JM Jason Mayfield

SERMON OUTLINE FOR PASTORS

VISION SUNDAY 2026

We're Building, and Faith That Functions in Lack

> We are building on a foundation others laid, and the vision is bigger than our resources. Faith does not wait for abundance. It functions in lack as if it had abundance, because the battle is the Lord's and He gives it into our hand.

MAIN TEXT
1 Samuel 17:46-47

FIRST PREACHED
February 1, 2026

SERIES
Stand-alone message

BY
Pastor Jason Mayfield

AT A GLANCE

THE MESSAGE

1. The church is building, not maintaining: every announcement is framed as construction on a foundation others laid.
2. Care for the community needs structure, not just the pastor's availability, so a compassion ministry and a compassion pastor are being added.
3. Every generation stays in the house: the believers class becomes Legacy Builders with a new pastor, a renovated space, and a clearer role.
4. The next generation gets priority in staffing, curriculum, and physical space in the children's areas.
5. The church sows beyond itself: a missions scholarship in Kenya, daily feeding through Convoy of Hope, and AI translation so non-English speakers in the area can hear the gospel.
6. Ministries are launched when they can succeed, not to fill a slot, which is why Wednesday nights restart in August rather than immediately.
7. The 20 acres on Shelton Beach Road is a stewardship trust with gospel potential that has to be drawn out and maintained.
8. Vision is written before it is funded: David had no sword and Habakkuk was told to write the vision, so faith functions in lack as if it had abundance.
9. The season requires more from everyone, including the pastor's own family, who gave the largest single offering of 2025.



WATCH IT PREACHED

youtu.be/foz_he0okr4



READ THE ARTICLE

jasonmayfield.com/messages/vision-sunday-2026

THE OUTLINE

PREACHING NOTES

Before You Preach

This is a vision Sunday, not a typical preaching Sunday. It is a morning of announcements held together by one word, **building**, and it closes with a short message on faith from David and Goliath and a response at the front.

The specific plans, names, dates and figures below are the ones announced at the church on February 1, 2026. If you use these notes elsewhere, replace them with your own church's plans. The shape is what carries over: remember where you came from, show the people what you are building, tell them honestly what it will take, and call them to step up in faith.

Say early and plainly that there is no special offering. Tell people what you are not doing (and why) as clearly as what you are doing; it builds trust.

Several people are commissioned during the service. Have the Bibles, notes and commission statements ready, and give them a place to stand in the foyer afterward so the church can meet them.

Introduction

Open with the church's story (a short history video). Scripture tells us to remember: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7).

In 1952 the church's founding pastor took a step of faith and started a church in Saraland, Alabama. He pastored faithfully for 26 years. Under the pastor who followed him, the church grew until a move became inevitable, and in the late 1980s he challenged the church to do whatever it takes. That step of faith led to a new home: 20 acres at 907 Shelton Beach Road. It is a whatever-it-takes mentality of faith that brings results.

No special offering today. This will not be a typical Sunday. It is a day full of announcements, and I believe you will be excited before it is over.

WE'RE BUILDING

Everyone has a card on their seat that says **"We're building."** Have the church say it together. As we talk through each initiative, I believe the Holy Spirit will speak to you. When He does, mark the card. There are four commitments on it:

1. **Pray consistently for the church.** Everything positive that happens in our church will happen through prayer. 2. **Invite people.** Over the next six months, we need to invite 600 people. That does not mean 600

will come. It means each of us inviting about six. Take them out for lobster and steak after church if you have to. 3. **Join the team.** There are things we meant to announce today that we cannot launch yet because we do not have the people to do them. 4. **Increase your generosity to reach people.** Our philosophy of giving is simple: when you give, ministry happens. Much of what you hear today will not require any additional fundraising.

1. We're Building Care for Our Neighbors

Since coming here I have learned that there are a lot of hurting people in our area. I get phone calls, text messages and knocks on my door. People tap on my office window. They are not just hurting; they are desperately hurting. We need a structured way to care for our community.

THE NEIGHBOR BOX

Why the name? Because we are called to love our neighbor: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31).

The Neighbor Box is a box of food, enough to help a family for up to four weeks. Turned around, the box is a little house, so children can play with it after the food is out. It helps families with dignity, honor and respect. It does not feed them for a day; it helps them for a month and helps them get on their feet.

- **Goal:** 100 boxes in 2026, helping 100 families. It is a stretch goal.
- **Launch:** this fall, after the administrative work is done.

A PASTOR OF COMPASSION MINISTRIES

I can only be so available and still do everything that needs to be done. There is only one of me, but God has many people He can use. **Our team is growing.**

Introduce **Pastor John and Sheila Mosley.** Tell how you met: a Convoy of Hope representative's coffee meeting turned into a conversation about his parents and the Dream Center they had run in the area, and the pastor began "pre-interviewing" his father on the spot.

Commission Pastor John Mosley as an associate pastor, giving him a Bible with a personal note, and reading the commission: authority conferred "not symbolically, but in truth," to be "carried with humility, exercised with wisdom, and stewarded with integrity."

Send people to meet them in the foyer. Give them a chance to learn your name.

A SUNDAY PRAYER MINISTRY

Every Sunday, partway through worship, we will invite anyone who needs prayer to come forward and receive prayer at the altar. I have wanted to do this since I arrived, but on Sunday I have to lead worship, preach and shake your hand at the door. This begins on **Palm Sunday.**

2. We're Building on Every Generation

Even as we focus on the next generation, there will always be something in this house that ministers to every generation. Everybody in the house is remembered.

(Video.) For years, a faithful group of senior adults has met before the service in the Believers Class. This group is not winding down. It is leaning in. **The Believers Class is becoming Legacy Builders:** same people, same Sunday morning gathering, same heart, a clearer vision.

Have the church stand and honor them. These are people who have sown tears and faith into the soil of this property. Some were here under the church's earliest pastors. It is easy to think of a church as the legacy of its pastors, but legacy belongs to the people who stayed faithful through every season. Scripture speaks of "double honor" (1 Timothy 5:17). These saints are worthy of it.

Legacy isn't just something that has been built; it's something that's being built. It's not a noun. It's a verb.

It is more than a name change:

- **A new pastor:** Pastor John will lead the class.
- **A new space:** the classroom is being renovated with coffee, donuts, comfortable couches and chairs, and a TV for singing a few old Gaither Homecoming songs before the teaching.
- **A new start date:** the class pauses for three weeks during the renovation and starts again **March 1.**

3. We're Building Beyond Our Walls

We believe in sowing seed into ministry far beyond our own building.

KILIMANJARO SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

(Video from the school's co-founder.) In Kimana, Kenya, in partnership with the Kenya Assemblies of God, the school trains young indigenous, Spirit-filled ministers for one year and sends them into unreached, Muslim-majority areas of Africa. Sponsoring one student for the year costs about $3,500.

We will give one student a full-ride scholarship every year.

FEEDING CHILDREN THROUGH CONVOY OF HOPE

Every time a guest fills out a connect card, we feed a child through Convoy of Hope, first for a week, now for a month. Starting today, **the church will feed 30 children every single day.**

TRANSLATING THE GOSPEL

Through artificial intelligence, we will translate our services in real time and translate our online broadcasts, so that people in our area who do not speak English as their first language can hear the gospel, receive it and give their lives to Jesus.

Last week's message on Acts 2 is the perfect picture: they heard "in our own tongues the mighty works of God" (Acts 2:11). (Play a short demonstration clip from that message, translated.)

- **Spanish** first, the language most in demand in our area, and **Afrikaans**, for South African families in our church to share with their relatives.
- Online translation and live translation on people's phones begin **this summer.**
- If it bears fruit, we will add a team member to pastor Spanish speakers. A year from now we could have a Spanish-speaking congregation in this building.

4. We're Building with Purpose

WATER BAPTISM

In the Assemblies of God we hold two ordinances: the Lord's Supper and water baptism. Baptism ought to be a sacred, special moment. The first directive I gave as pastor here was to retire the inflatable hot tub we were baptizing in.

We are commissioning a **new baptismal**: portable, standing upright, easy to enter, with a seat inside, a heater and a splash pad. The first baptisms in it will be **April 12, 2026, the Sunday after Easter**, so people can get saved and then get baptized.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

I believe in more than Sunday morning. I came to faith in reverse order: a Thursday night Bible study, then Wednesday night, then Sunday night, then Sunday morning.

But I have to be honest. We are not well equipped or well funded, and we do not have more people than we need. Paul wrote, "For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits" (1 Corinthians 16:7). He chose to come later so he could stay longer.

I could start Wednesday nights this week. It would fail, because it was already failing. Children's workers would walk into the service ten minutes in because no one had brought children. We were keeping something on life support.

I don't do things just to do them. When I do something, it's going to be done with purpose and with excellence, and we're going to see fruit come out of it.

Wednesday nights return **August 12**, the week after school starts.

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you need more than Sunday morning now, go back to last week's message on speaking in tongues. I promised you an opportunity to receive during this series. **March 8:** that morning I will preach on how to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and at a 6 p.m. revival service, Pastor Billy James will lay hands on people to receive.

5. We're Building the Next Generation

We are making changes in children's ministry. When I arrived, the children's ministry had been left without a leader at the worst possible time, and we have struggled to keep it going ever since. Miss Tiffany stepped in and became a lifeline; she has held it together. Honor her. In March she moves to the pre-K room.

Introduce **Hannah and Hunter Jednat.** Hannah, our new elementary kids ministry coordinator, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in early childhood education and was named one of Saraland City Schools' Teachers of the Year. Hunter will help with tech. When we asked her, she lit up. I believe this is a God-ordained moment.

A word for her: in a school classroom you have impacted children for their lifetime; here you will impact children for their eternal life.

Commission Hannah Jednat as a director of ministry, with a Bible and a personal note. They start **March 1**, with a new curriculum and renovated children's spaces.

6. We're Building on the Rock

This week one of the church's previous pastors told me something I had never heard. The church's founding pastor's Bible is sealed in the foundation of this building, open to Matthew 16:18, with one phrase underlined: "on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18).

One laid a foundation on the Word. Another built this building. Every Sunday I get to stand on that revelation and that concrete. The building is here, but we're not done building.

We have 20 acres with the potential to be a gospel epicenter for this region. It is our responsibility to care for this property and leverage it for the gospel.

THE FACILITIES VISION

(Video tour of an artist's rendering.) Walk through a potential future:

- a new sign and front parking;
- an enhanced arrival: patios, a courtyard with a pergola and turf for kids, a covered drop-off and outdoor cafe seating;
- a brighter, larger foyer, with the offices removed to widen the nursery hallway and create a kids check-in with its own entrance and parent parking;
- one children's ministry space instead of kids split upstairs and downstairs, and new restrooms;
- in the sanctuary: new sound, lighting, a floor-to-ceiling screen and curtains.

Improvements to the children's areas (roof leaks, air conditioning, lighting, televisions and paint) are already underway.

STAIRS THAT BECOME AN ALTAR

Show the tape on the floor: the outline of a stage expansion with stairs across the front and a kneeling area. Stairs on the front of a church stage have a way of becoming an altar somewhere between the first worship song and the closing prayer. I got right with the Lord on a two-square-foot piece of carpet at the front of my home church. I believe your son or daughter, your grandchildren or the co-worker you have been praying for will get right with God on these steps.

7. Write the Vision: Faith That Functions in Lack

When does it start? Not today. This is a major capital campaign. There is no official estimate, but in my experience it will be at least $1.5 million. I do not have $1.5 million at my disposal, but I know the One who owns "the cattle on a thousand hills" (Psalm 50:10).

> **HABAKKUK 2:2-3 ESV**
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> 2 And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.
> 3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Habakkuk gives us the playbook. First, write the vision and make it plain, so we know where we are headed. Then, do not get discouraged, because the vision hastens to the end. The first step is casting the vision. This property is full of potential, and it is up to you and me to draw it out.

NO SWORD IN ISRAEL

Any reasonable person would ask why a church in our condition would even look at this. So consider David.

David is a shepherd boy, not a soldier, but a prophet has already anointed him to be king (1 Samuel 16:1-13). He brings lunch to his brothers at the front and finds a giant, Goliath, "whose height was six cubits and a span" (1 Samuel 17:4), nearly ten feet tall, taunting Israel day after day and telling them what they can't do. I am not fond of being told what we can't do.

David says, "I'll go." King Saul, of whom Scripture says, "From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people" (1 Samuel 9:2), tries to dress a small boy in his own armor and hands him his sword. David turns them down. He has not tested them.

Turn back a few chapters. Under Philistine domination, Israel had no blacksmiths, and "on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them" (1 Samuel 13:22). There were only two swords in Israel, and David has just refused one of them.

Then, somewhere between anger and the anointing, something rises up in him.

> **1 SAMUEL 17:46-47 ESV**
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> 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."

How will he cut off Goliath's head? There is no sword. He has no resource for what he is declaring. A confession I keep in my Bible from this passage: **"I don't need a sword or resource, because I serve a God who gives it into my hand."**

And another note in my Bible: **faith isn't operating in abundance. Faith is functioning in lack as if you had abundance.** That is good news for us right now.

Years ago the Lord spoke to me: **"Before it can manifest in the flesh, it must be birthed in the spirit."** There is some of this we can do in our own capacity. When we look beyond our capacity, it takes eyes of faith and vision from heaven, and that is where God steps in. If you drove onto this property and saw everything in these sketches finished, you would say, "Surely there is a God in Israel."

NOT BACK, FORWARD

We can talk about the way things used to be all day long. Those things served us in their season. When I asked one of the church's previous pastors for advice this week, he told me, "I do not have the word of the Lord for that church. You have the word of the Lord for that church." That season is over. We have moved into a new one.

I hear a lot about people coming back. If you can come back, come back; we would love to have you. But **I'm not trying to get people back. There are more lost people in this city than we can shake a stick at.** Have the church say it: **Give us the harvest.**

Part of it is taking care of what we already have. When God gives something into your hand and you neglect it, you deserve what you tolerate. We will not tolerate trash on the floor or stained ceiling tiles anymore.

Conclusion: What the Season Requires

Have everyone stand. The cards are not a contract, and they will not be taken to the bank. Today is a commitment to the Lord. It takes people getting involved and doing things we have never done in ministry.

You may have noticed how often my car is at the church. That is not my natural bent. It is what the season requires. Last year Ashleigh and I gave the largest single offering given to the church in 2025, out of our own savings that did not come from ministry, so the church could be repositioned and would not

fall behind. That is not because we are incredibly generous. It is what the season requires. If we are really building, every one of us has to step up and do more than we have ever done before.

Response: Invite the whole church forward to the front of what will be the future altar (do not cross the tape onto the stage) and lay their cards on it. Every hand lifted. We have commissioned several people this morning; now we commission you as a builder in this house.

Prayer: Thank God for His faithfulness through the decades and for the shoulders we stand on. Thank Him for the Legacy Builders. Bless everyone stepping up to see the gospel advance in Saraland, North Mobile and Mobile County. Declare that we are building a headquarters to take ground for the kingdom in this region. Ask God to honor their faith, and to compel, equip and drive each one to fulfill their commitment.

Close with a shout of praise.



ABOUT

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Pastor Jason Mayfield is the Senior Pastor of Citylight Church in Saraland, Alabama, an author, and the creator of POWER 27. He has given more than 20 years to the local church and helps pastors and ministry leaders lead BIG.

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