Transcript* - Bridge Out? Not Here – Pastor John Enabnit – 10/25/2026

Good morning, church. That is a really cool video. You know, we have some really talented people in the church. Thank God for them. So that last song we sang, it is done and is finished. I think of two very important things related to that. First of all, and most importantly, the cross. Jesus, what he did on the cross.

It is done. It is finished. Amen. And secondly, summer in Arizona is done. It is finished. Hallelujah.

Now you can call your friends back in the Midwest and gloat over our weather, right? For at least for the next six months. Well, I'm John and Abner. I'm one of the pastors here. I want to welcome you to our service today. And last Sunday, we began a new series called The Bridge. And you saw the video, and, we're going to continue that thought today.

And, if you missed last Sunday's message, you can go online, YouTube or to the BC Mesa website, and you can, pick up the, the the great message that Jay preached last Sunday. But today I'm going to continue. But, you know, I always like to start with a little bit of humor. So I've, I've got I've got a couple of jokes for you and I really don't know which one is the better one.

So I'm going to have you vote after I tell the joke, okay. Are you ready for this? Here's the first one. This guy's walking along the beach in San Diego, sees this old bottle, and it's kind of grimy. He picks it up, polishes it, and out pops a genie. And the genie says, hey, thank you for releasing me.

You get one wish. And the guy says, what happened to the three wishes? Genie says, we've had to downsize. You get one wish. So anyway, the guy says, okay, here it is. I've always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I'm afraid to fly. I won't go on a ship. So I want you to build me a bridge from here in California all the way to Hawaii.

And the genie looked at him and said, that is. That is crazy, man. I first of all, just the engineering to build a bridge like that. And then secondly, the cost of the concrete. No, I can't do that. Think of something else. So the guy pauses a minute and he thinks, well, okay. He says to the genie, I've been married about 25 years.

I love my wife, but frankly, our communication skills are so differently. I'd like to be able to understand my wife perfectly. Whatever she says. In fact, I'd like to have a perfect understanding of all women. That's my wish. And the genie says, would you like that to be 2 or 4 lanes on that bridge to Hawaii?

That's number one. Number two, I've got to read it because I'm not that familiar with this one. There's a couple of guys standing just at the entrance to a bridge, and they're holding signs that say the end is near. Turn around before it's too late, and a guy comes speeding by them, heading to the bridge. Bridge? He rolls his window down and yells, you religious nuts, get lost!

Just they turn around just in time to see this guy's car plunge into the river. And, And the one guy turns to the other and says, you think we should change our signs to say, bridge out?

Okay. So which ones are going to be number one or.

Or number two? Number one. Okay. Darwin, what do you think? Which one? Neither. That's it. That's what you're going to say. You're going to say neither. All right, so we've all been on bridges. What's the what's the purpose of a bridge? Right. Well, it's to get us from here to there. A bridge is is built and designed to, to get us across a river or maybe a stream or some sort of a chasm, like, a canyon or a gorge.

Maybe a ditch. You ever driven on a 260 west of, Payson, going up toward Heber, Heber, Overgaard? And, there's that one canyon. I've always been curious. I've never found out it's called Preacher Canyon. Does anybody have happen to know how that canyon got its name? If you know it, let me know. Okay. Anyway, back to back to bridges.

So a bridge is meant to get us from this side to that side. And what we're doing in this series is we're thinking together about how and why we can be a bridge into someone's life. Because there's possibly someone in your family or among your friends or, among people that you truly care about. They're on the wrong side of the bridge, and we want them to cross this bridge.

That the bridge that leads from sin to salvation, the bridge that leads from death to life, the bridge that leads from hell to heaven. And you may not like this, but I didn't say it. Jesus said it. Jesus said, there are really only two roads we're calling bridges in the world, and the first one is wide. And a lot of people are on this road that leads to destruction.

The second road is narrow, and it's it's the road that leads to life. And only a few people are on that particular road. So what I want you to do this morning, right now, is just to imagine something with me. Think about someone that you may know who is, who is far from God. It could be someone again in your family.

Could be a neighbor. Someone you work with, or like that in them. And you've known them for years, and they just don't attend church. They may not be hostile to God. They just haven't made room for

God in their lives. Or maybe, on the other hand, they are. They are angry at God because something has happened. But they don't go to church.

They might be hostile or not hostile. Christianity, whatever. And but whatever it is, they just have not made room for Jesus Christ in their life. Okay? Now, I want you to imagine this person late one night by themselves, and they pose a question that they would never actually vocalize out loud. Here's the question. God, if you're really there, would you somehow show me, if you're really there, God, would you show me?

Is it possible that the answer to that prayer is you? Is it possible that God has put you in that person's life to somehow move them a step closer to Jesus? Not not because you have all the answers, and not because you know the Bible by heart, and not even because you're particularly persuasive, simply because God has placed you in their life.

Now, how often do we as church people pray, God, would you use me? And we're thinking that God is going to send us to somewhere exotic. Amen. And God says, well, well, I was thinking about sending you to the guy across the street. And you say, who, him? God says yes, him. And you're saying, well, what about Africa?

Couldn't I just go there instead? Now it's possible. It's possible that that the bridge that we're talking about may be on the other side of the ocean. But it's also possible that the person that God wants to send you to is on the other side of the fence. So this sermon series called The Bridge. Here's my big idea today.

Being a bridge means being on mission. Being on mission. And when I talk about being on mission today, I'm not talking about being a professional Christian like a pastor or a missionary, or even necessarily having the spiritual gift of evangelism. You know how some people, they can just talk to a total stranger in the grocery store checkout line and 30s later, they're trusting in Jesus.

I'm not talking about that. Here's the idea of being on mission simply means that I understand that God has placed me where I am among the people around me, so that through my life and my words, I might help someone move toward Jesus. That's what being on mission really is. So why on earth are we on this earth?

Why did God save you? Why did God leave me here after I trusted in Christ? Ever thought about that? Well, why? You know, God could have arranged salvation so very differently. He could have arranged it so that when you trust in Jesus and get baptized in the next instant, you're out of there. You know, you're whisked right up to heaven.

That would make it so much easier that would eliminate so many problems. Just think about this. No committee meetings in church. Amen. No budget meetings, no arguments over music. You're in the water. You're baptized and boom, you're with Jesus. But God doesn't do that. So he saves us, and then he leaves us here in this broken world. Why?

Well, because your salvation is not just about you getting to heaven. One day. Your salvation is about what God wants to do through you while you're still here. It's about being a bridge. And let me repeat this. Being a bridge as I talk about it today is not about being a super spiritual Christian. It's just simply a part of following Jesus.

And I want to show you today that this idea of being a bridge did not originate with Jesus in Matthew 28, as as he's at the end of his earthly ministry meeting with his disciples just before his ascension. Jesus saying to his disciples, go and make disciples of all the nations. Go and teach and baptize and do all that stuff.

In fact, this idea of being on mission, of being a bridge didn't even originate in the New Testament. It is permeated all throughout the Bible. And I want you to turn if you have your Bibles today, to Genesis chapter one, we'll also have the words on the screen. I want you to see that this idea, this theme of being on mission, of being a bridge runs throughout every page of Scripture.

And we're going to start in the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, and I'm going to walk you through three scenes in Genesis that will help to set the tone for this. So we'll start with Genesis 127, where it says, so God created man in his own image. In the image of God, he created him, male and female.

He created them. This is God's word. Would you about your bow, your hearts and heads with me for a moment? Father, I just pray that we could hear your words today and not just let them go in one ear and out the other, but let this preacher's words, let every listener's heart and spirit, Lord, be taken captive by your Holy Spirit.

We yield ourselves to what you would do in us and through us in the remainder of our time together here today. We pray this in Jesus name and all God's people said. So I just read the verse. Here's the point that I want to develop from that. We were created to reflect God. We were created to reflect God.

This, by the way, Genesis 127 is one of the most important statements in the Bible because it says that you and I, as human beings, were created differently from every other creature on the planet, or in the universe for that matter. Everything else God made is not like us. Now the stars display his glory. The mountains display his his power.

The oceans manifest his grandeur. Arizona in July displays what happens when. The day when the thermostat in creation gets stuck on high. Amen. But you and I are not the same. We are. We are created beings. And we are unique because we are made in the image of God. And that sets us apart. In fact, I'll lay a word on you this morning that you may have heard it before.

The word is called anthropology. It's possible that some of you, when you went to college, took an anthropology course. What does that word actually mean? Well, when you take the suffix ology and add it to a word, ology means the study of something. So, for example, biology is bio life, the study of life theology. Theo God is the study of God.

Anthropology is a study of an anthropos. But what is an anthropos? That's the question. Well that's us. We are literally. And the word anthropos literally means those who can look up, those who can look around, those who can, can recognize that there is a transcendent God, which is what separates us from every other creature on the planet or in the universe for that matter.

We alone can recognize the existence of a transcendent God. Your dog, as much as you love your dog, has never once given a thought to eternity. Did you know that your cat, your cat? Well, we don't know what cats think of, but whatever it is, it's probably evil. I'm just saying that. Okay?

I just lost all the cat lovers out there. We anthropos as we are. We can look up and know that there's instinctively, you know, instinctively. The Bible says God has planted eternity in the human heart. We know that there's something beyond this life. We know there's an eternity out there. We know this stuff because we are made in the image of God from the beginning, God created us to represent him, to be his image bearers.

We were created to reflect something of the nature of God into this world, so that when people look at us, they can see something of God's goodness and God's holiness and God's justice and God's compassion and God's creativity. And you know what all of this means? I'm getting to a point. That means that every person on this planet, regardless of race, creed, or color, every person is highly valued by God.

Amen. And every person is treasured by God and because God treasures them, we treasure them. That's the beginning of mission. The beginning. A mission is to understand the intrinsic value of every single person on this planet, regardless of race, creed, or color. And do you realize you realize that even your very existence is a miracle of God? You know you are a miracle.

Every person is a miracle of God. The probability that you even exist at all is mind boggling. A mathematician put it to probabilities and said, the probability. Listen to this. This is interesting. The probability of your your dad meeting your mom is roughly one inch 20,000, and the probability of after they meet of them actually having a conversation is about 1 in 10.

And the probability of that leading to a second conversation is one inch ten, and the probability of that of that second conversation leading to a dating relationship. A long term relationship is again about 1 in 10. And the probability, the chances of all of that leading to having children between a man and a woman is about one into.

Which means that your very existence is roughly one inch 40 million. Did you know that? But let's go a little deeper. Let's go into the the biology of all of this, because every sperm and every egg is genetically unique, and you are the result of the fusion of one specific sperm with one specific egg. So the probability, oh, this is this is great.

The probability of one specific sperm with half of your name on it mating with one specific egg with the other half of your name on it is not 1 in 40,000,000, it's 1 in 400,000,000,000,000,000. That's the number. That's a four with 17 zeros behind it. You just think about that. Which means because every egg, every sperm is genetically unique.

One egg over and you're not the same you anymore. One. One sperm way egg. One egg over from my parents. I probably had a full head of hair. You know what I'm saying?

But I'm also probably not a genius, so I have to deal with that too. You know. When you are not, when someone says, hey, you're 1 in 1,000,000. Oh, you're not 1 in 1,000,000, you're 1 in 400,000,000,000,000,000. You. Every last person on the planet is made in the image of God. All of this leads to the statement that we were created, and God has given us dignity.

The very fact of you being you is it means that God has given you dignity. And from the beginning, we were intended as his image bearers to represent God in this world. God created people in that, that, that, that we would live in such a way that the world could look at us, people could look at us and see something of what God is like.

That's the beginning of mission. Long before there was ever a church building, long before there was ever a missionary. Long before there was ever an evangelism program. God created people to represent him. Which is worth talking about because you will not hear this in our culture. Our culture says, hey, you got to represent you, right? You got to be you.

You got to put yourself out there. You got to live your own truth. You will not see that in the Bible. The Bible says, oh, no, you have a much grander vision than that. A much bigger purpose than that. You were created to reflect God, which entirely changes the basic question that everybody asks. What do people think about me?

Isn't that what everybody thinks? What do people think about me? That is the wrong question. Church. The right question is what does the world learn about God from watching me? That is the question. What does my family learn about God from me? What is the server at the restaurant? Learn about God from me. What is the person that I work with?

Learn about God from me. What is the guy driving ahead of me on the freeway, going 55 miles an hour in the fast lane? Learn about God from me.

I have I have learned to really temper the way I treat other drivers. And let's face it, there are a lot of idiots out there. I mean, I know it, and you know what? I'm just saying it right? But I've stopped honking my horn. It all the idiots because chances are they think I'm one too. So there you go.

If if we. But listen to me. If we're made in the image of God, then our lives were always intended to point beyond ourselves. It's not about you. And that's what a bridge does. A bridge doesn't exist for itself. A an architect doesn't design a bridge. The engineer doesn't go over the bridge. Details the construction people, they don't build a bridge.

So you can just admire it. It's meant to connect. It's meant to move people from here to there. In in the context of this message, is meant to move people from death to life to, to get them one step closer to Jesus Christ. Bridges exist to connect. God created his people in such a way that hopefully they'll see something of him in us.

That's the first thing. Here's the second thing I want to talk about. Sin broke that bridge, but God came looking for us. That's Genesis three. You can turn to Genesis three if you have your Bible. So this third chapter of Genesis is the turning point already so early in the story of creation, you know, God created Adam and Eve and and here by chapter three, they've rebelled against God.

This tragic sin enters the world. And and immediately everything begins to fracture. You know, their relationship with God has busted. Their relationship with each other is broken. Shame enters the picture. Blame enters that picture. It's amazing how quickly blame enters the picture. God comes looking for Adam. He said, what did you do? And Adam responds, well, it's the woman you gave me, you know?

Thanks a lot. God, right. Thanks a lot. It's just incredible. In one sentence, he's managed to blame both his wife and God for the problem, right? Sin creates separation. That's what it always does. It separates us from God. It separates us from each other. It distorts relationships. It distorts what God has intended to do in us. And sin caused Adam and Eve to hide from God.

They tried. This is. This is just ironic. They tried to hide from the one who made them. But here's the remarkable part about Genesis three God comes looking for them. They they sin, they hide, and God begins to pursue them, which is the story of God all throughout the Bible. Human beings run. God pursues human beings. Rebel. God pursues human beings.

Hide. God pursues. This is the mission of God. And then we get to our verse finally here in Genesis 315, where we get this hint from God that evil is not going to have the final say, that sin is not going to have the final say. God speaks about the offspring of the woman and says that one day, through the offspring of the woman, which is a sermon in and of itself, well, that the serpent will be defeated.

Sin, yes, has entered the world, but God immediately begins revealing his plan of redemption. His rescue mission. Let's read this verse. He's talking to the serpent when he says, and I will cause hostility between you and the woman, in between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. So the human race has barely fallen into sin, and God is already initiating this rescue plan.

God doesn't look at Adam and even say, nice going guys. You really messed that up, didn't you? Good luck moving forward. Now he begins this mission of restoration, and the rest of the Bible really grows out of this promise of Genesis 315 that a deliverer is coming. Someone is coming. Someone is going to come in, overcome sin and death in judgment.

Someone will restore what sin has broken and that someone is named Jesus Christ. Amen. And Jesus himself said in Luke 1910, I have come to seek and to save the lost. God is a seeking God church. He's a he's a sending God. He's a saving God. And if you were a Christian, there was a time in your life.

Listen to me. There was a time in your life when God was searching for you. And you. Don't forget that because we Christians, we can become very good at looking at the world, at centers and saying, look how terrible they are. Look how lost they are. Yes they are. But let's not forget that you also were lost at one time.

Maybe you dress your sin up a little bit differently. Maybe your rebellion against God was a little more quiet, but you were still a sinner. Every Christian is a rescued sinner because someone was willing to be the bridge for you, because someone was willing to take the time and love and care about you enough to move you from sin to salvation.

So who was that someone for you? Who was that? I mean, for a lot of us, it could have been our parents might have been a Sunday school teacher. You know, last Sunday, Jay was talking about his

seventh and eighth grade teacher, and how much he had helped Jay and others. And I had already worked out my message in my own mind, what I wanted to talk about.

And I thought, doggone it, that's the story I was going to tell about my junior high teacher. And it turns out that practically every preacher on the planet must have had a junior high teacher that had the patience of job. You know? Because, unlike Jay, who had Saturday Night Live to bounce off of, we had to come up with our own plans and ideas to get under the skin of our teacher.

His name was Quinny, you know, and I thought, well, since every I wonder, just in curiosity, do we have anybody in this room that at one time or even now has worked with junior high boys and I'm talking about junior high boys, seventh and eighth grade boys specifically, because at that point, you know, they're going through puberty. The testosterone is really flowing.

They're they're rowdy. They're rambunctious. And the teacher, bless their hearts, they have to try their best to corral these kids in Sunday school or youth group. But whenever we have anybody that's ever filled that capacity at all, would you would you all those of you with your hands raised, would you just stand up for a minute? I want to see who has worked with junior high boys.

Stand up. Get it to your feet right now. Let's let's give these people. Yeah. All right.

You have. You have just stood up. Honestly, you probably get the best man shins in heaven. You know that.

You got the ringside seats. We're going to be in hot dogs. You guys get steak and caviar. That's that's. So my my guy Quinney put up with a lot of rowdiness from us. And I remember him saying, I'll never forget what he said one Sunday. He just was so exasperated. And he says, just one of you, just one of you just does anything for God.

This will be worth it. Well, a few years ago, when he turned 90 and I called him on his 90th birthday and I said, hey, I just want you to know that it's not just me, but there are there are other guys who are serving the Lord today because in no small part to you. And he died a couple of years ago in his 90s.

And, in the church building, I'm told I wasn't there, but the church building was filled with people who he had been a bridge for.

Who's been the bridge in your life? Who who helped to move you one step closer to Jesus? See, sometimes we we need to be reminded this the church is not a museum for people who have

somehow managed to avoid the muddiness of sin. The church is a place where redeemed sinners, men and women and boys and girls rejoice because we have been found by Jesus.

Amen. That should change the way we look at people who are far from God. Instead of criticizing them and complaining about look what big sinners they are, what's wrong with these people? Instead of that, we begin to think, this is someone that's loved by God. This is someone that Jesus died on the cross for and maybe God has placed me in that person's life for a reason.

That is being a bridge. My friend. Now the third thing, God blesses his people. So this is a great transition between points. I mean, this is really rough, but I'll just do it. God blesses his people so so that we can bless others. Let's go to Genesis 12. But by now in Genesis 12, quite literally, the words just going to hell.

I mean, Genesis six is already explained the flood that God sent to destroy almost all of mankind except Noah and his family. And even after the flood, there's rebellion. People are doing their own thing. They're moving further and further from God. And then God calls this one man, this one specific man. So now the mission. And God has always been on mission, but the mission of God is going to ramp up in Genesis 12.

Here we go. The Lord had said to Abraham of course he'll become Abraham. Go from your country, your people in your father's household to the land. I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you.

And whoever curses you, I will curse. Read the rest with me. And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. That last part of verse three is crucial. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you. God chooses Abraham and he blesses Abraham. But that blessing was never supposed to stop with Abraham. Here's a Bible principle God's blessings flow to us so that God's blessings can flow through us.

They flow to us so that they can flow through us. That is the calling on God's people. We are blessed to be blessed. And I'm not talking necessarily about material blessings, but certainly in America we could talk about all the material blessings that are ours from the hand of the Lord. But we are blessed spiritually. We're forgiven and saved so that we can bless others.

We are reached that we can reach. We have been shown mercy so that we can show mercy. We have. We have been shown love so that we can show love. We have heard the gospel so that we can share the gospel. Because God never intended his people or his church to become a spiritual cul de sac where everything goes in and nothing comes out.

But that happens. It happens in churches. The natural drift is toward inward focused congregations where we attend church, we sing the songs, we read the Bible, we go to life group, we hang out with the same Christian people. We read Christian books, we listen to Christian music. And somewhere along the way we become so surrounded by Christians that we hardly have anyone that we know who is far from God, who needs Christ.

That was never the plan, never the plan. God did not tell Abraham, I'm going to bless you so abundantly that one day you can sit with all the other blessed people and talk about how terrible the world is. No, God said, I will bless you so that you in turn will be a blessing. In other words, the blessing has a destination beyond you.

And in case you missed it, Jesus is in the down line of Abraham, right? And through Jesus, people from every tribe, every nation, every language, every group can come to him. So the mission of God goes far beyond Abraham and expands to the whole world. And Jesus turns to his disciples on the mount of of the Ascension. And just before he goes back to the father, he looks at them.

He says, okay, you've got it now give it to somebody else. He says, go and make disciples. And whenever, wherever you go, whenever you go, share the good news of the gospel. Tell people what God has done in your life. In other words, be a bridge. Let me remind you of the big idea. Once again, being a bridge means being on mission.

So let's not complicated church. I mean, listen, I get it. If I were sitting where you're sitting right now, I know how messages like this land. You know, when you hear a message on heaven. Oh, that's great, that's great. Or something that really tickles your fancy. Oh, I love that message. But a message like this, this is the kind of message we want to forget.

Because it puts the onus on me and on you. It gives it. It means that I can no longer claim that I didn't know, because now you know. So let's not complicate it. You don't have to know the answer to every question, church. You don't have to memorize the Bible by heart. You don't even have to be clever.

You're just, as the old saying goes, you're just one beggar telling another beggar where you found the bread, because a bridge Christian says, God, use me to help somebody move one step closer to Jesus. So maybe you invite somebody to church, maybe. Maybe you take dinner to a grieving neighbor. Maybe you pray with a hurting friend, or sit with someone in the hospital.

But you live your life with such kindness and compassion that somehow Christ just comes through. And so that someone looks at you and says, man, you are different. What is it about you? Please do not say, oh, I've always been this wonderful. Thank you much for asking. That is not what you're supposed to say. Tell them about Jesus.

Just tell them you don't force people. You can't force people into the kingdom of God. You can't argue people into Christianity. Just be reflective of God. So let's get practical. Who who you might you be a bridge for in this world? What's one person I'm not asking you to name 5 or 10 right now. Just think of one person that just maybe God has placed in your life so that you can be a bridge for that person and ask yourself, what would it look like for me to be that person for them?

What would it look like for me to be a bridge for someone? Because earlier in this message, I asked you to imagine someone saying, if not out loud, inwardly, God, if you're there, would you somehow show me if you're really there, God, would you somehow show me? And what if the answer to that prayer. Is you? This guy was driving home late one night.

Been a long day at work. He was tired. He was hungry. He just wanted to get home. But as he was going down this quiet, lonely road, he noticed a car off on his shoulder with his hazard lights flashing. And as he drove by that car, he thought what probably most of us would think, gosh, I hope they're okay.

And he kept driving. But about a quarter mile down the road it started to bother him, and he thought to himself, well, what if they're not okay? So he turned around and he went back and pulled in behind the car with its lights flashing, and when he got out to check on the occupant of the car, he discovered it was an elderly woman who had had a flat tire, and she didn't have her cell phone with her.

And so he he just took the time. It was only 15, 20 minutes. She got out her spare, put the spare tire on. When he was done, she thanked him over and over and then she said something that just struck him. She said, I was just praying that God would send somebody, and that man thought that was the moment it hit me.

I had driven right past the answer to her prayer.

I wonder how many times you've done that.

I know we're busy. We're tired. We've got things to do. But how many times have you and I driven past the answer? God's answer to someone's prayer? Because there's someone in your world that's lonely, that's hurting, that's confused and maybe searching for God and they don't even know it. And maybe that person has prayed, God, if you're real, would you please send somebody?

And maybe God has.

Maybe he sent you.

Maybe he sent you. Would you buy your hearts and hands with me? Lord, I admit in so many ways it would have been so much easier if if when we got saved, we just were doomed up to heaven, whisked up to heaven. And they said you left us here in this sin sick world. Why, God? Why would you do this?

Well, Lord, because you want us to be a bridge. You want us to be the person in someone's life that hopefully can move them even a one step closer to Jesus. So, Lord, would you put on our hearts today? Would you burden us? God? Would you help us to think about someone that we can be that bridge for?

Holy spirit and we give you permission to inspect us today, to help us, to remind us, to encourage us, to admonish us to be that bridge. We pray in the name of Christ and all God's people said.

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