

Matthew 6:24-34; Song of Solomon 1:2-4 Sunday 8/7/2016

Lord, I thank You for giving us this day. Thank You for giving this church with great people who come here and love You, Lord, and want to hear Your Word. I pray, Lord, You will just push my flesh out of the way and help me get my point across. I know I get nervous a lot; I stumble over my words and my thoughts race. I pray You will just slow me down, Lord, and push everything out and let Your Spirit speak through me. We love You so much, Lord, and we just want to be here for You and do Your will. I pray You will watch over us and be with us today. In Jesus' name, amen.

If you open up your Bibles to Matthew 6, that is where we will be. I will go ahead and read it here just to get it going.

Matthew 6:24-34

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

I. The Concept of Worrying

Doctrinally, we know that in this passage, Christ is laying out His millennial reign. He does it from Matthew 5 to Matthew 7. But from an inspirational aspect, there is so much in this verse. Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to cover all of it just because of the time, but I do want to cover one main concept that is implied throughout this chapter, specifically in this chapter. It regards really just one word. The weird thing about this one word is that you will never find it anywhere in the Bible. It is not a word that you are going to find just reading through the passages. As I said, it is an implied concept. Most of the time, the Bible phrases it as 'taking no thought' or 'casting your care.'

Life for most people would be so happy and joyous if they could simply stop doing just one thing: worrying. Our society worries about everything. We worry about what is going to happen tomorrow. We worry about our jobs, our friends, our families. We worry about situations that most of the time we cannot change one way or another. The Lord says in these passages, and you will find it in verses 25, 27, 28, 31, and 34, to 'take no thought.'

I heard an old preacher tell a story about a banker back in the early 1900s named Lawrence Kelly. Lawrence Kelly was a massive worrywart. He worried about absolutely everything. He carried around with him a box of pills everywhere he went, and anytime he had a pain, he always thought it was due to an ulcer, or he had some type of cancer, or he was dying. He was to the extreme of worrying.

Finally, he realized that he needed help for his worrying. He went to his doctor, and the doctor prescribed a bunch of books to read. Back then, they did not just hook you up on a bunch of drugs like they do now; they prescribed self-help books. Mr. Kelly read through those books, memorized the helpful tips in the back of how to stop worrying, and to no avail, he kept worrying.

Finally, he said, 'You know what? I am the same man. This should be easy. I will just read a chapter of the Bible every day, and that will cure me of my worrying.' Unfortunately, it did not. Even though he prided himself on how much Bible he read, his worrying simply did not go away.

So then, he finally went to his minister, his pastor, and told the pastor what his deal was. The pastor was very slow and deliberate in talking to Mr. Kelly, asking about his family, his friends, and how his job was going. Mr. Kelly started worrying about the time he was missing from the bank; he just wanted to get out of there.

Finally, the pastor said, 'I hope you will do me a favor, Mr. Kelly.' He said, 'Of course, I will do anything, as long as I can leave. I just want out.' The pastor said, 'I want you to read this very passage, Matthew 6:19-34, every day for the next week or so. Then come back and let us talk about your problem.'

By the time Mr. Kelly left, he was as mad as can be. Here he was, a man reading a chapter a day, and he wondered why in the world he had to read one chapter for an entire week when he read

one a day anyway. He got back to the office and finally simmered down a little bit, remembered his promise, and started reading through his Bible. After about a couple of weeks, Mr. Kelly was a changed man. He did not worry about anything. He did not worry about what was going to happen tomorrow. He got rid of the box of pills; he got rid of everything. People in his family, his friends, and the people at the bank knew that he was something different; he was changed.

Before we go any further than that, we have to know what worrying is. As I said, the Bible defines it as 'taking thought' or 'not casting care upon Him.' I found a definition from Webster's dictionary that I think really sums up what worrying is: 'Giving way to anxiety or uneasiness, allowing one's mind to dwell on difficulty or troubles.'

As a Christian believer, we have the power to overcome worrying in our lives. If you are here today and you have worries or troubles and just do not know how to make it through, then you have to understand that the worry we have—the stuff we cannot control, the non-essential things we worry about—is only existing in our lives because we are allowing it to exist. We have given it power over us, and it is exercising that power within our lives. It is a terrible thing.

I understand we are all going to have troubles; that is not what I am saying. We are going to have troubles in life. Things are going to happen, sporadic things. It is going to catch you off guard. Because we tend to keep our lives so busy, when something happens and everything falls apart, we worry about how we are going to put the pieces back together. I am not saying that we are not going to have troubles or issues in our lives, but I am saying that the non-essential things we worry about should have no part in our lives. If we are ever really going to accomplish anything for the Lord, the first thing that has to be done is we have to kick worry straight out the door. Up until that point, all you are going to be doing is worrying about worldly stuff.

I was thinking about this when I was putting it together: what really happens when we worry? When we sit there and dwell on something for so long, thinking, 'Oh man, what is going to happen in this situation? How am I going to handle this?' Really, when you worry, nothing happens. Absolutely nothing good comes from worrying.

Matthew 6:27

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

To paraphrase that verse a little bit, it is basically saying that worrying about a situation does not change the outcome of it, because worrying is not an action; it is a state of mind. That is why the Bible phrases it as 'taking thought.'

I found a poem online, and Tiffany always laughs every time when I was practicing this in front of her because it is a silly poem, but it really sums up what happens in our lives. It is called 'The Worry Cow': 'The worry cow would have lived till now
If she hadn't lost her breath,
But she thought her hay wouldn't last all day,
So she mooed herself to death.'

That is exactly what we as Christians do. Nothing changes when we worry, but we sit there and we spiritually moo ourselves to death. I am going to show how that happens later on throughout

the sermon, but that is what we are doing. We are killing ourselves spiritually every time we keep worrying about a situation instead of casting our care upon the Lord and letting Him deal with it.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

How can we as God's people worry about a situation when we know that no matter what, as long as we are doing our part, God is going to get some good out of it? God is going to take it; He is going to get some good out of it. As long as we are willing to strive and do what we need to do for Him, it is all going to work out.

II. Why We Worry

So, I guess the million-dollar question is: why do we worry? I know there are a lot of reasons. We could go on for days about why we worry about the things we worry about, like jobs, people, friends, and family. There are countless things we can worry about. But I narrowed it down to three concepts that I feel we worry about the most. As Christians, this is something, as I said, that will kill you spiritually if you keep letting worry control your life.

- Two Passages That Pulls it all Together...

III. How to Overcome Worrying

The big question is: how do we overcome worrying? How do we get past all that stuff we are struggling with?

- Three Areas of Losing Focus

IV. The Song of Solomon: A Love Story

Today, we are going to camp in the Song of Solomon. For me, it is absolutely important that a child of God understands this book. The Song of Solomon just so happens to be a love story. Historically, the love story is between Solomon and the woman of virtue. Bryce just mentioned the virtuous woman. Throughout his 1,000 wives, he longed and desired for this one woman of virtue. This one woman was definitely perfect.

For you and I, inspirationally, this book pictures the love story between Christ and His church. The particulars are there: Solomon had a Gentile bride. If you look over there, Song of Solomon 1:5 says, 'I am black.' That gives you her race; she is black. Christ also has a Gentile bride. Solomon was the king of the Jews; Christ is also the King of Jews. Solomon sits on a throne for a time and period where there is perfect peace. Christ is considered the Prince of Peace, and someday we will have that total peace in the millennium. You can definitely see this in different examples.

We also have the doctrine aspect, and things like salvation are clear in this book, the rapture, the millennium, and on to eternity. So, for you and I as the bride, this definitely connects a lot of things for us. Most importantly, we get great insight in this book for how the Lord views the church, but most importantly, how the church—how we—should view our personal relationship with Christ.

Outside of the Lord Jesus Christ, Solomon by far was the wisest man under the sun. He was one of, if not the greatest, composers of music that this world has ever seen. Per 1 Kings 4:32, it tells us that Solomon wrote exactly 1,005 songs. But here in the Song of Solomon, this is considered the Song of Songs, the very best. That really does not surprise me because of what this book pictures for you and I. The theme of this first chapter, where we are going to be today, is basically remembering the day that God saves you. Today, we are going to look at verses 2 through 4 in this great chapter.

Song of Solomon 1:1-4

The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.

Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.

V. Three Areas of Losing Focus

The Scriptures give us great insight into three areas of our lives that we can certainly, without a doubt, point to as the cause of us getting out of balance and losing focus in our personal relationship with the Lord.

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.

The first aspect is our passion in Christ. The second is our purpose in Christ. And the third is our perspective. Collectively, these things all intertwine with each other. Without one aspect in your life, you cannot truly be something and be all that you can be for the Lord. With that said, let us look at the Scriptures.

- 1.) Our Passion in Christ Looking here at Song of Solomon 1:2, it says, 'Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.' The context of this verse is, without a doubt, the day that God saved me. This is definitely the kiss of salvation and the kiss of love from the Lord. As Bob mentioned a few sermons ago in preparation for camp, this starts day one for us: the day that we get saved in our Christian life. Before we can do anything with that, we have to remember who we were before. I am not sure about you, but I did not want anything to do with the Lord before I got saved. There was total enmity between myself and

the Lord. I was the enemy of Christ. I was totally lost, and definitely in God's eyes, the wrath of hell was already abiding on me. But praise the Lord that God sent Him to deliver! Romans 5:8-9

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. What a promise! God is not in the business of breaking His own promises. So, before there could be a kiss, a conscious decision had to be made on my own end. I had to choose to follow Him. The verse says, 'Let him.' It did not say, 'He will'; it said, 'Let him.' This was a plea on my end. He was not going to beg me or force me to do something that I did not want to do. It had to be a plea; it had to be a conscious decision on my own part. He waited for that kiss. He sure did. He longed for it, but there were certain things I had to get right in my own life. I had to get my act right. But He waited for me to choose Him. At that very moment, at that very instance, my passion changed, and nothing in this world mattered. God's love and what He has done for me through His Son, not even one, as it says there in that verse. This is something that we definitely learned in the discipleship cycle about our passions. In Matthew 22:37, it says, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.' We now have the ability to love the Lord, but it takes progress. What is the problem? We definitely forget that precious day. At that very instant, at that very moment, our passion changed. Nothing in this world mattered to us. It was an instant change, but that old sinful nature kicks in, does it not? So, our passion definitely turns away from Christ. It goes back to the things that we were strung out in or dealing with, the sins of this world. Those things usually take dominion over the passion that we once had at that very instant. Now, our personal relationship with Christ suffers. I am a little ashamed to tell you this, but since you all are my family, I figured you would not judge me. I rarely watch television. Actually, I have an antenna with rabbit ears, and I really bought that so I could watch the finals a few months ago. But I have been stuck on this show called 'The Bachelorette.' No, no, see, I thought you would not judge me, but I guess you are. So, 'The Bachelorette,' and this girl, her name is JoJo. There are like a thousand dudes on this show, and she is going through this vetting process. Week after week, she is trying to find true love. By week two or three, she is in love with everybody. She is kissing everybody. This dude is over here watching her kiss him, and he is like, 'Oh, okay, I am going to go ahead and kiss her too.' Then, next thing you know, we are all in love. We are all in this show, we are in love. It is definitely entertaining to see, not necessarily because this is what I believe in, but this is just really interesting to see what the world thinks about this concept of love. The trouble is, as a Christian, we definitely like to take what we see on TV, take what the world considers love, and apply that to our own personal relationship with Christ. Especially after someone gets saved, it is a learning process. Just like a lot of people who are married here, it took time for you to really learn to love someone. The same thing goes for your personal relationship with the Lord; it just does not happen overnight. You can actually be honest with the Lord. You can say, 'Hey, I do not love You like I should, but I am trying, Lord, I am trying. I am trying.' So, do not be phony with the Lord; that is one thing. He can tell what is in your heart. That is where we get in trouble. We try to take 'The Bachelorette' and apply it in our own personal

relationships. Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Another problem: we try to give the Lord half, if that. We give Him what is left. But that old sinful nature wants to take our passions away and put it back on the things that once mattered but should not matter anymore. But thank the Lord and praise God that He has given us promises and principles to believe in regarding our hearts and our passions. If we do that, we will definitely stay on track. 2.) Our Purpose in Christ The second aspect, the second area in our lives, is our purpose. Another reason why we lose balance or are not on track with our personal relationships is because of our purpose—the purpose that we were given on day one. Song of Solomon 1:3

Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. 'Savour of thy good ointments.' The Bible illustration here is in John 12 and Matthew 26, the story of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus. Mary takes a pound of very costly ointment, and she anoints the feet of Christ. Not only that, but out of all things, she uses her hair to wipe His feet. In the Scriptures, it says that the house was filled with the odor of the ointment, and therefore she got a good name out of her service to the Lord. A few things about Mary show her character and her heart attitude. First, she was definitely not rich, but it says she bought a pound of costly ointment. So that morning, Mary went down to the tent and she was like, 'I do not need the bottom shelf. I need what you have in the back. I need you to bring out what you have in the back. I have something very special this morning to do.' That tells you about her heart attitude. The Lord loves a cheerful giver. She did not keep it for herself; she gave it back to the Lord. That is one thing about her heart attitude. The second is she humbled herself. She wipes His feet, and she uses her hair. Would I do that? Well, I do not have that hair, but if I had hair, would I do that? That tells you about her serving attitude, something we can definitely take from Mary there. This also pictures for us, inspirationally, the work and inspiration of the Holy Spirit by the gospel going out to the world. John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. This kind of starts our purpose on day one when we got saved. We are to finish the work that Christ could not do. Not only that, but we have all these resources that He did not have. We have the ability to travel. We have the ability to send an email, make a phone call to a lost family or friend. There are greater works that we can do that Christ did not have the opportunity to do. Also, looking over at 2 Corinthians 2:14-16: 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? So there it is again: our purpose is to let Him use us, to let Him use us to let others know about Him. We are just vessels. When we are making the Lord known to others, that becomes a sweet savor to the Lord's nostrils. What is the problem? So many of God's people, including myself, get wrapped up in what the world

considers our purpose or what is important and make that the central purpose of our life. Definitely for me, before I got involved here, my purpose was shattered. It was in the wrong things. It is amazing to see, after being plugged in, actually being able to see other faithful men and see exactly what they cherish and purpose in their life, which is centered around Christ, to really understand where you have gone and where you have come from. Growing up, I was always told that my purpose in life was to get a good job and climb that corporate ladder and be all I can be for that company or whatever. That was definitely what I was strung into growing up. I wanted to get a good degree. I got a civil engineering degree, but that was not it. I wanted to get the best job. I wanted to work for the best company. I wanted to get that big house. I wanted to be the man for that company. But that was a false purpose. Here is a prime example: a few years ago, I was working out in Lawrence. It was about 12 to 13-hour days, working on the job site, and I would travel back and forth to work. My whole heart was all about what I could do to get something for myself. It was not anything essential around the Lord. A lot of my time was invested in this job. When it came to being plugged in here at church, my understanding of my purpose changed. Out of nowhere, my job title changed. I got more time. I got more opportunities to fellowship and to be disciplined, to be on discipling teams, and actually work in the ministry. But beforehand, I did not, because I was working 13-hour days and driving an hour back and forth to Lawrence. It is amazing when you change your heart about something and you fully understand what your true purpose is. Now it is not about, 'Oh man, I need to get to work so I can climb that ladder.' It is more about, 'I need to go to work, bust my butt, and show that I am this new creature in Christ, and I could be a good testimony to someone.' Hopefully, they can see me and view me as the Christian in this dark place, and they can actually get the truth. So, when your purpose changes, keep it. If we keep our purpose, another aspect will stay on track. 3.) Our Perspective The last thing I have here is our perspective. We will look over at Song of Solomon 1:4. It says, 'Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers.' I definitely want to point out that 'Draw me, we will run after thee' is definitely another reference to the day that God saved us. He came to draw men, but He did not run to us; we had to run after Him. This is a heart attitude thing. 'The king hath brought me into his chambers.' The day that we got saved, if you are saved this morning, you had total access; you gained total access to the mind of Christ. So, day one, after day one, we gained total access. Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. So, we now have the ability to fully understand what the Lord thinks about the situation that I am in. In any given situation, there is a principle, there is a promise, there is a commandment. There is something that the Word tells us about it, that if we are in that Book, if we are plugged in, we do not have to worry about certain things. We do not have to worry about how to react. It is just something I need to pray about. There are certain things in the Bible that the Bible tells us we do not need to pray about, that we constantly get wrapped up in praying about, wasting our time because the Bible tells us that we do not need to pray about it. So, our perspective: praise the Lord that we can look at book, chapter, verse and see what God thinks on every situation out there. This also gives me the ability to determine what

is of God and what is not of God. There are a lot of phony things out there. There is a lot of false doctrine. There are a lot of things that can take you astray. But praise the Lord that we have the truth! We have the truth, and we can understand that we do not have to worry about ISIS. We do not have to worry about Zika or any other ridiculousness, because being justified by faith, we have peace with God. So, I mean, it is bad to say this, but if it happens, it happens, right? We know where we are going. We know exactly where we are going. We have peace with the Lord. So, what is the problem? There is always a central problem. You lose and reject the Book. You lose your perspective. You lose your principles. You start reacting instead of responding. Sometimes, just like with the Zika thing, we want to spray up our apartments. We want to spray up our houses. We want to cause more damage to what is going on because of worry. We want to worry based on what the world considers you need to worry about. A prime example at work is worrying about the wrong things: worrying about a bonus, worrying about my 401k. Am I putting more time into that, or is my perspective out of whack? That is one aspect. Then we do not think the Bible no longer applies to you, and you do your own thing. That is about your Plan A, your Plan B. God has a Plan A for everyone. It is just up to us to find out what it is, but we have to fulfill His will. We have to be in the image of Christ each and every day to understand that plan. But when you want to do your own thing, we have so many examples in His Book. Abraham, for example, ended up getting his name changed to Abraham, but he was Abram for a long time, was he not? There were so many things that he had to get right in his own life, but God still promised him certain things, and He promised us certain things. We need to change our perspectives. We need to change our perspectives and truly understand what exactly does He want me to do? And what do I need to be worrying about? This aspect totally typifies the church period today. 2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; That is totally true today. 'Forget what the Book has to say. I am just going to do my own thing.' God's people too, from time to time, we have our own struggles. We have to worry about what the Bible says. When we are dealing with our families, when we are dealing with people that are closest to us, what does the Bible say about it? In Matthew, He says He came to take you away from your father and your mother. Sometimes the people that are dragging you behind are keeping you down. Our perspective has to change. We love them, but the Bible is clear; it says it. Another example, staying in the theme of Solomon: Solomon took seven years to build the Lord's temple. But then, if you look over in 1 Kings 7, it talks about how long it took for him to build his own house. It took him 13 years to build his own house. With all the greatness that Solomon was, the man had his own faults. He had his own shortcomings, and one of these was his perspective was out of whack. He took more time to build his own house than he did to build the Lord's house. For you and I, this is an example of our spiritual and our physical. In Galatians, it talks about that spiritual warfare that happens the day that you got saved. We still have that old nature. We still have that old flesh that wants to take us away from the Spirit that is dwelling inside your own hearts. This is a true picture, but it is all about your perspective. What do you perceive to be the things that are important? Is it the Spirit? Is it the fruits of the Spirit? Is it love? Is it joy? Is it peace? Is it meekness, longsuffering? Or is it the works of the flesh? We are told to crucify the flesh. We are told to put that thing down. There

is a reason, because it lusts against the Spirit. Those two things are contrary to one another. You cannot possibly serve the Spirit and constantly live in your flesh. It is all about your perspective. Do you perceive these things to be true? The Bible gives us principles, promises, everything—the manuscript to life. If we are ever going to be anything for the Lord, it is right here, right in front of us. As Bryce was speaking about worrying, I wrote down: 'What are we worrying for?' We get saved, you have peace with God. Then, throughout your Christian life, you can have a peace of God, as it says in Philippians. If you are obeying His Word, if you are doing things the right way, there is nothing to worry about. But what we perceive to be the things that we should worry about is what the world considers, and it is totally out of whack. Those three things are what I pulled out of those three verses, and to wrap up, the end of Song of Solomon 1:4 kind of sums it all up for us. It says, 'We will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine.' This should be our goal each and every day: 'Remember thy love more than wine.' There was a day when all we considered were the things of this world, physical wine, just thinking about myself. The things that mattered before that, quite frankly, should not matter anymore: going out and having a good time. Those things are gone. You are a new creature; you are in this new spirit, and you are defiling the temple of God. The second thing is to remember God's love and what He has done for me. John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Everything that we should be doing should be totally centered on Christ. Just remember that His love is better than anything that this old, retro world has to offer me. Amen. Our relationship starts with remembering the day that God saves us; no doubt, that is day one. But it takes diligence on our end. It takes us staying strong. It takes us remembering our passion, our true passion, which is in Christ. It also takes us understanding what our purpose is. Do not be fooled. We have one purpose. We all have different plans, but we have that one central purpose, and that is to share the gospel. That is to preach that thing. That is to make that thing known to everyone that is out there, in either shape or avenue that you have to do it: street preaching, to folks at work. I heard about you saving someone; that is amazing. So, just stand on top of what our true purpose is. And then lastly, our perspective: not getting out of whack, not really worrying about what the world considers, and really worrying about what the Lord considers in this Book. A few questions here: What sin are we willing to give up so we can get our acts right? Get back on track with the Lord. Get our relationship where it needs to be? What person in your life are we willing to drop that is holding you back from being all that you could be for the Lord? How much time are you willing to let go by before you get your act together with the Lord? It was definitely just an honor that Bob even asked me to do something like this. Being a younger Christian and really being in the ministry for two years, the Lord has definitely shown me something through my time putting this thing together. I picked the Song of Solomon because it is definitely a book that I personally want to get down. It teaches you everything about your personal relationship with the Lord, and I definitely feel like that has done its part. Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

Great job, Dejan. That was awesome. Did you guys get a blessing from those two guys today? That was so great.

The cool thing about our church is that I grew up in another church for 19 years before coming here and saw a lot of other ones out there. There is such a huge gap between the preacher and the so-called flock. It is funny to see that; it is such a wide expanse of space. What I love about, and you see that in the general military too, you have the leadership that is up there, but then you have the grunts that are all down here in mass numbers. Bob often talks about how he is trying to build almost like a special forces group of Christians. The difference with those groups is that when you look at them, the leadership and the special forces, there is a very small gap between them and the guys that are actually out there doing the work. They are all NCOs; they are all sergeants, especially on those A-teams. You have 12 guys where if one guy dropped down, the next one could pick it up and keep going with the job. I think you guys saw that, and that is what Bob is really building here. If he were to step down or something were to happen to him, this thing would just keep on running. It would keep on going. You guys got to see two more examples of that truth that we are talking about today.

It is not just in the men; it is in the women too. You talk about people putting devotions together and articulating things well. You say, 'Well, they talk more, so they got more experience with that.' Yeah, something like that. But you see it in the kids too. Last night, I went to Brin's nursery. She was lying on her back praying like that, sleeping. So, it is all over the place. It just speaks volumes of what the Lord is doing here in the leadership that we have with Pastor Bob. So, always keep him in your prayers. What the Lord is doing with him is just amazing, and it is such a huge blessing. We all benefit from that. Thank God that we just get to see how far that fruit goes down today in Bryce and Dejan.

With that, we will have a word of prayer. Before that, I want to let you guys know, I have been checking my 'Sesame Street' weather app here, and it looks like we are going to be good to go. We have about a six-hour span of space to get out there and get something done on the street. So, all the teams will end up going out. I know you guys are looking forward to not going out. I saw that, yeah. No, no, I am just playing. But go back there and make sure that you grab all the water that you need, because as I said, Bob will not be coming around with his command center today to fulfill that need for you. So, get all the water you need before you step out of here. Rose Dee Dee will have all your tracks. I think she is in the bookstore right now. So, go back in there, get your tracks from her, grab your water, and then be down there at restart 2:30, and guys that are inside 2:45. We will go from there. As far as what we are going to eat tonight, Culver's. We just go to Culver's; that is where we usually go. So, as soon as we get done, go to Culver's. Street teams be done by 5:15. We will wrap it up. Be in prayer for those from Nebraska that are going to be heading back for safe travel and mercies. We are going to be getting some great things started up with them in a couple of weeks. So, keep them in your prayers. I think that is all we have. Anything else that we need to say before we get to Smith? All right, guys, let us have a word of prayer, and we will get out of here.

Thank you so much, Lord, for that great Sunday that You gave us, the time of fellowship that we had together as a family, Lord, and just what You have been doing in this church, Lord, just how You are building up leaders, Lord, for the day and age that we are in. Lord, it is a 'sucky' church age. We are not like the Philadelphia church age where You have given us an open door, Lord,

but because of our hard attitude towards You, because of the way the world is going, Lord, we are in the church of the closed door. But Father, I thank You for that promise that You still gave us, where You said, You are going to come knocking on that door. If any man opens unto You, You will come in and sup with him, and he with You. We can still have that Philadelphia fellowship, Lord. I thank You for the gentlemen that came up today to show that, Lord. Even in this dark church age where it is just so bleak and grim, and it seems like You have separated Yourself from everything, You will still come in and have fellowship with folks and do things in their lives and use them. I just pray that those that did not speak today, Lord, are just thinking about that and continue to grow in their relationship with You, Lord, and be ready to be used by You at work, at that school, Lord, wherever You want to use them, Lord. I pray that they would just take advantage of those things. We will just be sure to give You all the praise, honor, and glory. Look out for us when we go out to restart. Help us to get the work done out there. We love You and thank You and pray and ask these things in Jesus Christ's name, amen.