

WINTER BREAK QUIET TIME SERIES
CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS



BOSTON A0 CAMPUS MINISTRY 2018

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The Compassion of Jesus

Mari Sawamura

With my limited range of emotions and pride, I have always admired Jesus' ability to stoop down and feel the deepest sufferings of others. In all the ways that I am imperfect, Jesus was perfect.

- Compassion: a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is hurting, in pain, or has misfortune and is often accompanied by a strong desire to help the suffering.

The Latin origin is *compati* = com (with/together) + pati (to suffer) = to suffer together. Fun! Revelation 21:4 says that in heaven there will be no tears, mourning, or pain. How special it is, that an almighty king chose to leave such a haven, and decided to feel negative emotion when he could have chosen not to feel them at all. Truly, we have a high priest who is able to empathize with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:15).

Read: Matthew 14:13-21

This passage takes place as Jesus hears that John the Baptist was beheaded. He and Jesus shared a special relationship, even before they were born. Their moms were relatives as they both had miracle babies for God (Luke 1). John faithfully prepared the way for Jesus, making himself less as Jesus became greater (John 3:30). John even baptized him. Jesus needed to retreat away to a private space to process his loss.

The only alone time Jesus ended up getting, though, was on his boat ride there. When he arrived, the crowd had already beat him there on foot. Was Jesus annoyed that he couldn't have time to himself? No, it says that "he had *compassion* on them and healed their sick" (v. 14). Compassion requires us to see the needs around us, even when we feel like we are the ones in need of it most. Jesus did not let his discouragements blind him from seeing others' suffering, but rather used his pain to relate to their feelings. He didn't have one selfish thought – he never sinned! Let's not forget how remarkable that is.

Jesus' compassion also drove him to go the extra mile. As if healing people and restoring their hope were not enough, Jesus saw an immediate need: food! The disciples recognized that the people needed to eat (v.15), but to Jesus, seeing the problem and instructing the people to do something about it was not enough. Has your compassion sounded something like, "oh, that sounds so hard. You should really do _____", instead of seeking what you can do to help? Jesus said, "*You* give them something to eat." I can feel like I don't know *how* to go about helping, but anything is possible with God. If we take ownership and decide to be the "who", the instrument in which God will carry out the comfort, He can use us to do the "how". He did immeasurably more with five loaves and two fish– they even had leftovers!

"Yet the Lord *longs* to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion." Isa. 30:18.

When does God have compassion on us?

- He has compassion on those who fear him. That is the one condition! (Psalm 103:13)
- When we persevere (James 5:11)/ when we are afflicted (Isaiah 49:10,13)

What should our response be to God's compassion?

- Love the law (Psalm 119:77, 156)
- Imitate Christ's humility (Phil. 2:1-3, Col 3:12). *Compati* demands it.
- Rejoice! (Isaiah 49:13)

Journal prompt: What are some discouragements from this semester that only God can provide comfort for? How can I comfort others with the comfort I've received from God (**2 Cor. 1:3-4**)?

Prayer prompt: Psalm 51:1. I also often ask God to "break my heart for what breaks yours" (lyrics from *Hosanna*). I love the idea of having compassion on God too, to drive us to fill HIS desires as well.

The Joy of Jesus

Jesse Ghoman

Have you ever seen a painting depicting Jesus in which he looked joyful? Our world always seems to paint our Lord as a sad, woeful, sorrowful man with a halo around his head. But the scriptures paint a very different picture.

When questioned about the fasting of the Pharisees, Jesus answered “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them?” Jesus compares himself to a groom, is there anything more joyful than a groom on his wedding day? Being around Jesus wasn’t a time of mourning. Later he says, “unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Children are filled with joy and gladness. Jesus said many things like this. His burden was easy and his yolk was light, he said he came to give life to the full, he called the apostles not only his servants but his friends. Jesus was on a mission but he was full of joy.

Luke 10:17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

-Take time to write down the things in this life that bring you joy. What satisfies you and causes you to rejoice?

Luke 10:18-20 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

-Why does Jesus reply that the thing we should rejoice in the most is our salvation? Because in the end of the day, joy that comes from the things of this world is fleeting and doesn’t last. When our satisfaction comes from God, that is ‘an inheritance that can never spoil, perish, or fade.’

Luke 10:21-24 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

-Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit, but it’s easy in this life to let Satan steal our joy. What things threaten to steal your joy on a daily/weekly basis?

-What would it look like in your relationships to be someone who is filled with joy?

Matthew 12:35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

-Joy isn’t something you can fake. Focus your prayers on asking God to take away your cynicism, your attitudes, your bitterness, and anything else that hardens your heart.

The Servanthood of Jesus

Sarah Kruger

Throughout the gospels, there are plenty of times we see Jesus act as a servant. From the time he humbly washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-7) to the many miracle healings he performed for those around him (Matthew 9:35, Matthew 15:30, Luke 9:11 to name just a few), to his ultimate service of suffering and dying on the cross for our sins, Jesus was constantly living as an example of servitude. But, his servanthood was not limited to these momentary snapshots of service; Jesus' entire existence on earth was an act of service itself!

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death- even death on a cross!” -Philippians 2:5-8

As Paul highlights in this scripture, Jesus took on “the very nature of a servant” by giving up equality with God. Equality with God is far too amazing for our human minds to even comprehend (Isaiah 55:8-9) - and Jesus gave that up! Before he even performed a single miracle, healed a single person, or washed a single foot, Jesus served us by sacrificing the incredible state of equality with God and allowing himself to be made into “nothing”, which is how human likeness seems in comparison. In this way, servanthood became a way of life for Jesus rather than a momentary act. Jesus's whole human life was a humble act of service and sacrifice!

This idea is so convicting to me because there are so many things that are hilariously inferior to equality with God that get in the way of me serving. I can struggle to sacrifice my time, my money, and just my desire to sit at home and watch Netflix, in order to serve God. Especially as I write that out, I realize how silly these struggles are in comparison to Jesus' sacrifice of his equality with God. Jesus had so much to lose by even coming to earth and by simply being born as a human he revealed his selfless serving heart.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mark 10:45

And, of course, it is so important to remember that Jesus served in this way to save us! Jesus' ultimate sacrifice was his death on the cross, a terribly painful, human, death that he would not have had to endure in his Godly nature. Jesus served us through sacrifice because he knew it was the way to save us! Jesus knew his sacrifice would be worth it so that we could have a chance at salvation and his servanthood came from a place of love for his people! (Romans 5:8)

Some Questions to Consider: Paul calls us to “have the same mindset as Christ Jesus” when it comes to serving:

- Think about what gets in your way of serving as selflessly as Jesus did. What do you struggle most to sacrifice in order to serve God and others?
- Jesus' life as a servant was an incredibly humble position for him. In what areas are you struggling to humble yourself in order to serve as Jesus did?
- Jesus' servanthood was motivated by love for us. What is your motivation when it comes to serving?

The Conviction of Jesus: Mimi Kim

Read: Matthew 4:1-11

Did you know the word “conviction” is not found in the Bible once? Despite this, we constantly see those with conviction, like Paul and Peter standing before the Sanhedrin, and those without conviction, such as Adam and Eve facing the serpent, throughout the entire Bible. No one exemplified conviction as much as Jesus.

So why do we lack conviction?

Obviously, there are a lot of answers to this question. The definition of conviction is “a strong persuasion or belief; the state of being convinced.” What are we not convinced of?

1) We aren’t convinced that God’s way is better than our way. In this story, Jesus is at the beginning of his ministry. What the devil is doing here is more than tempting Jesus to sin. He’s tempting Jesus to compromise who he was and what he came to do - to be the perfect lamb who had no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). Falling into temptation would mean that Jesus was valuing the short-term satisfactions of pleasure, pride, and power over God’s plan of salvation. The devil did the same thing to Adam and Eve, and he does the same thing to us today - convincing us that the things we are tempted to compromise on are better than God’s plan of salvation for us.

2) We aren’t convinced that we are the children of God. Jesus is fresh out of his baptism, where God said, “This is my son whom I love.” Despite this, Satan repeatedly starts with the words, “If you are the son of God.” It’s almost as though he is asking Jesus, “If you are the son of God, why are you not satisfied (hunger)? Why isn’t God here for you when you fall (jumping off)? Why are you weak/powerless (kingdoms of splendor)?” For those of us who were baptized, we get to call ourselves children of God. Often, the devil can ask us these same questions: “If you are the son/daughter of God, why is this hard? Where is your father? Why are you failing?” (Reminder: *life’s difficulty does not reflect a lack of God’s power or love for you!*)

So how do I become a person of conviction?

Jesus’ conviction here is so powerful. Let’s not forget that Jesus was HUNGRY. But he didn’t let his physical situation get in his way (there’s never a circumstance that makes it okay for us to sin). Jesus shows us that we can fight the devil in two ways:

1) Jesus knew his Bible. He is very aware that this is a *spiritual* battle. His weapons - God’s word. Moreover, he has already decided to live by these scriptures (v. 6, 7, 10). How well do you know your Bible? Can you recite scriptures word for word when the devil comes to tempt you?

2) Jesus told Satan, “Away from me.” At the end of this story, Jesus tells Satan to leave him. Do you let yourself sit in temptation, or do you actively run from sin? Some of us tow the line too much, and we’re somehow surprised when we fall into sin. When you know you’re in a situation that causes temptation, say “away from me,” whether to the temptation or to the devil himself.

Practicals

- Write down some of your convictions - have scriptures to back it up! Memorize them!
- Write down some of the things the devil can tempt you with. How can you tell the devil, “away from me” when in situations tempting you to sin? Do you have scriptures for these moments

The Patience of Jesus

Melody Petre

In our instant gratification society, Jesus challenges everything we know about patience. Before we dive into examples of patience in Jesus' life, Galatians 5:22 (KJV) says: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **longsuffering**..." In many translations of this verse, you will read the word patience instead, but personally, longsuffering helps me gain a much better sense of Jesus' character. To be longsuffering means that you patiently endure lasting offense or hardship; you are resigned to bear discomfort and inconvenience without complaint. Let's examine three areas Jesus demonstrated this quality.

Patient with his friends (Matthew 8:25-26):

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

I'm constantly amazed that Jesus was willing to put up with his disciples' lack of faith and slow understanding. There are so many times that he could've lost it with them and would've been justified, but he never did.

Patient with the public (Matthew 13:55-57):

"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home."

Jesus was constantly being slandered, but we never see him snap at people or try to defend his name. He simply did not care to be exalted by people, but only cared to see his Father exalted.

Patient in suffering (Matthew 27:27-29):

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

This moment leading up to the cross is very challenging for me to think about. How could Jesus not even give into a sinful thought towards these people? How could he endure such cruelty? The cross is the ultimate example of Jesus demonstrating patience.

There are so many different moments where Jesus' patience shines. It is equally inspiring and challenging! Consider the following questions:

When can I be unwilling to put up with people or circumstances? What inspires me about Jesus' example? How would he handle the situations I'm weak in? How can I grow in my patience over winter break? Who will I have patience with?

The Surrender of Jesus: Alexandra Ghoman

Surrender is submitting or yielding to another, giving oneself over to the authority of another.

Read Luke 14:25-27, 31-33

- Surrender is CHALLENGING. But when we read this passage, we understand why it makes sense - God is the KING with 20,000 men and he has all of the power. He's the one in charge, he's the Creator, and he knows what's best.
- We read these passages often, but we see here so much of the cost and the challenge of Christianity - complete and total surrender to God and *his* will and *his* plan.

Jesus preaches surrender in this passage, but we see him live and breathe surrender over the course of his life over and over. But we especially see the surrender of Jesus when faced with something he really, really doesn't want to do - go to the Cross.

Read Matthew 26:36-44

Here we see Jesus preparing to go to the Cross. He read the prophecies about the things the Messiah would suffer and he had obeyed God time and time again during his time on earth - but now came his hardest test - dying a brutal death at the hands of sinners, the very people he came to save.

- We see him BEG God to take away this fate, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me." The book of Luke describes Jesus as sweating drops of blood while he prayed this prayer. This prayer was no absent minded prayer, but rather a stressful, pleading, crying-out-and-pouring-out prayer.

What are you struggling to trust God with right now? How do you go about surrendering it? What do you see about Jesus' prayer life that you can imitate?

Jesus prayed three times UNTIL he was surrendered to God's will. He didn't stop praying until he was ready to obey. God didn't take away the plan or change the plan as a result of his prayer, and Jesus submitted to that. I used to think the fact that Jesus didn't want to die on the Cross meant he must not have loved me that much. But now, I realize that Jesus doing what God called him to do - in spite of his fear and in spite of his emotions - is the most loving thing anyone has ever and will ever do for me. He loved me enough to die for me, even when I didn't deserve it, even when his emotions were crying out for him to do otherwise.

- ***When it comes to surrender, what is an area of your life that your emotions tend to take precedence over following God's will or accepting God's commands? Why do you struggle to surrender this part of your life to God? What keeps you from doing so?***

One of the things that can keep us from surrendering to God, is not trusting him. We doubt that God is considering us or loves us. We doubt that God knows what he's doing or wonder if his judgements are right. After all, what God wants is not always consistent with what we want, right?!

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

- God's ways are HIGHER and BETTER than yours or mine. We can't wait to understand the plan til we obey. We can't wait to "get it" before we surrender. We surrender to God because he is God and we are not.

Ultimately, we surrender to God and His will because he sent his precious, perfect, one and only Son to this earth to live and to die for us. He sacrificed for us. He withheld *nothing* from us. Jesus sacrificed for us - counting his own life as nothing to die for a bunch of sinners. Surrendering my problems and submitting my will into his loving hands is the least I can do.

Let us all draw near to God this morning and cry out, "Yet not as I will, but as you will"

The Obedience Of Jesus

Emma Campbell

What do you think of when you hear the word obedience? For me, I'm quick to think of rules or expectations that are very black and white, either I follow them or I don't. With this also comes the thought of potential punishments that come when rules are broken or expectations aren't lived up to. I start to feel anxious, I feel the need to revert back to perfectionistic tendencies, and I fall into the trap of people-pleasing. I don't know if any of you relate to this, but I do know that our idea of obedience is easily skewed by the world's expectations of how we are to live our lives.

How does Jesus exemplify godly obedience?

1. Read John 4:34, 6:38
 - What does Jesus say in these two verses about his purpose of being on earth?
 - In 4:34, Jesus says that his **food** is doing the will of God; he is filled up and sustained by his obedience to God!
 - Who's will are you striving to do this winter break? Yours? Your parents or friends? Or are you, like Jesus, fighting to be obedient to God and His will?
2. Read Hebrews 5:7-9
 - As Jesus endured suffering during his life on earth, he utilized the power of prayer to fight to remain obedient to God. Is there any part of you that is struggling to be obedient to the will of God? If Jesus needed prayer to maintain obedience, we most definitely need prayer to overcome the desire to obey anything else that is not God.
 - I love verse 8, "he learned obedience from what he suffered." Obedience does not come easy! God, in all of His amazing wisdom, knows that one of the greatest ways we can learn obedience is through our trials: persecution, anxiety, health problems, loss/grief, financial problems ... whatever your hardship may be, God is working through it to refine your ability to be obedient to Him. Do you believe this?
 - We can take comfort in knowing that our Brother has walked the path of suffering on the way to obedience before us; we have received his Spirit that will serve as our guide as we strive for Christlike obedience.
3. Read Philippians 2:8
 - Jesus showed us perfect obedience to God when he went to the cross for us.
 - Christlike obedience is full of love, humility, and devotion to our God. It's not a list of rules that results in our punishment when we fall short; it's what naturally happens when we fight to love God wholeheartedly, and it is completely covered by His grace!

Challenge: Take a few minutes to write down ways in which you might be struggling to obey God right now. Pray over this list, seek out Jesus' strength, wisdom, and humility to be able to obey as he did, but also seek out God's patience, grace, and reckless love for the times when you do fall short!

The Humility of Jesus

Jasmine Hinds

Philippians 2:1-11

In verse 1, Paul reminds us how amazing the encouragement we get from being unified with Christ is, the comfort his love has brought us, and the sharing we get in the Holy Spirit. I know these things have been some of the best parts of my discipleship. What are some things about being a disciple that inspire you?

Paul explains that having this unity requires **humility**.

In verses 3-4, humility is defined as not having selfish ambition, not being conceited, valuing others above yourself, and looking to others interests above your own. What are some ways you are tempted to look to your own interests first? In your friendships? In academics? In your free time?

I think God knew this would be challenging for us. Thankfully, we have an amazing example of a life characterized by humility in Jesus!

In verses 5-8, what do we see in the mindset Jesus about his relationships and his place in the world?

- He did not seek to use his divinity to elevate himself
- He chose to live on this earth as his lowly, vulnerable creation- a human
- He chose to obey God's call to die on the Cross for our salvation

The common thread in Paul's urging, his instruction, and Jesus's example is that you can't be focused on your own desires if you want to really live in a way that honors all Jesus has done for you. What are some ways you can focus on others today? Here are some ideas:

- Help around the house (wash dishes, cook a meal, run errands, etc)
- Fight to stay close to the brothers and sisters from Boston - give a call or send a text to see how they are! Your prayer partner is a great place to start ☺
- Be a giver to your church & campus ministry in your hometown. Introduce yourself to someone new every time you go & keep an eye out for ways to serve.

Another way we have to pursue humility is to seek advice. In Luke 2:46, Jesus seeks the wisdom of the teachers by listening and asking questions. What humility that the Son of Man would ask questions about God to anyone! The Proverbs have an abundance of wisdom when it comes to seeking advice.* Maybe you are unsure about what to seek advice on - it's definitely unique to being an imitator of Christ! Here are some ideas:

- Am I using my time in a way that will bring glory to God? Am I seeking the kingdom first with my schedule (this includes being diligent in school ☺)?
- How can I be a light to my friends and family?
- Is the way I am interacting with the brothers and sisters beneficial (1 Cor 10:23) & pure?

We need to have the same attitude as Jesus in our relationships, to humbly seek ways to build up others and get advice on how to live in a way that brings God glory.

Faith of Jesus
Christian Lewis

What is faith to you?

Hebrews 11:1-2

Key Scripture on why we need Faith:

Hebrews 11:6

- We NEED Faith if we want to please God and have a relationship with him
- How is your faith?
- What does it take for you to have faith in something?

OT Scripture

Matthew 26:36-46

What is compelling to you about this passage?

Imagine yourself in a situation as dire as what Jesus was in

- When He was facing this situation, how did he respond?
- What did He do???

*How often do we turn to God in prayer versus turning to self?

Reflect on the situation Jesus was in

- He DIDN'T deserve this fate?
- Who deserved this fate?

Jesus followed His Father's will to the end

- (even when in v.38 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death")
- He had FAITH in God to TRUST and have CONFIDENCE in Him
- John 16:33 (He OVERCAME!)

Pray to God THANKING Him for His sacrifice; pray that YOU can keep watch the way He called His disciples to (with a different response!)

Jesus healed many by account of their faith

- Matthew 9:2
- Matthew 9:22
- Matthew 9:29
- Mark 5:34

Pray for this kind of Faith so we can please God and be healed!

The Self-Control of Jesus

Josh Maldonado

“Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control”

Proverbs 25:28

Self-control - *the ability to control oneself, in particular one's emotions and desires or the expression of them in one's behavior, especially in difficult situations.* (Google Dictionary)

-This proverb and this definition provide two important aspects of **self-control** that are important to understanding not only it's meaning, but it's purpose as well. Like a city's walls, self-control is meant to protect us. From what? **SIN**. Like an enemy that lays siege upon a city's walls, Satan taunts us with the desires of our flesh. Unfortunately we live in an age of “instant gratification” where the desires of our flesh are one button press away. Fortunately God recorded an example of self-control that we might imitate it.

Read Matthew 4:1-11

-We can often struggle to relate to Jesus' because he is the son of God, blameless, and without sin. We fail to connect with an essential truth, Jesus was tempted in every way (**Hebrews 4:15**).

-We can see clearly that Jesus was hungry and we can assume that he was lonely and exhausted after having fasted in the wilderness for 40 days. Jesus was physically and emotionally vulnerable.

Q. Think of a time when you exhibited a lack of self-control, was it at a time that you were also physically and/ or emotionally vulnerable? How did you respond?

-Satan is crafty. He is an expert in deceit, temptation, and deception. He tries to create doubt in Jesus' mind that he is the Son of God.

Q. When facing temptation, have you ever questioned your salvation or your identity as a disciple?

-Even though Jesus was hungry, lonely, and exhausted, he was spiritually **STRONG**. We see earlier in **Matthew 3:16** that Jesus had received the Holy Spirit and we know that he was “spirit led” into the wilderness.

Q. Do we not have the same Spirit within us? What are some ways you build yourself spiritually?

-When Jesus is tempted, he defends himself with scriptures. He uses God's word, **IN CONTEXT**.

Q. Do debate with Satan when you are tempted or do you rely on God's word for your defense? How well do you know your bible? What are your go-to scriptures in times of weakness?

Challenge:

- Identify 1 or 2 areas in your life when you want to have self-control.
- Identify your motivation to see change in those areas.
- Find 2-3 scriptures that address those areas.
- **MEMORIZE THEM.**
- Identify a brother or sister you know who has demonstrated self-control in that area and ask them for advice.
- Commit yourself to a training program based off the scriptures and advice you've received.
- Establish some boundaries (e.g. content blockers, app time limits, plan to use times when you're normally idle) to prevent yourself from falling into temptation.

Prayer Focus:

Take time to thank God that he does not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear and for how he created us in his image that we might strive to be like him, empowered by his spirit!

The Prayerfulness of Jesus

Zack Walters

Mark 1:35-36

- Jesus made it a point to pray before he did anything else in his day. It's easy to get so caught up with the deeds of being a disciple that you neglect times of solitude for prayer.
- How often do you intentionally get up early to pray?

Luke 3:21-22

- Jesus prayed when everything was going well
- Do you pray only when you or a loved is in trouble of some sort? It is not wrong to pray when you are in trouble at all but if those are the only times you are turning to him how do you think that makes God feel? Imagine having a relationship with someone where they only come to you when they are in trouble or need help and there's nothing built outside of that. How would that make you feel?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to pray continually, which means in all circumstances.

Luke 6:12-13

- Jesus prayed before making big decisions
- Verse 12 says that he spent the night praying
- Does your prayer life just consist of 2 to 3 minute prayers?
- Think of how important of a decision this was for Jesus to make. Jesus saw how important it was to choose twelve disciples that could help him in the Lord's work. (we can see this from what he says in John 14:12)

Mark 8:6-7

- Jesus prayed when he was thankful. In fact, another name for prayer here is giving thanks.
- How often does God answer a prayer of yours that you end up forgetting you even prayed about?
- Challenge: make a prayer list and an answered prayer list to see how God is working in your life and as a reminder to why we should be all the more thankful to him.

Luke 23:46

- In His dying breath, Jesus prayed.

The Gentleness of Jesus

Brenda Price

Read: John 11

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

I love this scripture! Jesus is meeting Martha for the first time since her brother’s death, and he doesn’t spare her broken heart another minute. The first words that come out of his mouth are not words of arrogance (“do you not trust me?”) but words filled with comfort. I picture Jesus nearly interrupting Martha in effort to ease her sorrow. He instantly lets her know it’s going to be okay.

In doing this, he fully acknowledges Martha’s pain and gently looks to alleviate it.

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴“Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Again, we see Jesus reacting instantaneously to the broken hearted. In this scripture, we even see his heart being moved by those around him. Knowing exactly what was to come, Jesus was still gentle towards those who mourned and felt for their loss.

35 Jesus wept.

Jesus had known the plan all along. How do we know? A couple verses before in Luke 11:4-7 we see Jesus saying out loud that this “will **not** end in death”. He knew what was going to happen, but Jesus still wept. His spirit was gentle towards his friends even though he saw that what was about to be done would bring so much glory to God! He could have rejoiced, but in response to going to see Lazarus, Jesus’s felt sorrow for the situation at hand.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

The creator of the universe, who came to earth to give his life as a sacrifice, did not only weep, but made this emotion evident to all. (**Philippians 4:5**)

Prayer:

to be as gentle as Jesus was when he mourned the death of Lazarus

Challenge:

- How gentle are you towards your those you love when they’re going through a tough time? Do you help them carry that burden? (**Galatians 6:2**)
- Jesus was gentle even when he knew this wouldn’t end in death. Are you gentle to those around you, even if their struggle doesn’t seem as permanent to you?
- Is your gentleness as evident to those around you as Jesus’ was to the Jews? Ask a friend if this is an area you need to grow in!

Additional scripture to meditate on concerning gentleness:

Philippians 4:5 Colossians 3:12 Colossians 4:5-6 Galatians 5:22-23 Romans 14:13

Galatians 6:10 Hebrews 13:1-2 Ephesians 4:1-2 James 3:17 2 Timothy 2:24-25

The Perseverance of Jesus: A Mission Field Wherever He Stood

Kyler Sumter

Jesus encountered countless people throughout his life, and especially during his ministry. He met people of various different backgrounds who had different positions and stations, many of whom saw his wonders and wanted to follow him. A lot of religious leaders and teachers of the law, however, resented him for his radical teachings and for his claims of being the messiah. The very people who were supposed to be on his side tried to constantly disrupt his mission; yet he persevered.

Read Matthew 12

A Plot to Kill

Matthew 12: 9 – 15

The Pharisees used this moment to criticize Jesus while also touting how religious they were for strictly following the rules of the Sabbath. When Jesus responded by standing firm in his mission to spread goodness, they plotted to kill him.

- Jesus surely knew the Pharisees were looking for a reason to charge him with wrongdoing, but how did he respond to their criticism? He persevered in doing good, right in front of them.
- He was also very aware of their plot to kill him, but he didn't just withdraw and go into hiding. He withdrew to go to a new place with a crowd following him and he continued healing until he reached every ill person in the crowd. He took his mission with him, even in the face of fear and persecution.
- While you're at home for break what are some troubles that await you that make you want to hide? What are some troubles that await you next semester?
- How can you withdraw from those troubles without going into hiding?

Jesus' Boldness

Matthew 12:22-25, 35-37

The hostility and threats Jesus received from religious leaders continued throughout his entire ministry and life on earth. They couldn't accept that he had any power superior to their own so as they watched him continue to perform miracles they said his power could only from Satan.

- Even in a new place, Jesus is facing the same roadblocks. What can you learn from his response to the Pharisees?
- Jesus was **bold** and he didn't shy away from his mission out of fear of persecution, he faced it head on by speaking the truth. How can you be bolder in your perseverance this month? This week? Today?
- What motivates you to persevere when dealing with the same trials over and over again?

Nothing Holding Him Back

Matthew 12: 46-50

Jesus didn't let the Pharisees, who hated him, keep him from persevering in his mission to live a Godly life and seek and save the lost. But he also didn't let those who loved him stop him either.

- Persevering in your faith and in the mission means your life will look different from the lives of many of those around you. How can you respond like Jesus to family or friends who may discourage you from doing the will of God? Are you prepared to respond this way in order to persevere and be a light to them?
- What do you often let stop you from persevering?
- How can you rely on God and your brothers and sisters in Christ, like Jesus did, to persevere?

Prayer: Pray through Psalm 129 and pray for God to give you the boldness of Jesus in your perseverance through whatever trial is holding you back from giving your all to him. And remember you have all of us, your family of Christ, on this mission alongside you.

The Power of Jesus

Nic Petre

Kanye West once said “No one man should have all that power.” Lucky for us, the one man who has all that power is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Read Colossians 1:15-18, John 13:3, and Matthew 24:30

These scriptures give us Jesus’ resume. He has supremacy over all things, and all things submit to Him. God gave all things to be placed under Jesus’ power. And Jesus will come back with that very same power when he returns to judge the world.

Jesus is a being of supreme Power.

In the Matthew 24 passage, the word in Greek translated as power is *Dunamis*.

Dunamis is an ordinary Greek word for capability. Depending on context, it could be translated "potency", "potential", "capacity", "ability", "power", "capability", "strength", "possibility", "force" and is the root of modern English words "dynamic", "dynamite", and "dynamo".

Jesus is dynamite! He is potent. He is full of strength and unending possibility. Jesus is a dynamic force.

You can see his power in action in the following stories:

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 5:24-34

Luke 7:1-10

In what ways is Jesus’ power on display in these passages?

Jesus has immense authority and power over nature. A mere rebuke stills a raging sea. He is so potent all a woman has to do is touch him to be healed from a lifelong illness. And his ability reaches beyond his presence: his very word can heal someone from a great distance.

The Savior we worship is not *just* a loving and graceful king. He is a terrifyingly powerful ruler who deserves our full respect. His apostles did not know what to do with the revelation that their master was more than a mere teacher or prophet. Even the wind and the waves obeyed him. One day every knee will bow before him just at the mere mention of His glorious name.

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11

If the wind and the waves obey him, if every man, woman, and child will one day bend their knees before him, if all rulers and authorities have been given to Him, we must learn how to do the same out of reverence as His disciples. Power deserves respect. Power deserves awe. Power deserves submission.

- In what ways do you see Jesus as full of *dunamis*?
- How does Jesus being a being of supreme Power affect your view of Him?
- What ways are you not submitting to His power?
- Do you have trouble respecting authority? Do you think that can affect your relationship with Jesus?
- The authority and power of Jesus are often swept aside for the more comfortable idea that he is just our savior. How can you be mindful of Jesus’ authority and power more in your walk with Him?

Children and Jesus

Ryan Voccio

In Jesus' time, children were often treated as second class citizens. They were weak and of no use until they could work, and they were generally treated poorly. Jesus viewed them in an entirely different way than the society around him. He saw their trusting hearts and their overwhelming joy. The attitude of the child in Jesus' eyes is much more righteous than the hardened, self-seeking, unloving heart of the Pharisees.

Matthew 18:1-6

- This scripture starts out with the disciples arguing who among them is the greatest. What is crazy about this to me is that they are in the presence of Jesus, the greatest man to ever live, and they want to be the greatest among themselves.
- Jesus is talking to them about being childlike, but instead the disciples are being childish!
- Being childish is being self-seeking, controlled by your emotions, and immature, while being childlike is being lowly and receiving the kingdom with joy.
- Take a minute to think about or write down the ways you can be childish towards others

Matthew 19:13-15

- Children are great because they have no experience to tell them to go against their faith and their biggest dreams. As we get older, our hearts become more like the pharisees. We have been hurt, let down and we have had many prayers unanswered. When things don't go our way, it can be easy to hold back some faith the next time and not put our whole heart into what we are doing.
- In what ways do you let your past experiences affect your present faith?
- Are you hesitant to give everything to your next bible study because the last person stopped studying?
- Do you give up serving your parents and siblings because they don't reciprocate?
- Has your prayer life dwindled because your prayers haven't been answered?
- Take a few minutes to think about how a child would look at your situations.

Jesus loves children because they are humble, lowly, and have unhindered, pure, and faithful hearts. Jesus is the most child like because he loved everyone and lowered himself for us. He did everything with joy and complete trust in his father.

Over break, make decisions that will give you the mindset and heart of a child. Do everything with the joy that a child would have and do not let your past experiences weaken your faith. Give to others with a caring heart and not with a self-seeking mindset.

The Poor & Jesus

Haley Glenn

Quick Write: Take a few minutes to respond to the following questions:

- What does it mean to be poor?
- Who is poor? Which parts of the world do the poor reside in?
- What kind of mental image do you build when you think of a “poor person”?

When I reflect on these questions, I think of the starving children in war-torn countries, wide eyes, and thin frames. I think of the familiar faces I see each day on the street: clad in heavy coats and shaking plastic cups. What about you?

What if I told you that, just like the beggar you pass by on your walk to class, **you** are poor. Perhaps as a college student, this seems fairly believable. But do you realize that the state of being poor extends far beyond material items? Humans experience poverty in a myriad of ways. According to Chalmer’s Center, “we are all in need because we all experience brokenness in the four fundamental relationships of life: creation (stewardship/material), self, others, and God.” When it comes to being poor, there is no “us” and “them”. Being poor has less to do with lacking essential material items, but, rather, lacking essential relationships.

Let’s look at an interaction Jesus had with someone who was experiencing all types of poverty.

Read John 4:4-26 & John 4:39-42

The woman lacked healthy relationships in:

- *Stewardship:* She has no servant afforded to her to draw her water, she had to do it herself (vs.7).
- *Herself:* She likely had low self-esteem, stemming from being part of a marginalized population. Being both a woman and a Samaritan meant she was considered “lesser than” (vs. 9).
- *Others:* She had five husbands. The bible doesn’t say why or how she’s acquired so many, but it is clear that there are multiple broken relationships in her life (vs.17-18).
- *God:* She knew *of* God, but had no connection to Him (vs. 25).

Jesus:

- Broke barriers by meeting the woman where she was at, both in Samaria (a region known for wickedness) and at the well (vs. 6)
- *Did not pity her.* He even asked her to give him something: a drink (vs. 7), showing us that **everyone** has something to bring to the table.
- *Looked past* the physical conditions and called her to the spiritual (vs. 13-15).
- *Empowered her* to become a spiritual leader in her community. The gospel is preached and an entire town is converted because of **this woman’s** testimony (vs. 39).

Ultimately, Jesus is the only one who can alleviate the poverty of broken relationships. We are all hungry, but, as disciples, we’ve found the bread of life. How are you going to share that with people in your life today?

Jesus and Sinners

By Haley Owens

Throughout his whole life on earth, Jesus made it a point to spend time with the sinners. Even though Jesus was persecuted for doing so, he still decided to go into the sinners' homes and eat meals with them. Why was Jesus so hands-on with the sinners? When he called his disciples, he just told them to leave their old lives and follow him—why didn't he do this with the sinners too? Why'd he have to get all up in their lives?

Read: Mark 2:17

Jesus spent time with the sinners because they needed him to. And guess what, we are sinners too. That means that we need Jesus to be hands-on in our lives as well. In this quiet time, I want to show you three lessons that I learned from looking at Jesus with the sinners.

Lesson 1: Jesus taught us not to judge anyone for their sin.

- Read: John 7:1-6
- We are all sinners. That means that before we judge our brothers and sisters for their sin, we first have to examine our own lives. More often than not, we are inclined to judge others when there is sin in our hearts that we have not addressed.
- **Are you a critical person? If the answer is yes, are there any planks in your eye that need to be taken out?**
- We also should not judge our family and friends who do not know Jesus yet. Whether you are a disciple or you are studying the bible, there are changes you have made in your life that some of your family and friends have not made. The best way to help them know Jesus is to be a representation of Him for them. You may be the only Jesus they see (I stole that line from a Kirk Franklin song. Look it up)

Lesson 2: Jesus showed mercy to the one caught in sin.

- Read: John 8:1-11
- This woman was caught in the act; there was no doubt that she was a sinner (just imagine how embarrassed she must have been to be dragged out before Jesus).
- **How does Jesus respond to her? Does she deserve Jesus' response?**
- Jesus showed her mercy, just like he showed us mercy for our sin. We cannot take that mercy lightly because none of us deserve it.

Lesson 3: Jesus didn't hide the truth.

- Read: John 4: 15-26
- Jesus does not hold back. He exposes the sin of this woman when she gave him a partial truth about her life.
- **Is there sin in your life that needs to be exposed? Write it down, and then get open about it!**
- After this confrontation with Jesus, this woman goes on to share the good news with her other Samaritan friends and many of them come to believe in Jesus (John 4:39-42). Exposing our sin can have huge impacts in our lives and in the lives of our hearers.

By looking at how Jesus interacted with the sinners, we can see how much he loved them. In the same way, Jesus wants to heal us of our sin because he loves us. It was clear that Jesus didn't surround himself with perfect people for a reason so if you are in sin, do not be afraid to draw near to Jesus. For as Jesus said "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Jesus and The Religious

Daniel Van Auken

Perhaps the type of person Jesus preached about the most was the religious. More than the prostitutes, tax collectors, and heathens, Jesus condemned those who appeared to dedicate their lives to following God and knowing His word. Chances are if you're reading this Quiet Time Packet right now, you are considered a part of "the religious" of today.

Luke 18:9-14

- This parable is written to those who are "confident of their own righteousness and [look] down on everyone else." In what ways is that you?
 - Are there certain types of people you look down upon and think to yourself, "Their sin is disgusting. If only they lived more like me"?
- It's easy to immediately judge the Pharisee for being pompous and prideful. But how different is he from us?
 - He devoted his entire life to God, probably memorized most of the Old Testament, fasted twice a week (how often do you fast?), and gave a tenth of everything he has. He probably wasn't breaking any of the Laws and led a very sinless and pious life. All great things.
 - We go to church more often than anybody else we know, read our Bible and pray every day, have a rough handle on the "Study Series", and have overcome a lot of sin in our own lives. All great things!
- Then we have the tax collector, who we can assume was a wretched sinner and, up until this point, had done some terrible things.
 - He walks away justified before God
- What did the tax collector understand that the Pharisee didn't?
 -

Titus 3:3-8

- Who do you trust for your own righteousness? God or yourself?
 - How often do you compare your own actions to others, coming away feeling more justified?
- We must all take on the mindset of the tax collector. No action we can perform or righteous streak we can go on can earn us a relationship with God.
 - We do not deserve a relationship with God and yet we have one. We have a relationship with God solely because of the sacrifice of Christ and the free washing of our souls.

"Unless you know God as that—and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison—you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."

- C.S. Lewis

Jesus and Women

Destiny Broadnax

Matthew 15:21-28 (The Faith of a Canaanite Woman)

Opening Questions:

- What are your initial thoughts on Jesus after reading this? Are you confused? Offended? Hurt?
- What stands out to you about the Canaanite woman? Her boldness? Perseverance? Humility?
- What about Jesus' disciples? What do you think about their attitude towards this woman in comparison to Jesus? Does it seem justified? Is it also confusing? Or do you think it's normal considering the context of the times?

Cultural Context:

The Canaanites were seen as racially inferior and considered unequal to the Jews. They were in oppressed and degraded by the Jews. Women weren't highly respected. They were second class citizens to men. They weren't publically vocal. Yet this woman defies all of this. Jesus challenges the social norm by how he interacts with her, how he listens to her and how he allows himself to be inspired by her.

Reflection:

This Canaanite woman is a mom. She is desperate and hysterical. She's watched her daughter suffer terribly, probably for years at the hands of this demon. Imagine how many times she must have been close to losing hope. Yet she goes to Jesus, this Jew, this man, someone of superior race and gender. She must have been fully aware of what implications this might have for her but she risks it. She is relentlessly bold and Jesus allows for her to be. She cries out to Jesus and it seems as though she's immediately shut down. He seems to deny her three times yet he does not send her away. He pushes for her to grow in her boldness. To embody the same boldness that he himself possesses. She has every reason to hide and leave but remember she's desperate. She pleads with Jesus and leaves us no excuse.

She also has incredible humility. She is perfectly aware of who she is before God and how small she is in comparison to Him. (I like to think Jesus would hope for his disciples to look to her and imitate her humility.) The humble cannot be offended and she is tested in this for sure. Jesus doesn't say a word to her at first, then says he wasn't sent for her, and then calls her a dog! Yet because of her humility, she stays bold and resists shame and keeps her hope. Her humility drove her to her knees. (Psalm 10:4) Jesus pushes her to really dig deep into her faith. For Jesus, it was more important for her faith to be strong than it was for her daughter to be healed. He sees, the disciples see, and we see how deep her convictions are about her relationship with God. She won't allow anyone to take that away from her. She won't allow anyone to rock her faith. And in the end Jesus is in awe at how great her faith is. In the end she walks away with greater, stronger faith, and her daughter healed.

Afterthought Questions:

- What do you now realize about Jesus? About the Canaanite woman? About yourself, your boldness, perseverance, humility before God?
- In what ways do you think Jesus has been challenging you to become bold about something? To change your perspective on something? To fight harder for something? To humble yourself in a certain situation? To have greater faith about something?
- What steps can you take to accomplish this or start moving in this direction?
- Who can you reach out to for accountability? Reach out to them! Ask them these same questions about what Jesus has been revealing to them.

Jesus and his disciples

Marcela Torres

The Sermon on the Mount is a collection of sayings and teachings of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew. In chapters 5-7 Jesus was teaching the twelve disciples he had appointed, which you can read about in *Mark 3:13-19*. Jesus talked about many different things with his disciples and one of them was prayer.

Read: *Matthew 6:5-13*

1. Here we see Jesus spending quality time with his disciples. He speaks about prayer and is intentional in his relationship with each of them. Jesus was intimately involved in the lives of his disciples and welcomed them to come nearer to him as they followed him. Jesus called these men and simply made it a practice to be with them constantly and keep them close to him as he did God's will. Jesus did not have a school where they'd meet once a week or an outlined course but he still had things to do and he made sure that the disciples were involved.
2. Jesus not only spent time with his disciples but he also taught them. Matthew 5:2 says "and he began to teach them". He didn't keep them close to his life just to quietly travel together from place to place. He used the time they had together to teach them, through words and actions, how to live a life for God.

Back to Matthew 6:5-13.

In v. 5 Jesus begins to teach us who not to be like when we pray, in v. 6 Jesus teaches us about where we should pray, to whom we should pray, and what will occur if we do all of this. Then, in v.7-8 he brings it back to who we should not be like when we are praying and firmly reminds us that our Father knows what we need before even ask him! Finally, in v.9-13 he shows us how we should pray.

Jesus is perfectly okay with teaching his disciples the basics because he understands where people are at and is willing to help us, even today! Jesus also wanted his disciples to be able to know what it looked like to pray and have a one on one time with God through prayer. He also wants to show us how to have a deep relationship with God.

Questions:

- Are you making it a practice to bring friends, people studying the bible, and even other disciples into your daily life like Jesus did?
- What are ways that you can do more of that this upcoming semester?
- Are you inviting people to bible talk and following up with them?
- Do you ask people if they want to study the bible to show them and teach them the Word of God?

Bring others along with you when you're going to eat a meal or invite people to come study with you. Think of one thing in your day that you can use as an opportunity to bring people into your life the way Jesus did. Invite them to hangouts, bibletalk, devo, etc. You don't have to change your whole entire day or schedule. It's just including people in what you already have planned for each day.

Jesus and His Family

Jordan Owens

Even though the gospels focus on the spiritual family that Jesus builds through his ministry, he still has an important and close relationship with his physical family. Today we're gonna look at 3 roles that Jesus takes on with his family.

1. Submissive Servant

Read John 2:1-12

It is believed that Jesus was attending a family wedding when he performed this miracle of turning water into wine. And who was it prompted by? None other than his mother. It was custom for family to contribute money during these celebrations (which Jesus didn't have much of) so when they ran out of wine, Mary found something that he could contribute. Jesus obviously did not plan to do this, but submitted to his mother's will because he could align it with God's. Ultimately, it became "the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory."

- How do you respond when asked to do something by your family? Do you have a submissive spirit?
- Do you use your spiritual gifts to serve your family members?
- Do you view your submission and service to them as an opportunity to reveal God's glory?

2. Protector of Priorities

Read Mark 3:20, 31-34

It is hard to imagine going from literally being the Virgin Mary to persecuting Jesus but that is what happened here. Jesus was clear that his priority was to do the will of God and no one could stop him. Even though he loved his family, he surrounded himself with believers who were also family. He did not give up on his family, in fact he continued to invest on them but he stood firm on his convictions.

- Does your family know what you stand for?
- Are you still radical in your faith around your family and friends?
- Do you make an effort to spend time with the family of God by staying connected?

3. Compassionate Caretaker

Read John 19:31-35

In the moments just before Jesus' death, while he was in excruciating pain, he takes a moment to take care of his mother. He is able to empathize with her suffering and he reveals how much he truly loves her by honoring her in this way.

- Do you look for ways to take care of your family?
- Do you consider their feelings even when you are going through tough things yourself?

As a result of Jesus being a servant and caretaker with unshakable convictions and commitment to God, he helped many of his family members come to faith. His brothers James and Jude became religious leaders who wrote books of the New Testament, and his mother was a believer as well. With many of us being home with our families this is a great time to put this into practice and to begin to build a conviction about our families that will last a lifetime!

Jesus and His Heavenly Father

Katy Adelman

Alright, slow down. Listen to a worship song, be still for a minute, or pray “Father, open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” (Ps 119:18)

Read John 11:1-44

- There are a whole batch of passages about Jesus’ relationship with the Father in John. This is not one of those passages. The Father is barely mentioned here at all. Jesus goes through his days, making claims and taking action seemingly without prayer or time with God at all. And that’s really confusing for me! But 11:41-42 gives a lot of insight. Go back and read those again.

John 11:41-42

- What does Jesus thank the Father for?
- If he thanks the Father for having heard him (past tense), when was Jesus praying and talking to the Father?

If the Father heard him about Lazarus, then that must mean that Jesus was talking to the Father about the situation all the way through. Jesus’ relationship with the Father was both public and behind the scenes. But the behind the scenes moments far outweighed the public ones. Jesus spent more time privately with the Father than we ever see in the Gospels, and probably spent more time with the Father than even his own disciples saw during his ministry. If we’re trying to follow his example, we should do the same.

- Does your relationship with the Father happen mostly in public or in private?
- We do a lot of things with the Father in public (bible studies, meetings of the body, dgroups). Are those consistently the most meaningful times you spend with the Father?
- What can you do to step up your game in the behind the scenes moments with God?
 - Ideas: Pray more deeply and consistently. Get advice on how to make your personal bible study more meaningful. Listen to worship music, find your place and space where you can sink into God and his Word.

Pick another passage about Jesus’ relationship with the Father based on your need today and see what you find! Ask these questions after you read the passage:

- Is Jesus claiming to be equal or submissive to the Father here? Why?
- Why did Jesus share this information about the Father with his listeners?
- Who is serving who in this moment, the Father or the Son?
- Does it seem like Jesus has had any behind the scenes moments with the Father about the event? If so, what might that have been like?
- What can you imitate about Jesus’ relationship with the Father in this passage?

John 4:19-24 – keep an eye out for seeking

John 5:18-24 – keep an eye out for reliance

John 8:48-55 – keep an eye out for glory

John 14:1-11 – keep an eye out for belief

John 15:1-11 – keep an eye out for authority

Matthew 26:36-46 – keep an eye out for trust

Jesus and Us
Murvi Babalola

No doubt, having gone through this series, you've learned some inspiring and convicting things about Jesus! But if all you get out of this is that Jesus is awesome, then I hate to break it to you, but you've missed the entire point of this series. So today we're going to talk about the "so what" of it all. If you were standing face to face with Jesus today, a man with all the qualities we have been studying for the past 22 days, what would he say to you? Do you know that Jesus prayed for you? Let that thought sink in for a minute! Looking at that prayer, I think we can get a pretty clear sense of what Jesus wants for and from us as his followers today.

Read **John 17:20-26**

What do you hear Jesus saying to us in that passage? Here's what I hear:

I want you to be part of my body.

Jesus talks about unity multiple times in this short passage. Can you truly say that your intimacy with your brothers and sisters is like God's with Jesus? There's always room for us to grow in our unity and there's no unity without humility. Would Jesus be happy with the effort you put into keeping his body unified? To be one, we have to be present; how's your attendance? How's your vulnerability and openness about sin? Who have you checked in on so far this break? Who should you check in on now that you're been reminded?

I want you to make me known.

When you look at the pain and brokenness in the world through the lens of Jesus, it's plain to see that he's the solution to it all. How selfish are we if we don't share him with everyone? Imagine a world where everyone was living out the qualities in this packet. As passionate young people, we sometimes find ourselves treating the symptoms of the world's illness rather than sharing the cure to the root disease. What cause are you making greater than his?

I want you to make it home to me.

Ultimately, Jesus wants us to make it to heaven and see him in his glory! When life gets crazy or we're faced with challenging temptations, it's easy to forget that there is nothing even remotely close to being as important as this. If you fail at everything else but succeed in this, your life is a victory! If you succeed at everything else but fail in this, your life is a failure. Take stock of your life. Are you living with misplaced priorities? If you haven't yet made Jesus Lord, what are you waiting for? What's more important to you right now? Talk to someone if you find something of concern in your heart in any of these areas!

John 8:31-32 basically says don't leave Jesus on "read". Go back through this packet and pick one quality that you want to work on first. Redo that quiet time tomorrow and make a plan with people who know you for how you're going to master that quality. I can't wait to see more of Jesus among us as we embrace these aspects of his character in our own lives!