

## **Title:** Called to Abide Before Sent

**Description:** In this Sunday morning message from Mark 3:13-19, Pastor Anthony Kim of Calvary Road Baptist Church follows Jesus up into a mountain, where He spends the night in prayer and then calls unto Him whom He would, ordaining twelve that they should be with Him and that He might send them forth to preach. Christ, who did nothing of Himself but what He saw the Father do, sets the pattern for every believer and leader: communion with God comes first, and the work is always secondary. It traces the deeply flawed and widely diverse men He chose, from Peter and the sons of thunder to Matthew the tax collector, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, calls the church to be a house of prayer that waits on God's timing, and invites the lost to come to Jesus, abide in Him, and bear fruit.

## **Transcript:**

You will please turn with me in your Bible to Mark 3 and we will be in verses 13-19. Mark 3, verses 13-19. You can continue to be seated. We'll just begin with this.

We're going to see the Lord Jesus Christ set out the select core group of men who will carry the gospel of the Lord Jesus to the ends of the earth. And he completely bypasses those that may have good standing with society, may have powerful connections, may be widespread in their influences. Instead, the Lord Jesus Christ what we would think from the view of man's eyes is worthy to think about when selecting future leaders. The Lord Jesus Christ showed us a pattern to follow. Instead, we're going to see what the Lord Jesus does before selecting leaders.

We see him climb a mountain and then from that place in the mountains in the mountain he's there praying all night and then after his time of praying with the father he calls to himself a group of men that are deeply flawed widely diverse group of men. If you look on the surface, it's like, how in the world can this be possible for this guy and that guy to get along? Such as a treacherous Roman tax collector by the name of Matthew and a violent political zealot. Zealot simply in that time was someone who assassinates people or political division.

He gathers these two unlikely souls. Jesus chose this man again like I mentioned Matthew with this zealot who are if you can think of it as far as possible on a spectrum of their traits, their personalities, whatever you can come up with. Is this the ideal group? No. In man's eyes we can make such

poor decisions if you only evaluate from the surface level externals. But what the Lord Jesus does is he transcends earthly ways of appointment of leaders.

How does then the Lord Jesus and his radical choice challenge our cultural obsession with human performance and self-reliance? And how does he pattern it the right way? Dependent completely upon the father in communion in prayer allowing him to be the one that shows who to appoint not from man's perspective but from the father. He teaches us how we too are called and equipped to pursue men for his mission. For his mission. And so we're going to see that beautifully laid out in the scriptures that we're about to go through.

So if you will out of respect for God's word please stand as we begin with verse 13 all the way down to verse 19.

"And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: and Simon he surnamed Peter; and James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house." This is God's word. You may be seated.

We're going to begin with the Lord Jesus Christ on top of a mountain. He goeth up into a mountain. Mark begins this event by noting that the Lord Jesus went up onto a mountain. And this is part of a frequent pattern where Jesus separates himself from the crowds and disciples to pray. And Jesus frequently stepped away to commune with God the Father before any significant events or any decisions. Such passages like we've read in Mark 1:35-36, Mark 6:46, Luke 9:18, 28-29, and Luke 11:1. Luke's parallel account of this passage notes that the Lord Jesus spent the entire night in prayer before selecting his twelve. That's from Luke 6:12-16. And one commentary observed that by the climbing the mountain, the Lord Jesus shows that the origin of his ministry and the disciples' ministry is from heaven and not from men. It is from God the father not from men.

And patterns seen also in the first century Christians such as in Acts 13:1-4, they follow the same pattern. They would wait upon God. Just listen from verse 2 to 3. "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said,

Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

Jesus did not act in his own independent strength or wisdom. Considerable thought was that he lived dependently upon the father. Think about it. The son of God, you would think out of all people, he did not think independently of himself. He perfectly obeyed God the Father, trusting him in all things. Let me just show you some passages from the book of John. John 5:19, this is the Lord Jesus here answering, "Verily, verily," or truly, truly, "I say unto you, The Son," talking about himself, "can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." And then chapter 8:28. "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." And then John 14:10, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."

Confirmation after confirmation after confirmation, he only does what the father asks him to do. You see, his life of total trust is the exact pattern then for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are called to emulate Jesus' life of trust. Total trust in God the Father is one that believers are then called. 1 Peter 2:21-23 for example of emulation.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." Including prayer, including prayer as a pattern. For general leadership, just speaking, let's just go generally from now. You will be called many times to be alone. That's one of the marks of a leader. Can this person be alone while everyone else is doing activities that would be okay to do?

Can you spend more time alone rather than activity after activity after activity after activity? That's just generally speaking that we see this in the patterns of leaders, or pastors, and ministry leaders.

On the other hand, let's go now into the spiritual leaderships of Christ Church. Such times of solitude and communion with God often precede significant events or decisions just like the Lord Jesus and how he emulates this for us. Me personally, I have found that on Mondays after a full day here in church with our church family, I spend particular extended times alone.

Although I still do that and other times during the week, this is an extended time of praying communion with God the Father.

Those that you lead as ministry leaders and I lead ought to know us by how we spend much time in prayer. Can people see that in you? Can people see that you are a person of prayer? That when you're alone with God, you're not being entertained. You're not spending hours and hours consuming entertainment. You're not on social media seeing the latest news and what's going on in the world, but you're spending your time away from all that and as it were going up a mountain, separated from all distractions and communion with God the Father. That's what we should be marked pastors on down to ministry leaders.

You see, prayer does not take time away from us. It actually saves us time. Let me just show you some other people's patterns. Luther said, "I am so busy in the day that I must spend three hours in prayer." Saves time. Another faithful minister by the name of Leonard Ravenhill in his busiest season of his ministry spent eight hours a day praying, communing with God the Father. Again, prayer does not take time away from us. It saves time.

Let me elaborate. You see, it saves us from heartache, from making poor decisions, making poor decisions that impact people's lives that we are praying, God, show me and help me to understand your people. When I make this decision, how is it going to impact this person, that person, this member of the body, that member of the body? I'm not making my choices by myself for myself. It is a choice as leading people. I am to think about the people and as you as ministry leaders are to think about the people you are leading that you are not pulling them astray from God the father but actually your decisions are helping them come closer to the father. That's what I think about when I make my decisions.

That's why we spend time with God the Father. So that we would not have a lack of understanding but we have a greater understanding by his wisdom, by his guidance, by his leading so we can save time from much heartache and much pain from poorer decisions. How many churches today leaderships are falling and crumbling because they're meeting together like it was a board meeting in a corporate setting and strategizing this thing and that thing rather than coming together and praying, and much praying at that.

I thank God for the leadership of this church. Just think about this. Just think about this. Primarily, when I'm discussing things with the leaders of the

church, I want us to be praying bookends, beginning of our meeting and ending of our meetings. And I am constantly outside of the meetings, I'm praying, God, bring us closer together. Help us to communicate in a way that your presence is felt among your people. That we there will be no divisions in our leadership. That we will be patient with each other knowing that God has gifted us differently and our personalities are different. And so there are going to be disagreements maybe in the fleshly level, but spiritually we're united in Christ. That's what I'm praying for.

That's what I'm praying for all the ministry leaders of our church person by person by person praying God please help them to communion with you to really understand how important it is to have that time alone before they go and spend time with the people that they would not rush the process of prayer that they would have fellowship with you with the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the triune God, and that they would know there's nothing greater than being in your presence. And then like Moses stepping down from Mount Sinai, that they would see he has spent time with God the father and that would convict the people not their words primarily but that they would sense, "Oh, I also need to spend time with God the father. I need to spend like the leader that I am following." Wouldn't that be the greatest as leaders that we are again known for that they get the conviction directly from God through the Holy Spirit convicting them.

You haven't been praying, have you? That's why you're going astray. That's why you're being pulled to entertainment. That's why you're getting pulled by all different distractions from the world. That's why your marriage is just being sustained because it's not done in your strength and your power. That's why your kids. They're not being trained. They're not being disciplined and admonished unto the Lord because there's no words of scripture that are being poured into our young people. And then they get to see the word of God being reflected in the fathers and the mothers and saying, "Oh, that's how the word of God is supposed to be like in the inner man that bears much fruit." And even those that are single amongst you that God in communion with the father that God is showing you this is who you're supposed to look for a future wife or a future husband.

Not a checklist. Not your checklist. They need to have this. They need to do this for me. They need this and that. And then I'll choose that person. No. No. You go to scripture and you find what a godly husband looks like, what a godly wife looks like, and you say, "Lord, help me to follow your word in choosing," and then everything will be fine because you're taking care of the

primary things that God wants to show and reveal to you.

From singles to families to married couples, we are coming to God, to God and his word. Our communion, God, reveal your word in the inner man so that I can live it out because I can only do this by you. Jesus said, you can do nothing without me. You can only do what my word says if you are abiding in me. And how do we abide in him? We abide in him in prayer and scripture reading. Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified by his truth. Thy word is truth. You want to grow as a Christian, you stay in the word. You want to be more sanctified. You want to be more separated from the world and the things of your flesh and the devil's temptations. Separate yourself unto the word. That's how you're sanctified.

So, let me ask you a question. When you're dealing with some sort of temptation, do you go to it is written or do you go to how do I feel about this? Because Jesus showed us when he's tempted in the wilderness, for it is written. For it is written of my word, not my feelings, not what I want, but what God wants. You see how this is so important? Communion with God the Father.

And I haven't even spoken about those who are lost amongst us. If you don't know anything what I'm saying, this is the reason why. You haven't really known who God the Father is. You haven't really trusted in his promises. You haven't really come to know Jesus Christ as your savior and lord. Because you're going based on your feelings and what you want God to do for you instead of what God is supposed to do to you and for you for his good pleasure, not yours.

This is so important. The danger of operating in the flesh instead of the Holy Spirit. We had an all night prayer meeting here this past Friday. It went all the way through Saturday morning focusing on our communion with God the Father. The first thing I asked the men to do, I don't want you to start interceding for yourself and others. I want you to just be silent. I want to spend the first part of our time. You're a believer. I want you to spend time communing with God the Father alone.

That silence. Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God." It's in the stillness that God speaks. Not in the earthquakes, not in the thunders, but in the quietness. In the quietness, as another passage puts it.

You see, that's the thing is we live in a place in an age where excitement, the thunders, the earthquakes, you think that moves the soul? No. All of that is

surface. All of that is for the flesh. God speaks to us when he says himself, "Be still and know that I am God." Right.

So, it was hard maybe for some of you men last night to just be perfectly still communing with God the Father, reminding and I said, remind yourself of the glorious salvation what God has done to you, for you in Jesus Christ. Just enjoy your time in that. And then out of that experience, let's start not with praying for intercession again, but let's transition into a time of praise. Let's transition into a time of being thankful. It says in the last days, people will be not thankful. They will be disobedient because there's a lack of thankfulness.

God's people should be marked by a sense of thankfulness. What God is providing to us. Oh, dear people, this is so important to really know what it means to be thankful. Not for the things. Not for the things. God is not Santa Claus. We're not asking for things. We're asking for a closer relationship with him and then a closer relationship with all others. If that's you, a spouse, if that's you with your children, if that's with you, with the members of this church, if there's division in any of those relationships is due to the heart issue.

Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and then all these things will be added unto you." How many of us are flipping that order? You're seeking things and saying, "When I have these things, then I'll seek God." That's dangerous. That's of the flesh. You already have all things richly given to you in Christ Jesus. For all things we start from a place of a mountaintop with God the Father and we lack nothing. Psalm 23. He is our great shepherd. I shall not want means I shall not lack anything. I have everything I need. He sends me into the green pastures where I'll be fed. He puts me to the side of the still waters. The still waters. Again, note the still waters. Nothing rushing, but the still waters. This is where the Lord wants us to be. Perfect peace with God the Father found in Christ Jesus alone. And this is where he shows us it's the communion of God the Father. Communion with God the Father.

How many of you are running on ventilators? A spiritual ventilator. You're barely surviving spiritually. Because you haven't taken deep breaths of heaven's air. As Puritans would say, piercing heaven. The Puritans would want to pierce into heaven. The breed from God and what he has to say in and through his word and to commune with again God the Father. What a wonderful thing. Are you piercing heaven often? Are you piercing heaven? Or are you just fumbling along on your flesh depending on the arm of the flesh, which is death, spiritual death for those that are lost. And it's spiritual

sleepiness for the Christian. You're just on a ventilator. Picture a person in a bedside on a ventilator. They can only stay immovable. They're just on that ventilator. That's not where God wants us to be. He wants to be sufficient for all things. My grace is sufficient for thee. In weakness, my strength is perfected.

The problem is that we think we're too strong. That's why we don't pray. You pray because you know you're weak.

Jacob in the book of Genesis, he said, "I will not let thee go until you bless me." Interesting enough, the area that God blessed him was to knock him off his strength. He went to the hollow of his thigh where the strength is and broke him so that he will not depend on the strength of the flesh. Is that where you want to be? Is that where you see true blessing? Or are you still thinking blessings about things instead of God making you truly recognize you're weak and you need to depend upon him just like Jacob, you can no longer depend upon. Most of his life, he was probably just like this the whole time because God took him away from his own strength. And then he was called Israel. God changed his name. What a wonderful thing. Is that what you want? I hope it is. I hope it is.

We got a taste of heaven yesterday on Friday. You want to have more of taste of heaven instead of the taste of this world. That's going to be fleeting. As soon as you hold on to it, it's already gone. And you're going to try to grasp for more and more. It's going to be fleeting. Every time you grab, it's fleeting. But once you hold on to heaven, it's a whole different thing. He holds on to us, he carries us through all the trials, all the temptations, all of the things of this earth, and we get to hold on to eternal life. That's what abundant life is. That we have God in our lives.

What a wonderful thing. Now let's move on to verse 13 to 15.

So, "he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils." Again, Luke notes that Jesus spent the entire evening in prayer before selecting the twelve. Together with these scriptures reveals Christ's dependence upon God for wisdom. But they also reveal that God granted and approved of the men whom Jesus himself personally then wanted to be his twelve disciples. And you'll notice that the divine order of the call is Jesus appointed them first. Notice that in the text

that they should be with him. That's the key to be with him. That's the first most important thing to be with him. And then secondly, then out of that experience that he might send them forth to preach. The work is always secondary. First comes communion with him.

This is the correct exercise of authority. Mark notes that the Lord Jesus granted them authority to cast out demons while Matthew records they were also given power to heal every kind of diseases and sicknesses. This power did not originate from the disciples themselves but from the Lord Jesus who gave them the authority establishing the same pattern for us that we are to wait upon the Lord. Maybe not in the same context as this again this is the apostles. This is to show them that they were apostles that they can heal and they can cast out demons. But we can get the order here. First communion, then being sent to the work.

And just let me just side note this. Miracles are never isolated events, meaning healing services only. We don't see that. Let me point out just one example that I what I mean. Miracles are never isolated events. Hebrews 2:3-4 says this. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both," here it is now, the secondary thing, "with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" Notice salvation, the message of salvation was first and foremost, and then the miracles, and then the miracles. Not the miracles and the neglecting so great of a salvation.

These scriptures illuminate so much for us to understand proper order and also proper authority.

I would want us as a church family to be a people known again for prayer, time of communion with God the Father that when we make decisions, we're not hurrying about to meet a deadline. It's not a corporate meeting. We're waiting on God's timing. And I know I'm not perfect at this, but this is what I'm constantly thinking. It has to be in God's timing. It has to be in God's timing. It has to be in contact, not an art timing. And there was one event that I had to say, "No, we're not doing this. This is not the right timing." Yes, it could have done a something wonderful maybe, but it would burn out our people. It would help them not to pray because they're so hurried about to get something done, work, instead of spending much time in communion with prayer. I would rather have the all night prayer than whatever that was that I was going to postpone.

That's how we should be thinking, that the world would know by how we pray. You see, first and foremost, this is a house of prayer. This is not a house of preaching primarily, although that's important. This is not primarily a house of great children's ministry or a great Christian academy. Although those are important, that's not the primary thing. Feeding the homeless or whatever. Yes, that could be important to some degree. But the primary thing is this is supposed to be known as a house of prayer. And so I want to make sure we're having all night prayer meetings at least couple times a year. I want to be known that when we come to service before we have church service, people are coming here to pray. That was already instilled and we're going to continue doing that. Wednesdays has always been prayer meetings. So I have recently modified that this is to be a house of prayer. That's where we should be spending much time. It's not as glitzy. You don't see a lot of things, but you get to spend time with God the Father. You get to get renewed strength. You get to get spiritual understanding from him giving you wisdom. Prayer does not take time away from you. It saves time.

He's ultimately in control. And that's what we're asking. God, be in control. I am so easily straight away depending upon my strength and control. God, I depend on your strength. I depend upon you to take control because you are sovereign. I'm not sovereign. You have ultimate control. You have ultimate power and I must come under that authority. And when I have that authority, then my wife submits to my authority and then my children under our authority. I follow the great shepherd. I am the undershepherd and you are the members of this church.

Prayer helps to have wisdom and order. God is a God of order. He does things decently and orderly. That is primary to our call.

Let's go on to verses 16 to 19.

Now we're going to go and look into whom Jesus chose to send them forth to preach. Mark listed a deeply again diverse group of men who accompanied Jesus, witnessed his miracles, listened to his parables and eventually faced severe trials. Let us examine the pattern of this calling.

Simon Peter is the first on the list. The first apostle mentioned here is given the name Peter which means rock, Petros. He was a Galilean fisherman with a fiery temper, bold, hard-headed, ready to fight. He drew his sword in the garden of Gethsemane, didn't he? Yet besides all that which we would think, why would he be qualified in our fleshly ways? Jesus does a restoration that

only he can do. He restores him after his three denials to boldly then preach at Pentecost where the early church with the numbers gathered 5,000 the Lord added unto his church daily such as should be saved. He led the early church and was specifically told then by the Lord Jesus Christ how he would die. Jesus actually told him he's going to die. Someone's going to take hold of you and you cannot get away from. I'm not going to go into church traditions this morning and afternoon because they're extra-biblical. So I'm not going to go into that. I'm going to go specifically what scripture points out of these men.

So we go on into James and John, sons of Zebedee. They were also Galilean fishermen whose mother's name was Salome.

And as you recall, she asked, "Can my son sit on your left hand and right hand?" Think about that. That boldness, that arrogance, and yet despite of that error that we would find, oh, they're never going to be future apostles. By the way, Jesus nicknamed them sons of thunder. They were always wanting to do something fiery. He there was one instance when they said, "Can we just send fire from heaven and destroy all these people like thunder? Just strike them dead." And Jesus said, "No, no, calm down. We're not doing that."

They were passionate. They were fiery. They were ambitious and seeking places of honor. Yet again only what the Lord Jesus can do redirected them towards sacrificial service. James becomes the first martyred apostle under Herod Agrippa, and we see that in Acts 12:2. And John became the beloved disciple that name beloved was given by Jesus the beloved disciple who authored the fourth gospel, the gospel of John and also three epistles and he was we find in revelation sent to Patmos. They just stay there exiled forever and ever.

Of the other disciples, you know very little of from scripture. A few we know no more than their names. For example, so we're just going to go through then the rest of the apostles. We see Andrew. This is Peter's brother. He was a former disciple of John the Baptizer who brought Peter to Jesus. Andrew was the one that brought Peter to Jesus. And we see that in John 1:41-42.

Then we go on to Philip who brought Nathanael along with him to meet Jesus and was tested during the feeding of the 5000. John 6:5. "When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" Testing him if we

need to go buy this or God's going to provide.

And then Bartholomew is a name as similar to Nathanael. They're interchangeable. He was an Israelite whom the Lord Jesus said there was no deceit. And we see that in John 1:47.

And of course Levi which is Matthew. I preached a whole sermon at length on Matthew in a previous sermon. But here I'm just going to reference just some few details. He was a Roman tax collector from Capernaum. He was socially ostracized by his own people for being a traitor. He would use his people for his own gain as a tax collector. And yet by the Lord Jesus Christ, he authored then the first gospel according to Matthew.

And then we go to Thomas, or the twin, known for his fierce loyalty. We see this in John 11:16. These words, "Let us also go, that we may die with him," speaking about Jesus. He was loyal but he also had doubt. And we get the common expression Thomas the doubter which he finally ultimately confessed in John 20:24-29 when he put his finger into the wounds of Jesus the nails and in his hand and he said my Lord and my God.

And then we go into James the son of Alphaeus the brother of John and we got a glimpse of him in Mark 3:17, "And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder." Again, we saw that. And then listed among the faithful witnesses mentioned in John 14:22 his name is also interchangeably Judas. "Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot," as it says in the text, "Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?" In which the Lord Jesus answered in verse 23, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me," here it is, "he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

And then we have Simon the Zealot. Noted in the introduction, he's the radical nationalist, passionate about liberating Judea from Roman occupation or Roman oppression. And he would assassinate people that would ties with the Roman political system that were Jews of his people and he would be zealous that there would be no mix. And so he was so contrasted with Matthew the tax collector. Again, both unlikely candidates to be apostles. Yet, the Lord Jesus chose him.

And then he also chose Judas Iscariot. The last one mentioned here again is Judas. He occupies the last place in each list of the disciples.

And he is always mentioned by the Lord Jesus Christ what he would do that he would fulfill Old Testament prophecy that he would betray Jesus for 30 pounds of silver or 30 coins of silver. He was a treasurer. He embezzled funds and again ultimately betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver before his tragic suicidal death which was also in the Old Testament prophecy that his intestines will be spilled out.

So with all this then what are we to gather from what we read from the text from our understanding of the text our communion with God the father is utmost important for believers in Christ before any work that we do for him again he says if you'll love me keep my commandments don't think you can keep those commandments by your neglect and prayer for God to help you to follow through with his commands, with his strength, and with his power, you will be able to do your ministry. Whatever God has called you to, you will be able to do it. If you're doing this in proper order, or you're spending much time in God with God in prayer, you will be able to do and fulfill those things.

Now I will give you every opportunity to spend time in prayer when we come and gather as a church body. As I mentioned the days that we come the times of preparation is in times of prayer. Let us be people like that and may God bestow upon me to help the current leaders of our church and other future of raising of future leaders which I am also thinking about because thankfully we have four generations here by God's grace. That's a healthy church. We have four generations. A lot of churches only have one generation. They're one generation away from extinction. So I take this as a great privilege and a great honor and I teach us with great respect. God, I need help. I need our ministry leaders to be helped. I need them to understand how important prayer is. I need them to understand we make these kind of choices that we do it prayerfully and considering each other in prayer as well. Ministry would bear much fruit if we are humbled by him, softened by him, by his word, and that we will come from a place of obedience. So I want that for us as a church.

I want you that are lost here and you go, where do I start? Well, it's not what I said because that's for Christians. You need to start with having a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You need to be saved from your sins. Your sin is because you are far and separated from God. You don't want to have anything to do with God. That's what your sin disposition is. And if God's spirit is speaking to you, he's saying, "Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus. Don't look at me. The Holy Spirit. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus. You need to be saved from your sin of disbelief." And then when you

have that union in Christ, abiding in him, then you can bear much fruit. Then you can have the inner fruit, the fruit of the spirit. And you can see that in Galatians chapter 5. All the attributes that God's spirit gives you, things that you cannot manufacture. You can't manufacture true love. You can't manufacture true joy. You cannot manufacture true peace and on and on and on like self-control. But God's spirit gives you a new heart. A heart that beats after him that does what he wants. Not my will but thy will be done.

Would you like to receive that kind of intimacy? Well, come to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior, saving you from sin and your lord following him from here on out. I just pray that this will occur here this morning.

Father, thank you for this time. What a privilege it is to see the life of Christ, life of Christ in the Bible. Father, I pray that as believers that we would love Jesus more, would love to spend time with him and his commands, his word. And he promised us if you will love me by keeping my commands. Oh, I pray that your people would abide in his commands, they will obey, not by their strength, but by yours, by the strength of Christ. Help your people, Father. I pray for the lost. Please father draw them to thy son Jesus Christ. Father, you can only draw them. I cannot. My message cannot father you must draw them. That is what you said. So father I pray that you will then draw them unto Jesus. Point them. Father draw them. The beautiful savior in which you thank and are so grateful for having this relationship. May they experience this for the first time in Jesus' name. Amen.