

DON'T WALK AWAY!



GOOD EVENING.

NO TE VAYAS!



GOOD EVENING.



INTRO. A. Many years ago, I was still in school--one day I saw the most beautiful girl I had ever seen walking across the campus. And when she passed me, smiled at me.



Then one day I was eating in the cafeteria, and she sat down at my same table. She asked me my name, I got hers. We started talking, so easy to talk with her.



Christian. Smart. Gorgeous. I said, “Any chance I could take you to the concert Sat. night?” “Sure!” She was magic. So much fun. Crazy.



After 3 months, I finally got up the courage to hold hands with her. Then, first kiss, on a beach in California.



Turns out her family was rich, huge house, pool, she drove a red Corvette.



B. One day I went to see her father, and asked him if I could marry his daughter. She planned the wedding, outdoors, fancy hotel on the beach.



She planned the wedding, outdoors, fancy hotel on the beach.



I planned a honeymoon in TAHITI. I dreamed about what it would be like to be married, honeymoon, making love, with the most beautiful girl in the world.



The day of the wedding came. Everybody was there. I'm standing at the front with the pastor. She started walking down the aisle



I'm 5 minutes away from being married.



All of a sudden, I saw another girl walk in the back and sit down. I had dated her in high school. I liked her. But she broke up with me. Now she's incredible. I couldn't take my eyes off her.



Then she saw me looking at her, and our eyes met. And she made a little gesture—“It’s supposed to be you and me.”

I WALKED AWAY



**And that's all it took—I said to the girl of my dreams,
“I'm so sorry”—and I walked away.**

YO ME FUI



**I walked away from her. I walked away from our house.
I walked away from that honeymoon. From the best
girl in the world.**



I walked out, got in a car with her and drove away, left everybody sitting there. It didn't last. It was crazy. 5 minutes away. And I walked away.



D. Old movie, Out of Africa, Robert Redford & Meryl Streep. He's a pilot, always flying away. They're on a picnic, and she asks him to just stay home with her. He says, "I'm sorry, I just can't."



**And he flies away. You want to scream at him, "It's Meryl Streep! Are you crazy?"
And the plane crashes.**



Athletes have walked away. Quit, still young, Walk away from hundreds of millions of dollars.

RUNAWAY BRIDE



JULIA ROBERTS, RUNAWAY BRIDE, walking down the aisle, ran away 4 times!

NOVIA FUGITIVA



JULIA ROBERTS, RUNAWAY BRIDE, walking down the aisle, ran away 4 times!



G. When I was young, the Church went through a crisis. I had many friends, leave the Church. I thought the Church was wrong too, I thought they had made a mistake. I thought about leaving.



FIRE: But then I thought, my family has been in this church for over 100 years. Somebody sold them a book, put it on a shelf. There was a terrible fire, they're surrounded,



lying under blankets, trying to keep the blankets wet. But then the spring ran out of water. My Great-grandfather said, “If God doesn’t do a miracle, we’re going to die right here.”



**She said, “I can’t believe God would let us die like this.”
Under that blanket they prayed, If God would save
them, they would read the book. Went back to the
spring, full of water.**



**Miracle. Read the book, started keeping the Sabbath,
became Adventists.**



****GERATY—President of the university, where I was senior pastor**



**. Said to me, “Dan, if you and I leave, then the Church
Is only going to be those crazy people**

**“We Can’t
Leave.”**

. We have to stay. Fight for the Church. We can’t leave.”

**“NO PODEMOS
IRNOS .”**

. We have to stay. Fight for the Church. We can't leave.”

STARBUCKS MOMENTS



STARBUCK MOMENTS—Young man, at our University by Manila, Angry with the church, fighting over music. "I'm out, Pastor Dan." "Give me one hour, STARBUCKS."

MOMENTOS EN STARBUCKS



I don't drink coffee, but it was one place where we could talk, 10 o'clock at night.

“Don't Walk Away!”



I fought for them. “We can’t lose you. Help us fight for the Church, help us make it right. Please don’t walk away.”

“No Te Vayas!”



I fought for them. “We can’t lose you. Help us fight for the Church, help us make it right. Please don’t walk away.”



They stayed. One is working up at SSD right now



I was a college pastor for 15 years, many other STARBUCK MOMENTS, Like a war, fighting, keep these kids in the Church. Some stayed, others walked away.



ALEX & ERIC--The night our church voted not to ordain women. That's not my point tonight. I called my 2 sons. They had been watching. They believe, Can't discriminate against people



for something they did not choose. We lost by just 200 votes. Called my sons. The most precious things in my life. “Please don’t leave over this. Please don’t walk away. Don’t give up now. Help me fight it.”

STAY WITH THE CHURCH



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TONIGHT--Maybe tonight is one of those moments. I can't go to STARBUCKS with you, though I'm happy to talk with you afterwards. But if you're thinking of walking away tonight--

QUEDATE CON LA IGLESIA



1

-Church isn't worth it. I'm begging you tonight, "Please don't walk away. Stay with the Church

**Someday We're Going to Get
it RIGHT.**



Someday it's going to happen. Someday going to be tired of being dead, arguing over music, arguing over stupid things. Someday going to get it right.

Algún día lo Comprenderemos .



For those of you thinking of joining, please come in.

**HELP US
Make the Best Church in the
World.**



Help us make the best church in the world.

AYÚDANOS
A Edificar la Mejor Iglesia del
Mundo.



Help us make the best church in the world.

CHURCH FIGHTS



CHURCH. A. I know sometimes the Church can drive you crazy. I've got SCARS all over me, church fights over music. One church up north in the Philippines,

PELEAS EN LA IGLESIA



one lady stands at the door, checks everybody out, if have jewelry or something else wrong, won't let them in. Took that church from 120 down to 20.

CHURCH FIGHTS



- **IN the US, why so many Filipino churches? Because 2 families fighting.**



Kids made a baby, church said, can't come back



Maybe the church has hurt you. Maybe boring. Maybe there's nothing for you.

**Please Don't Walk
Away!**



Please don't walk away. Help us fight.

**"I will always stay with
Jesus, but not maybe not with
the Church."**



B. I've had maybe 1000 people tell me, "Pastor Dan, I will always stay with Jesus. But maybe not the Church. Don't need the Church to be saved."

**"Yo siempre permaneceré con
Jesús, pero tal vez no con la
Iglesia."**



**BNo, you can't do that. The Church is Jesus' Church!.
You can't have Jesus, but not the Church. Jesus comes
with the Church. You want Jesus, you get the Church**

**“I will build MY
Church..**

**THE GATES OF HELL
SHALL NOT PREVAIL**



**Jesus said, MATTHEW 16:18 “I will build My Church.”
It’s Jesus’ Church!**

"Yo edificaré mi iglesia..
las puertas del Hades no prevalecerán contra
ella." Mateo 16:18

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If you want to go to heaven, have to be part of the Church. In REVELATION, everybody in heaven—part of a big group. Standing on the Sea of Glass



Standing around the Throne. Nobody is going to church by themselves, one by one by one. Only with the Church!

Christ is the HEAD The Church is the BODY



C. The Bible says, Jesus is the Head of the Church, and the Church is the Body. You can't have the Head, without the Body **always lifts up the Cross.**

CRISTO ES LA CABEZA LA IGLESIA ES EL CUERPO



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When Hilda and I were on our first date, we're sitting there, she's so beautiful. She starts to talk, I say, "Please don't talk, I just want to look at your face." After we finish eating,



we start to walk out, she takes my hand. “Please don’t touch me. I just want to look at your face, I love your face.” Crazyness!

**If You Love One Part, Have to
Love It All**



**You can't just love one part, If you love one part, you
have to love it all.**

Si Amas Una Parte, Tienes que
Amarlo todo



**You can't just love one part, If you love one part, you
have to love it all.**

Christ is the HEAD The Church is the BODY



You want Jesus, the Head, you have to take the Body too.

CRISTO ES LA CABEZA LA IGLESIA ES EL CUERPO



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**Cristo Es la CABEZA.
La Iglesia es el Cuerpo**



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WHY I'VE STAYED WITH THE CHURCH



D. I'm going to TELL YOU WHY I'VE STAYED WITH THE CHURCH:

**Jesus Stayed
With the Church
So I Stayed With
the Church**

1. JESUS STAYS WITH THE CHURCH. I think I can tell you more stories than you can tell me, about where Church has messed up. But I'm still here. Not going to walk away



Jesus knows all the problems in the Church. He sees it all. Still here. Still in the Middle of the Church.



Jesus still right there. Jesus stays, so I stay. I'm a follower of Jesus.

FRIENDS

2. FRIENDS—my best friends come from the church.



FRIENDS—my best friends come from the church. I have hundreds of friends, all over the world—all from the Church. Great people, good people. I've baptized them,



mission trips with them. Everywhere I go around the world, all over the Philippines, Thailand, India—friends. Because of the Church.



For my 70th BIRTHDAY, my wife collected letters from all my friends. Don't have to wait until I die, get to read it now. Cried all the way through it.

WHO GOES?

3. DISASTERS: When there are DISASTERS—who goes

QUIÉN VA?

3. DISASTERS: When there are DISASTERS—who goes



****DISASTERS: When there are DISASTERS—who goes? Not Atheists. Not Hindus, not Moslems, Not Buddhists. Not secular people. It's Christians. It's the CHURCH!**



Not Atheists. Not Hindus, not Moslems, Not Buddhists. Not secular people. It's Christians. It's the CHURCH!



You can look at glass, half empty or half full. If you get sad about the church, you can't leave all that out!



BY YOURSELF—if a neighbor gets sick, take one pot of food over there.



Standing around the Throne. Nobody is going to church by themselves, one by one by one. Only with the Church!



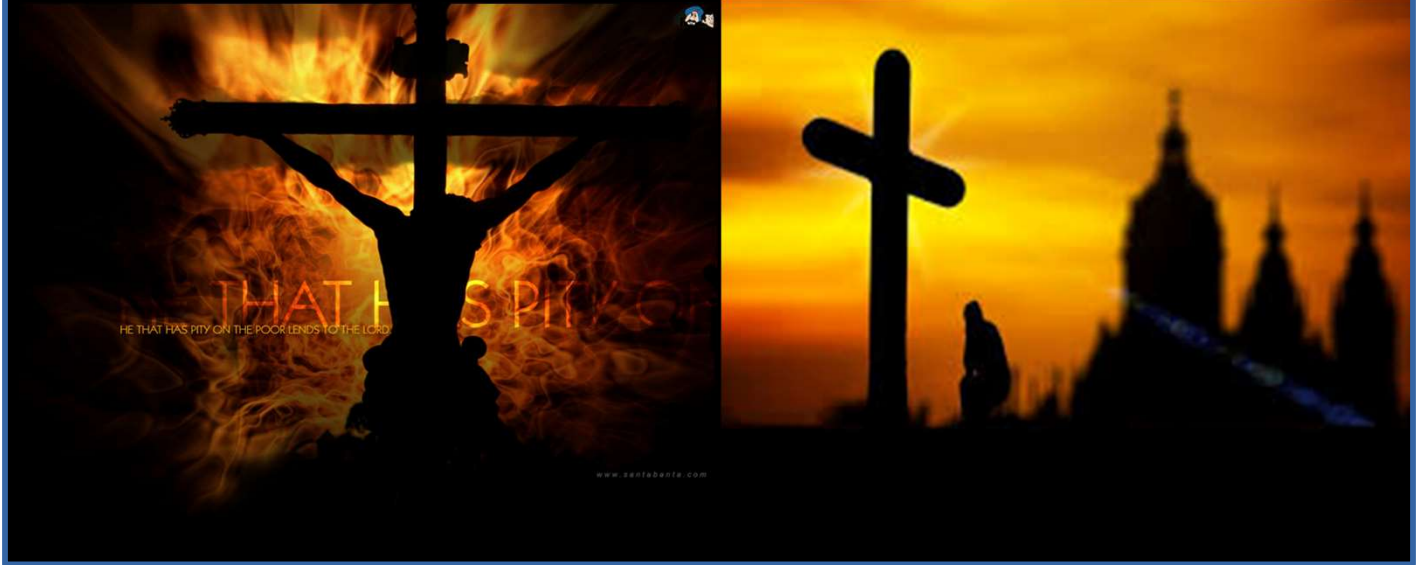
TACLOBAN, just my church, sent food, water, tents, generators, built one church by ILOILO, built a school in PALAWAN. Power of the church.

CHURCH—Where You Talk About the Most Important Things



**4. The Church is where you TALK ABOUT THE MOST
IMPORTANT THINGS I'VE STAYED WITH THE CHURCH:**

**SI JESUS SE QUEDA EN LA
IGLESIA, ENTONCES YO ME
QUEDO EN LA IGLESIA**



**If Jesus stays With the Church, Then I Stay With the
Church**



You can talk about the little stuff in the beauty parlor, barbershop, at the bar. Weather. Sports. Little things



Where do you talk about the biggest things, what happens after you die, how can you live your very best life? Only at the Church!

**If you're unhappy
With the Church:**

- 1. Stay & Pretend**
- 2. Go Out the Back
Door**
- 3. Go out the Front
Door**

APPEAL: A. Dick Winn wrote once if you are unhappy with church—You can stay, pretend. You can leave by back door, you can leave by the front door—

**SI no estas contento con la
Iglesia:**

1. Quédate y Aparenta

**2. Sal Por la Puerta
de Atrás**

**3. Sal Por la Puerta
del Frente**

4. Escoge

–you can pick and choose what you want to keep. If you don't like 1 part, don't have to throw it all away

5. Stay and Fight to Make it Better!

#6—You can stay and work to make it better. What I chose.

5. Quédate y Lucha para Hacerla Mejor!

#6—You can stay and work to make it better. What I chose.

**It Jesus Stays With the
Church, Then I Stay With
the Church**



**If Jesus stays With the Church, Then I Stay With the
Church**

**SI JESUS SE QUEDA EN LA
IGLESIA, ENTONCES YO ME
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FIGHT !!

As long as they don't throw me out, I'm going to stay, try to be part of making it better. Beg you all to stay.

Lucha !!

As long as they don't throw me out, I'm going to stay, try to be part of making it better. Beg you all to stay.

SOMEDAY !

Someday, we're going to get it right. Someday, church will be filled with amazing music. Someday, people will

Algún Día!

Someday, we're going to get it right. Someday, church will be filled with amazing music. Someday, people will





RICH YOUNG RULER, he's right there with Jesus, deciding it was too much, walked away. Not with Jesus anymore



1 leper came back, but 9 went away.



PHARISEES brought a lady to Jesus, caught her committing adultery.



Jesus wrote their sins in the sand, they all walked away—from Jesus.

**If you Reject the
Church, You Will
End Up Walking
Away From Jesus**

. If you reject the Church, you will end up walking away from Jesus

**Si Rechazas a la
Iglesia, Acabarás
Alejándote de
Jesús**

**. If you reject the Church, you will end up walking away
from Jesus**

HEBREWS 10:39

- "We are Not Part of the group with shrinks back in the Last Days. We are the faithful ones."

HEBREWS 10:39 'We are not part of the group that shrinks back in the Last Days. We are the faithful ones.'

HEBREOS 10:39

"Nosotros no somos de los que retroceden en los Últimos Días. Nosotros somos de los fieles."

HEBREWS 10:39 'We are not part of the group that shrinks back in the Last Days. We are the faithful ones.'

**Please Don't Walk
Away!**



Please don't walk away. Help us fight.

**Por favor no Te
Vayas!**



Please don't walk away. Help us fight.

APOLLO 13



APOLLO 13—3 astronauts going to the moon, was an explosion. Maybe not going to make it back.

**"This is going to be our
biggest disaster in history."**



APOLLO 13—3 astronauts going to the moon, was an explosion. Maybe not going to make it back. Someone says—"Going to be the greatest disaster in history."

“Este va a ser nuestro desastre mas grande en la Historia.”



APOLLO 13—3 astronauts going to the moon, was an explosion. Maybe not going to make it back. Someone says—“Going to be the greatest disaster in history.”

**"This is going to be
OUR FINEST HOUR!"**



**Ed Harris, been fighting for 3 days to bring them back
alive, "No, going to be OUR FINEST HOUR."**

“Este va a ser nuestro mejor momento!”



3 minutes of silence. No radio contact. Wives and kids are watching. All of a sudden—3 parachutes in the sky. They made it. Everybody cheering. Brought them back alive. Their finest hour.

“Este va a ser nuestro desastre mas grande en la Historia.”



APOLLO 13—3 astronauts going to the moon, was an explosion. Maybe not going to make it back. Someone says—“Going to be the greatest disaster in history.”

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OUR FINEST HOUR



8

Someday it's going to happen with the Church. It's going to be like this, churches full, everything focused on Jesus, great music, love, no more politics. Our finest hour. Don't miss it.

NUESTRA MEJOR HORA



9

Someday it's going to happen with the Church. It's going to be like this, churches full, everything focused on Jesus, great music, love, no more politics. Our finest hour. Don't miss it.

GO BACK

D. Go back. Put more life into your church. Put a praise team together. If nobody can play the piano, Pastor Jemsley's going to send you a flashdrive full of music, you can sing along with that

REGRESA

Put a little drama team together. Every sermon, focused on Jesus. Make a list of all the youth baptized. One doesn't come to church, you all go to their house, invite them back.



G. Rose—famous story.

During WWII, soldier was in NY, bought a used book. Liked it so much, found the girl's address in front, wrote to her. Got a letter back. He went off to South Pacific.



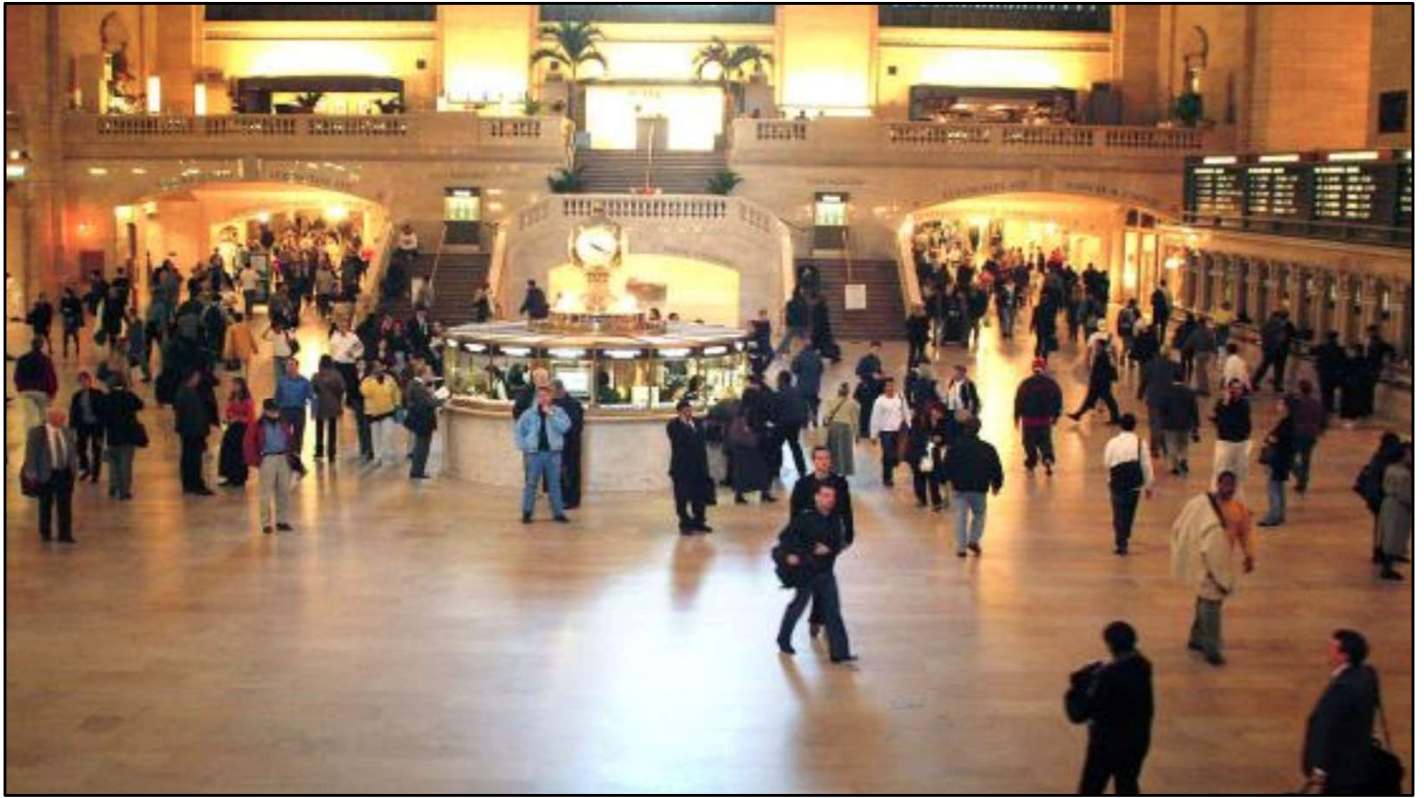
Wrote back and forth, fell in love, asked for picture, no, let's just leave it like this. He came back, asked her to come to NY. "OK, come on the train."



How will I know which one is you?



**I'll be the one with with a Red
Rose.**



**Grand Central Station, NY, train
came in, thousands of people, all of
a sudden saw—Red Rose.**



Heart sank, little old lady. How could he have made a mistake, thought, beautiful, young.



**Nice to her, then she handed him
the rose, pointed to a young lady,**



“That lady gave me a dollar to give you the red rose.”



All a test. She wanted to know, he loves her now when she's young and beautiful—but if she changes—could he change?



It's what God wants to know—is there anything that could happen, that would make you change in your relationship with God?



The Sabbath is your statement to God—You can count on me. Go win some other people—because you have me. Settled.

**WE WILL
NEVER
CHANGE**

WE WILL NEVER CHANGE.

**NUNCA
VAMOS A
CAMBIAR**

WE WILL NEVER CHANGE.

WHAT I BELIEVE

Would we ever change? When I was a young pastor, had to make my own decision. I could not stay with the church, just because I was born in it. Studied it out. Then I preached my first CRUSADE

LO QUE YO CREO

Every day, I had to write a sermon—WHAT I BELIEVE. WHAT WILL I DIE FOR. This is my church. I am proud to be a member of this church. Only church in the world, doesn't believe God burns people in hell forever.