

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN
"With Jesus' Prayer for You in Mind"
PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY
January 17, 2021

Thread: 2021 will offer many reasons to NOT grow with Jesus; GROW with Jesus anyway!

Setting ourselves up for God's success:

- **"that comes from a pure heart"**
- Not conflicted or in competition with itself
- Driven solely by Jesus
- **"a clear conscience"**
- Clear windshield
- God is able to speak to you through it.
- **"and genuine faith"**
- This is who I am--someone following Jesus on His walk.

30 Day Challenge:

- Prioritize Chair Time at 15 minutes, 3-5 days a week (time to up your game!)
- 3/30: Who will you commit to pray for that they "see God's best for them in the next 30 days and that they step into it."
- Read/meditate for the next 30 days on Matthew Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8.

This Week! _____

"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. ¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name, now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

¹³ "Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. ¹⁴ I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

²⁰ "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

²² "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. ²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

²⁵ "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. ²⁶ I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

John 17:9-26 NLT

Did you know that Jesus prayed for you?

Jesus' prayer: _____ would be _____.

How do I live this?

Love _____, love your _____.

Do you know your goal for the next person you encounter?

Love them as your _____.

What does God want FOR me?

- He wants me to _____ in unity with other Jesus-followers.
- He wants me to thrive in the _____ because I have _____ from Him and His Church.

What does God want FROM me?

- Love God and others.
- _____ my life in such a way that it points people to Jesus.

Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study:

Seek to Please God throughout the Day

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/please-god

Guard Your Conscience

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/guard-conscience

Questions to Ask Yourself as You read the Bible

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/bible-study-questions

Life Group Homework

For the week of January 17, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) How is your Chair Time?
- 2) How are you experiencing God's peace in this season?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What challenged you from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER

⁹ "My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. ¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

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John 17:9-21 NLT

- 4) In this prayer Jesus is praying for you and me. What is He praying for us specifically?
- 5) What is stopping us from this kind of unity?

- 6) Who is meant to unify the church, and how can we experience unity with all that is going on around us?

TAKING IT HOME

One of the challenges we are running into in finding unity as the Church is getting caught up in ideas that separate people into an "us against them" type of category. It doesn't matter what the issue is! Anything that separates people into groups sets us up to have opposition. In Matthew Chapter 5 Jesus uses some very strong language that requires us to respond in humility, own our part and obey His directions.

⁴³ "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48 NLT

- 7) What are we supposed to do for those who are in the "them" or "our enemy" category?
- 8) What should we be praying for them?
- 9) What do you need to shift in light of Jesus' instructions in this passage?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

I made a mistake last week with this challenge. The *Sermon on the Mount* is only chapters 5, 6, & 7; it does not include Chapter 8.

Over the next few weeks, while Pastor Craig is teaching this series, the reading for Chair Time is Matthew Chapters 5-7. This is known as the *Sermon on the Mount*, and I encourage you to read it in its entirety each day. I will write different questions for each week, but the reading will remain the same.

- 1) What does Chapter 5 teach us about how we should treat people who are our "enemies" or people that are very different than we are?
- 2) How can praying and loving our enemies bring unity into the body of Christ?
- 3) What is your takeaway from the reading?