... the Red sea. Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. See, they did not understand why that God, down in Egypt, performed these miracles. He was trying to show them His mercies. He was trying to get them to understand that He was God in their midst. I love that.*

74 That's what God was doing to Israel. You know, He said, "**As the eagle stirreth up her nest,**" that's the same thing. He found Israel in a howling land down there, and He brought him up out of Egypt and took him into the promised land on the wings of an eagle. See? And what was God doing these miracles? He was trying to get to His people that He was the mighty Jehovah. And that's what He's trying to do today. **He just doesn't heal people just because He can heal. He's trying to get to you that He's the Resurrection,** that He can make you well, He can raise up your body. He can do whatever He wants to; He's Jehovah. I like that. But the people misunderstood Him. God is so easily to be misunderstood by unbelievers, by those who don't want to understand. **Many people try to understand. Many don't want to understand;** they just shut up themselves and say, "**There's no such a thing,**" and, "I don't believe in such." Then they can never understand.

75 **But a man that's willing to understand,** that's willing to set down ("**And come let us reason together,**" saith the Lord) now, **that man is on the line of learning something from the Lord.** But people who always are associated with God and God's power... You can hardly be associated with God without being associated with His

power, because when you're associated with Him you are acquainted to Him, or a relative to Him, and then you have His power in you. That's the reason that people cannot believe in miracles today, because they don't have anything in them to believe with. They've got to have something in there to believe with. And when the Spirit of God is in a man, he will say "amen" to every Word of God and every miracle of God. But as my mother used to say, "You can't get blood from a turnip, because there's no blood in it." So that's the same way; you can't get belief out of unbeliever, because there's nothing there to believe with.

76 A man said, "I don't believe in Divine healing, no matter what you'd say." Certainly, it's not for him; **it's only to those who can believe.** If you're going to get blood, get it out from something that's got blood in it. If you're going to get faith, get it out to something that's got faith in it. And that's the way; **God uses something that's got faith in it.** He don't send you out here in a healing campaign when you ain't got faith enough to believe it. How is He going to send you out in a miracle-working revival when you ain't got faith enough to believe it? **He wants something that's got something in there that He can produce something with.** So the people misunderstood.

77 **Noah was very much misunderstood in his day.** Noah, acquainted of God, a servant of God, a believer in God. And when you become a believer in God, you do things so contrary to what people think that's right till they think that you're crazy. And Noah, warned of God, prepared an ark for the saving of his household. And the people thought that he was crazy. He was not crazy; he was just misunderstood, because he was following the direction of God. Amen. I like that. He was mis-understood. "How could a man..." Though You say, "There's never no rain come from the sky. What is rain?" Never had rained; God irrigated the ground. "Noah, where's that rain at?" "I don't know." "Show me where it's at." "I can't show it to you." "Well, how do you know it's going to come down from up there when there's none up there to come down?" said it's coming down, He's able to take it up there and then bring it down." So that--that settled it. If God said so, that's all there is to it. See? He was misunderstood because he was following God.

78 Elijah... I could stay on these subjects a long time, but I've got several of them here I would like to come to quickly. **Elijah was misunderstood by his nation.** Elijah was an Israelite; he was a Jew, and he was misunderstood because he was always condemning his nation, condemning the king, condemning the queen, condemning everything there was around, and condemning them. What a crackpot he seemed to be. Why, my, everything, it came "THUS SAITH THE LORD. God's going to punish you, you Jezebel, you so-and-so." He was misunderstood. Why? He was following God. It was not Elijah they misunderstood; it was the working of the Holy Spirit in Elijah that they misunderstood.

79 How could a man raise up against his own nation? Blasphemed his own nation, corrected, and put the curses of God upon it, the very nation, the very people that he lived with. His own race, his own color, his own creed, his own kind, and yet predict the judgments of God and called a famine upon them. He was misunderstood, because it wasn't Elijah; **it was God in Elijah that they misunderstood.** It wasn't Elijah being misunderstood; it was God leading Elijah, and they misunderstood that God was a holy

God and He cannot in-tolerate sin. And no matter if it's on your brother, sister, or mother, no matter who it is, it's sin in the sight of God and the judgment will come upon them for it. Misunderstood...

80 **Daniel was misunderstood** when all of the rest of the children of Israel bowed down to the image, but he and Shadrach and Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down. Well, they said, "What's the matter with him?" The whole nation said, "What's the matter with this crazy guy? Well, all the rest of the Hebrews recognized our god; they recognized it; they bow down when we play the trumpets, and sound the trumpets and play the psalteries, and so forth, and sound the flute. They all bow down, but what's the matter with this crackpot? What's the matter with him; he won't do it?" Because he was in contact with God. That's what's the matter. He was misunderstood. He was supposed to be "Crazy, or had lost his mind. Well, they was a bunch of cranks." But they were only following the leading of the Spirit. That's the reason they were misunderstood.

81 **All the prophets of the Old Testament**, how they rose up and prophesied against their nation, how they prophesied against the people, how they prophesied against the thing, putting curses upon them, and doing things like that. **They misunderstood. Why? They were God's servants; they were doing the will of God.** They were doing the service of God; therefore, they were mis-understood. And anybody that follows God is misunderstood. Jesus, our Lord, when His birth, He was misunderstood. The Magi, they were misunderstood; they were following a supernatural sign to find a King that was born King of the Jews. They knew there was a star rising out of Jacob, according to the prophecies of Daniel. And they knew this King would be a Saviour; He would be the King of Israel. And they come two years, all the way from India down by the Tigris River, and across the deserts and through the mountains, everywhere, and come into the city of Jerusalem one evening about sundown, screaming, "Where is He that's born King of the Jews? Where is He?"

82 And nobody knew nothing about it. It was a strange thing that the King of the Jews was born and people hundreds of miles away knew about it, and right here in the city where He was born, and the place He was born, amongst the people He was born to, and they knew nothing about it. They misunderstood the Magi. They said, "There's no such a thing as the King of the Jews. We got a king up here, Herod." He was misunderstood in His birth when He was born. And Mary was to be mother before she was married to Joseph. **Misunderstood...** They thought It was born out of holy wedlock; they did not know that **the Holy Ghost had conceived this Child in her. But it was misunderstood. It was a act of God, and people misunderstood it.** They still misunderstand it, an act of God is usually misunderstood.

83 **Only by spiritual believing people, people who believe the Spirit... But it was misunderstood; the Magi was misunderstood. Herod misunderstood it.** When Herod said, "Well, you tell me where the baby is, and I'll go worship Him too," he was a hypocrite; he was lying. What he was afraid of... He didn't know the Scriptures that there was supposed to be a Messiah come, a King of heaven. And Herod thought it would be an earthly king, and he wanted to kill Him to get rid of Him. It wasn't an earthly king; He said this earth is not His kingdom, **"If this was My kingdom My subjects would fight for**

Me, but My Kingdom is of up above." Herod misunderstood it; he thought it was an earthly king.

84 *That's the way they say today, "What church do you belong to if you're a Christian? What denomination?" "None." They don't get it. See, they can't understand it. They think a denomination means a Christian. It's vice versa, very much so. But it's misunderstood by the people. Now, we find out that Herod misunderstood it; he couldn't understand it. Nicodemus couldn't understand it, the new birth, when he came to Jesus by night. Someone condemned him. I don't condemn him. He was a good man; he wanted to find out something. He was busy through the day, maybe he was at his priest's office, or something another; he had to come by night. Anyhow he got there; he done a lot better than a lot of people does now. They won't come day or night. He finally arrived; 'fore you condemn him, have you? He finally got to Jesus, and let's not condemn him if we haven't been there. And if you get there, then I don't think you'd condemn him. No, he--he got there. And he come by night; maybe he was busy. Anyhow he come. Maybe Jesus was too busy out praying for the sick and things, only time he could catch Him for this interview would be at nighttime. But he finally got there; he stayed there till he got an interview with Jesus. And when Jesus said...He said, "Rabbi, we know that You are a man sent from God, for no man could do these things that You do except God be with Him." Jesus said, "Except a man be born again he cannot enter the Kingdom, not even see the Kingdom." And the great rabbi, master in Israel, said, "Me, an old man, to be a--enter into my mother's wombs and be born again?" See, he misunderstood what Jesus was talking about; he just didn't get it. Because that Jesus was talking about a spiritual birth, and he was trying to apply it to a natural birth. So he misunderstood Him; he didn't get it. He just... The way people do... Just like Nicodemus, many of us misunderstand the things of God, because we just take it and apply it for a natural thing.*

85 *Like, say, a doctor say, "Oh, I do not believe in Divine healing. I don't believe there's anything." I heard a doctor tell a woman in an office one time, said... And she didn't know... He wanted to know what become of a growth she had. She said, "Brother Branham prayed for me, and the Lord healed me." He said, "I do not believe it." He said, "I can never--I can never believe anything like that." Said, "Tell me who took it off." Said, "Find the scar." Said, "What did you put on it?" Said, "Nothing, not at all." Said, "He just called me out of the meeting and the thing left." And I was setting right in the next room (That's right.), setting right in the next room listening. She didn't know I was in there. And he didn't know I was in there, 'cause he didn't even know me. See? And there I was setting in there. And he said... Taking somebody else to a doctor's office. That's exactly right. And I could overhear what he said; I got--I got the patient and got out of there when I found that, that he didn't believe. So he said, "I don't believe one word of it." Said, "I've never seen anything yet that could do anything like that. I just don't believe it." Said, "I've got to see it before I believe it." She said, "Well, what about my--my growth?" He said, "I'd have to see it leave before I'll believe it."*

86 *See, seeing is not believing. "Faith is the substance of things you don't see." See, you believe it first and then it happens. So the--the man was not a believer, so therefore it was all a mystery to him. He didn't know what he was talking about, because he couldn't understand it; it was a riddle to him. People say today, "Oh, I don't believe in*

that Divine healing. I don't believe in that Holy Ghost. I don't believe in that speaking in tongues. I don't believe in that shouting. I don't believe in all this stuff like that. I don't believe in it." Why? It's a mystery. You're just misunderstanding. It's God; here it is in the Bible. Here it is bringing the same results that the Bible spoke of bringing; then it's got to be God. You just misunderstand it; that's all. God is misunderstood.

87 *His disciples couldn't understand His miracle that night when He come into the boat, and he said, "What manner of man is this that even the winds and the waves obey Him?" They misunderstood that He wasn't a man; He was God. That's what's the matter today with people. They want to make Him a little mascot boy, or something another that carries the bat. They want to make Him just a little fellow around the camp. He wasn't a little fellow around the camp; He was Jehovah God. They misunderstood it. They expected Him to be just one of them. He wasn't one of them; He was God among them. He was more than a man. As I've often said, He was a man when He was hungry, but He was God when He fed five thousand with a biscuit--two biscuits and some pieces of fishes. He was a man when He was tired on the back of a boat, but He was God when He ceased the winds and waves and made them obey Him. "What manner of man is this?" He wasn't a manner of a man; He was God manifested in a man. They misunderstood Him. They thought Him to be a man, Mary's son, a carpenter, but He was God manifested in the flesh. Amen.*

88 *The Roman soldiers misunderstood Him when they had Him set in the court, and put a rag around His eyes, and hit Him on top of the head, and said, "Now, if you are a prophet... They all say you're a prophet; come tell us who hit you on top of the head." See, they misunderstood that Jesus said, "I do only what the Father shows Me to do. I do what the Father shows Me, and then I do what He tells Me to do." They misunderstood it.*

89 *They misunderstood His ministry. The Jews misunderstood Him: how He come to be their Friend and Saviour, and they wanted to make Him a--a something was evil. They misunderstood His ministry. He said, "The queen of the south shall rise up in the Judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. And a greater than Solomon is here." But they misunderstood that He was greater than Solomon. They thought He was just a man. Many of them thought He was born out of holy wedlock, come up out of a bad family that had these desires and so forth, and a bastard child. Which we just had the question, they could not even... Why, they said, "Why, we know that you were born out of holy wedlock. You got a devil on you. Why, you try to teach us? We're rabbis." He said, "You are of your father, the Devil." See, they misunderstood.*

90 *When the Roman soldiers went back one time, listening at Him, said, "Never a man spoke like this. We never heard a man speak like this." It was not a man speaking; it was God. Yes, sir. Man didn't speak like that. A man tells and speaks the Scriptures; Jesus makes the Scriptures live. A man don't live like this: "The Scripture says this here; here it is." Man can say the Scripture says it, but that's about all he can do. But Jesus could say, "I and My Father are One; My Father dwells in Me. He that's seen Me has seen the Father." Nobody else could say that. Amen. Hallelujah. That's right. "He that's seen Me has seen the Father." Nobody else could say that. No wonder them soldiers said, "There never was a man spoke like this." He don't speak like a scribe or a preacher; He*

speaks with authority. And even the devils obey Him, and the winds and the waves obeyed Him. They thought He was a man, but He was God. See, He was misunderstood.

91 *Said, "Why, you're born a bastard. You're born out of holy wedlock, and you try to teach us? Why, we know you're mad and got a devil. You're a Samaritan, been over there and got them devils on you. You're trying to teach us, us holy rabbis?" He said, "You're of your father the Devil." Yes, they misunderstood Him; they didn't know Who He was. That's what's the matter today, people trying to make Him something that He isn't. He's not just a man; He's God in man: no third person, He's the only Person. Yes, sir. Sure, they misunderstood Him.*

92 *The Pharisee, that Pharisee that invited Him down there that time for a dinner, a big banquet, he misunderstood Him. He thought he'd just have Him down there. I preached on that message out here not long ago at a breakfast, I believe, at Chicago, at that breakfast. That Pharisee said, "Now, look at Him setting back there, setting back there, unwashed feet and everything. That little woman come in and washed Him with the tears, and wiped with the hairs of her head." He said, "If He was a prophet He'd know what manner of woman that is there washing His feet. Shows He's not a prophet." Jesus stood up and said, "Simon, I got something to say to you." Amen. He just misunderstood; that was all. He said, "I... You invited Me to come, and I left My busy schedule to come to your invitation. And when... You never met Me at the door. You never have washed My feet. You never anointed My head. You never kissed Me welcome. You just let Me come in, dirty and stinking and full of sweat, and set Me over here in a corner to make fun of Me. But this woman, this woman, she's constantly kissed My feet, and she's washed them with the tears of repentance (What beautiful water.), and wiped them with the hairs of her head. I've got something against you, Simon. Verily I say unto you, her sins which are many are all forgiven her." Amen. Simon misunderstood; she understood. Simon said, "He's just a man." She said, "He's God, my Saviour." He was misunderstood. He's still misunderstood.*

93 ***The disciples at Calvary, they misunderstood when they all denied Him and went away.*** *How could they see a man, a man that they had knew to perform miracles and raise the dead, yet submit Himself to death, and walk up through there, beaten, and crying, the spit running off His face, and blood mixed with it where they'd pulled their handfuls of beard out, plucked it from His face, and warped His back till His bones was shining through, and kicking Him, and beating Him around, them cussing, drunken soldiers beating Him right up the street; and stand and let them do that?" They misunderstood, so they stood far off. That's right. The Devil misunderstood Him. The Devil said, "Surely that cannot be a Son of God that would stand there and be mistreated like that, and them cussing, and my disciples down there just treating him any way, and him taking it. He's not the Son of God."*

94 *Also the Pharisees, the priests, misunderstood Him, said, "If Thou be the Son of God, bring yourself down off of there." The thief on His left misunderstood Him, said, "If thou be the Son of God, take us off the cross, save yourself and us too." But the thief on the right understood Him; he said, "We have, and we've done evil and we deserve what we're getting, but this Man's done nothing. Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." Watch that Voice come back, said, "Today shall thou be with*

Me in paradise." He understood that that was God dying for our sins. The only way He could die, would be put to death in the flesh. He can't be put to death in Spirit, because He's the Eternal Spirit. And He had to be in flesh to be put to death, so they just misunderstood. He understood it.

95 One day about ten days after that, or about forty days after that, fifty days it was, the disciples climbed up into an upper room, and they stayed up there for ten days and nights until the fiftieth day come. Then all of a sudden there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind. Because Jesus had told them, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you, but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you're endued with power from on high." They knew that It was going to come. Now, they knew it had to happen. "Go up there and wait until I send It." They waited up there. They confessed, got everything out of their minds and hearts. They were waiting, all in one accord, in one place, waiting for the promise, walking back and forth, the men and the women, up there walking around together in this upper room, all the doors barred so the Jews couldn't get in and hurt them.

96 All at once, they was up there walking around, and there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind, whirled around through there, and then licks of Fire begin to set upon them. The doors flew open; the windows come open, out into the streets they went. And they were misunderstood, insomuch that they said, "Are these men not full of new wine? These people are drunk because we hear them blabbering off something we don't know what they're talking about." All at once they said, "How hear we every man in our own language, are not an these Galileans?" They misunderstood that it was the promise of the Father. Then God had a prophet there who could stand up and speak, Peter said, "You men of Jerusalem and you that dwell in Judea, don't misunderstand this. This is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel, 'And it'll come to pass in the last days,' saith God, 'I'll pour out My Spirit upon all flesh. And upon My hands-maids and maid servants will I pour out of My Spirit; they shall prophesy. I'll show wonders in the heavens above and in the earth below, and fire, and vapor, and pillars of smoke. It shall come to pass, before the great and terrible day of the Lord shall come, that whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.'" It was the work of God. It was the Holy Ghost, but they misunderstood it.

97 He was misunderstood. He's always been misunderstood. Israel misunderstood Him. The people in Noah's time misunderstood Him. The people in Daniel's time misunderstood Him. The people in John's time misunderstood Him. The people in--in the prophet's time misunderstood Him. The people in the Pentecostal age misunderstood Him. The people in this age misunderstands Him; it's still the same. They don't get it, because He's misunderstood. It's the time to compare the natural with the spiritual. When the people in now... After the day of Pentecost, when they was all filled with the Holy Ghost, had this great big meeting up there, they called a man down there that's crippled from his mother's womb, two of them was going along the street and this beggar shook a can and asked for some money. And he said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I'll give it to you." He said, "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took the man by the hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. He begin walking, and leaping,

and running, and jumping, and praising God, went into the temple. And all the people begin to come together, and screaming and carrying on. Why, it was unusual.

98 And they put them in jail, and threatened them that they "Should not preach anymore in the Name of Jesus." And Peter said, "Who should we listen to, God or man?" And they turned them loose, thinking because they'd whipped them a little bit and threatened them that they'd hang them the next time, or burn them, or put them on the cross, or something, they'd stop it. But the next thing they found; they was out on the street doing it again. Why? They misunderstood. It wasn't them people; it was God in those people doing those things.

99 When they caught up little Stephen at the Sanhedrin Court, that morning, said, "We'll take him before this court. When all these rabbis and Jews and high priests and holy fathers, and all of them gathered out there, these doctors of divinity, it'll scare him in the wits." So they brought him out in his chains, and stood him out there, a little fellow like a lamb amongst a bunch of raving wolves. They said, "Watch him take down now and say, 'I'll take it all back, brethren; don't you all bother me.'" He said, "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. Why do you resist the Holy Ghost? Like your fathers did, so do you." Amen. They found out that it wasn't him. For they picked up clods, and threw their hands in their ears, and begin to gnash upon him, and clod him to death. And when he raised his head up towards that, and the bats beating him from one side to the other, he said, "I see the heavens open, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." Amen. And he fell asleep in the arms of the Lord Jesus. When he died, he said, "Father, lay not this sin to their charge." See, they misunderstood what they did. Paul, standing there look at it, later on it got on his nerves, and said, "I'm the least among all of them, because I bore witness to Stephen's death, Thy saint." Amen. That's it.

100 See, people misunderstood this enthusiasm. People misunderstand today. They misunderstand the power of the Holy Spirit. They call it a bunch of holy-rollers. They call it a bunch of people that ain't got their right mind. They misunderstand that you had to lose your--what you call your right mind...?... because you have the mind of Christ in you. You can't have the mind of the world and the mind of Christ at the same time, one's carnal and the other one's spiritual. "He that walks after the flesh is carnal; he that walks after the Spirit is spiritual." Amen. So I'll lose myself and find it, Lord, in Thee. Yes, sir. So God's misunderstood. It's not you that's misunderstood; it's the Holy Spirit making you do that that they misunderstand. Amen. They're not speaking against you; they're speaking against Him. People are misunderstood. There they let them go, but they get right back in the street and start again. The same today, they misunderstand the people. They don't know what it is.

101 Today I'm misunderstood in my ministry, that He sent me to the people. They misunderstand. Every one of them said, "We believe Brother Branham..." I talked to a preacher awhile ago, said, "Brother Branham, we all know that you was sent to the church, but, the idea is, how do you come baptizing in Jesus' Name?" They misunderstand the Scriptures. They misunderstand it. That's what He sent me for; that's my purpose of being here. "Why do you teach the serpent's seed, and things like that that's contrary to what we teach?" Well, brother, that's why I'm here. They just misunderstand it. Amen. But God is bearing record by His Word and the signs of the

Holy Ghost in...?... No matter how much they may misunderstand it, God's confirming the Word. Amen. God's always been misunderstood. And those who live with God are misunderstood with God, because it's God working in them. Amen. You believe it? I love Him, I love Him, Because He first loved me (Do you love Him? Raise up your hands and say praises.)... purchased my salvation On Calvary's tree.

102 Are you glad you're misunderstood? We used to sing a little song, saying, "Now I'm marked, marked, marked, marked by the Spirit Divine." That's right. People that once loved me, turn their back on me now because I'm marked, marked by the Spirit. Amen. I lost my mind to the things of the world to receive the mind of Christ; therefore, if I have the mind of Christ, my mind seeks those things which are above. I'd like for somebody to show me any different correct baptism besides the Name of Jesus Christ. I'd like for somebody to show me a Scripture that says the serpent didn't have a seed. I'd like for somebody to show me a Scripture that says there's three gods. Then they say, "Well, what is it?"

103 God sent me His Message and bears record of it. He confirms the Word with signs following. That's what the Bible said. They can't deny that; it's a fact. But what did they do? They misunderstand it, because I didn't come in the name of the Assemblies of God, the Oneness, or the Two-ness, or the Three-ness, or the Church of God, or the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterian, Lutheran. I come in none of them names; I come in the Name of Jesus Christ. And God by His mercy confirms the Message by the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So it's still the Spirit of God that the people misunderstand. That's right, misunderstood .Sure, you're misunderstood; all that live godly in Christ Jesus is misunderstood, all the way from righteous Noah, all the way down till the modern day saint today is misunderstood: always been, people misunderstand it. Israel misunderstood it. They don't understand; they just can't because they are carnal in spirit, and not... It won't deviate with the spiritual, because it will not mix.

104 But I'm glad that we live in a Kingdom that's not made with hands of men. I'm glad that we're going to a Kingdom that man had nothing to do with. I'm glad that our Kingdom is above. And if our Kingdom is above, we're born from above, then we seek those things which are above, where Christ sets at the right hand of God, oh, where He's not ashamed of us as our testimony. We're not ashamed of Him on this earth, because we are pilgrims and strangers. We're not of this earth; we're born of the Spirit of God. We're setting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, washed in His Blood, born of His Spirit, filled with His grace. That's it: misunderstood. But what do we care? We love Him. Don't you love Him?