

## I WANT TO DIE TIRED

28 JUNE 2026

### SUMMARY

This message challenges the cultural pursuit of comfort and preservation by presenting a radical Christian calling to pour out one's life in service to God and others. Drawing from the Parable of the Talents, the message emphasizes that followers of Christ are not meant to hoard their gifts, time, and resources but to use them fully for God's kingdom. The concept of "dying tired" doesn't mean burnout, but rather arriving at life's end having held nothing back from God - with no unused gifts, unspoken words, or unlived obedience. The message defines an "IMPACTER" as someone who has been touched by God and allows that encounter to overflow into the lives of others. This is presented as the fundamental pattern of Christian discipleship: being blessed to become a blessing, being loved to love others, being transformed to transform. The message calls believers to reject self-preservation as life's goal and instead embrace self-gift as the Jesus way, recognizing that life is not something we possess but something entrusted to us for which we will give account.

### KEY POINTS

- The goal of life should not be to preserve ourselves but to give ourselves away, following Jesus' example
- An IMPACTER is someone who has been impacted by God and impacts others for God - not just someone who receives from God
- Christianity was never meant to stop with us; we are channels through which God touches others
- Life is found when we give it away; those who try to save their life will lose it
- We are accountable for what we do with the talents, gifts, opportunities, and years God has entrusted to us
- Being an IMPACTER doesn't always require religious words; it means bringing Christ's presence through kindness, patience, integrity, and love in everyday situations
- Every encounter with another person contains the possibility that God wishes to work through us
- The Christian life is about self-gift, not self-preservation
- We should aim to stand before God having held nothing back, with no unused gifts or unlived obedience
- Rest and enjoyment are good, but our ultimate purpose is to pour ourselves out for God's mission

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- Matthew 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents)

- Matthew 16:25 ("For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it")
- John 19:30 (Jesus saying "It is finished")
- Genesis (God's promise to Abraham: "I will bless you so that you will be a blessing")

**STORIES:**

- The Parable of the Talents - a master entrusts different amounts to three servants; two invest and double their talents, while one buries his in fear and is condemned for not using what was given
- Bruce Downes' personal testimony of his parents giving food off their plates to their five sons when they had little
- Bruce Downes' experience staying at a Dallas Fort Worth Airport hotel, where he intentionally impacted the staff by being kind, listening, praying with them through divorces and illnesses, resulting in hotel management acknowledging his influence
- References to biblical figures who gave their lives: Abraham leaving the familiar, Moses leading complaining people, Jeremiah carrying God's word like fire in his bones, the apostles leaving everything, Paul enduring persecution and martyrdom
- Paul's declaration at the end of his life in prison: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"
- Personal reflection on praying with his wife Rosemary when young: "God bless us so that we can bless someone else"

## **I WANT TO DIE TIRED**

### **SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's transforming work. Pray the IMPACTERS Community Prayer .

### **ICEBREAKER**

What's one person who had a significant impact on your spiritual journey? What did they do that made such a difference?

### **KEY THEMES FROM THE MESSAGE**

#### **1. Life is Entrusted, Not Possessed**

The fundamental difference between viewing life as something we own versus something God has entrusted to us.

#### **2. The IMPACTER Definition**

An IMPACTER is someone who has been impacted by God and impacts others for God - not someone who merely receives and keeps.

#### **3. Dying Tired vs. Dying Empty**

The call to exhaust our gifts, talents, and love for others rather than preserving ourselves.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Understanding the Message**

What was your initial reaction to the phrase "I want to die tired"? How does this differ from society's message about retirement and rest?

Read Matthew 25:26-27. Why was the servant with one talent called "wicked and lazy"? What does this teach us about unused gifts?

The message states: "Christianity is not about receiving from God." How does this challenge common attitudes about faith and church attendance?

#### **Personal Reflection**

If you were to stand before God today, what "unused gifts" or "unspoken words" might you regret? Be honest with yourself and the group.

Which resonates more with your current life approach:

- "How much can I keep for myself?"
- "What does God want me to do with the life He's given me?"

Why?

Review the list of "ordinary" ways to be an IMPACTER (being patient, forgiving, encouraging, caring for aging parents, etc.). Which of these feels most challenging for you right now?

### Going Deeper

The message says: "Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." How have you experienced this paradox in your own life?

Discuss the difference between:

- Being burnt out
- Being exhausted from drivenness
- Being tired from pouring yourself out for God's purposes

How can we tell the difference in our own lives?

The hotel story illustrated impacting people without overtly preaching. Where in your regular routine (work, neighborhood, gym, etc.) could you be more intentional about bringing Christ's presence?

## 1. KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Write these down and discuss which one speaks most powerfully to you:**

- Life is not something I possess; it's something entrusted to me for which I'm accountable
- An IMPACTER receives from God in order to give to others - the flow doesn't stop with us
- Every encounter contains the possibility that God wants to work through us
- We find life when we give it away for Christ's sake
- Being an IMPACTER often happens in ordinary moments of kindness, patience, and presence
- The goal is not preservation but self-gift, following Jesus' example

### Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

**Option 1: The Daily Impact** Each day this week, intentionally ask: "Who can I impact today because I carry Christ?" Journal about what happens.

**Option 2: The Ordinary Moment** Choose one "ordinary" way to be an IMPACTER from the message (patience, presence, encouragement, etc.) and practice it deliberately with someone specific.

**Option 3: The Unused Gift** Identify one gift or talent you've been "burying" and take one concrete step to use it for others this week.

**Option 4: The Presence Practice** Like the hotel story, choose one regular place you go (coffee shop, workplace, gym) and intentionally bring Christ's presence through kindness and attention to people there.

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

### **Journal on these throughout the week:**

- What am I protecting or preserving that God might be asking me to give away?
- When I imagine standing before God at the end of my life, what do I want to be able to say about how I spent my days?
- Where am I treating Christianity as something I receive rather than something that flows through me?
- What fears keep me from pouring myself out more fully?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*"Loving Father, transform us from people who merely receive to people who overflow with your love. Help us to die tired, having held nothing back from you. Give us courage to be your hands, feet, and heart in the world. May we arrive before you one day and hear, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' In Jesus' name, Amen."*

### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

#### **Come prepared to share:**

- One way you attempted to be an IMPACTER this week
- What happened when you stepped out
- What you learned about yourself and God through the experience

**Remember:** This is advanced Christianity. If you feel challenged or even frightened by this message, that's normal. Talk with someone in your group, and let them pray with you. Growth happens in community.