

Father, I ask and pray for your presence here tonight and that we would all have the grace of concentration to focus in on your word and what it has to speak to us all individually in this room. I pray father that each person here would encounter you, that what you have to say clearly through your word would bring about conviction if needed to each person here, whatever they're dealing with, that it would be your Holy Spirit doing his work in each one of us. I pray father that we would yield to him, allow him to work in our lives, revealing areas Lord that in our flesh we wouldn't have recognized by ourselves, but it was because the Holy Spirit pointed it out to us our sins and that we would not want to live understanding that those sins have not been confessed and have not been loosed and given over instead of sin but giving over to doing what the desires of your heart is for each one of us and our areas that we need to continue to grow in our Christlikeness. Help us as disciples of Christ to live and walk in this way so that father we would experience more of your goodness, your kindness, your love, your grace and your mercy and so much more that you have for us that nothing in this world can offer. For these are things that are from you and they can only come from you to feed our souls. I pray Father that you would bless us tonight to each one of us. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

So as we continue our series we're in the fourth week now almost coming to the end of the stretch. This one that I will be talking about in this series is regarding comparison. Comparison is what we need to put off. In order for us to be continually fed in our souls where comparison can never reach it can never satisfy our souls. We're going to go into this very important topic because it is constant meaning that it's all around you 24/7 whether it's physical or digital. I know we've been mainly talking about algorithms which are digital but comparison can be all around you physically and its influence is strong. We're going to find out in the text that I'm going to go over how strong it is that it can blind us that we can forget how much we actually compare ourselves to others.

Let me just kind of draw some things to your attention. What are some of the things that people compare themselves to? They could be what your vocation is. In the world they call it career. It could be milestones within your career namely vacation. What about places you go and visit on vacation? Did you go and compare your vacation to other people's vacation? Did I have my vacation as good or worse than them? Romance. If you're married in this room how does your marriage compare to other marriage couples in our church or in the world? What about your lifestyles? Comparing yourselves with people that live lavish lifestyles or even a lifestyle that is minimal and everything in between. These are things that are quietly but yet very strongly reach our hearts. And remember heart is your command center. It's where we produce action. It's from out of the heart that produces action in our lives. It pours into our lives. And the thing is that here's the danger is that it's typically because you're not content in your life. There's something whether those things that I listed or other things I didn't mention from this pulpit but whatever comes to your mind it's typically because you're not content so you want to go and see what other people are doing or here's another thing you don't feel confident. Am I doing my work well or maybe I'm not enjoying my life in the world that I should be right? There's something missing in the area of confidence in your life and then purpose. Am I really fulfilling and this is why I use vocation because it's a calling it means there is no retirement period it's something you do until God calls you home not when a certain time period age determines it. Do you feel that you're

doing things that are purposeful meaning that God called you to and you're doing that thing that God has called you to. Comparison can make you unhappy. Comparison can actually make you in other words more miserable than you were before. If you don't deal with contentment confidence and purpose. If you overlook all that and just go into comparison it will make you unhappy. And the danger is it can slowly pull you away from the life God is calling you to live. That's the danger. You're instead comparing yourself to what measures to man. And that will never satisfy our souls.

Right? You see as I mentioned last week entertaining yourself with the creation instead of the creator can take us away from the important things that God has for you specifically. Not comparing yourself to someone else but you specifically how God designed you and equipped you and gifted you and provided boundaries for you to protect you and for you to grow in joy in the Lord and also strength in the Lord. And so we need to constantly find satisfaction for our soul from the Lord directly.

Here are some just statistics and I'm not going to give you percentages. I'm just going to give you what are some things that people just really battle with struggle with. Here's some things. Number one that came up was people battle with by comparing their career and their life and their milestones. Am I you know I'm age 20? Have I met my milestones whatever that is or 30 or 40 or 50 and so on and so on. Did I meet my milestone in my career or my life? That comes at the very top. The next one is pleasure. You know trying to people call it take care of your bucket list items. I want to go visit this many places. I want to go and do this much entertainment and so on and so on. How many things can I check off my bucket list before I leave this earth? That comes number second. The third one I thought this would be number one but apparently it's not. It's having a romantic relationship. A lot of love in your relationship comes third. And then the fourth one is your physical appearance. Your physical appearance something that you feel as a blemish. Oh God made a mistake. That comes fourth.

Now comparison didn't come in our age meaning the age that we live in which is a digital age. But what it did was it widened the arena as it were. Meaning that now we're comparing ourselves not just within our community not just within our nation but all across the world. And you wonder why people are so full of anxiety in the world right? Because it just widened the arena of comparing yourself to every single one in the world. If you want to if your hearts desire it. And what do we do? We measure ourselves against somebody else. And what is the mindset is am I doing at least the average what everyone that is average? Am I meeting more or less? Right? That's how we compare ourselves. The tension is that comparison doesn't just make us miserable and also it makes us discontent as I mentioned but it also most importantly is it blinds you spiritually. It blinds you to the spirituality. We pay attention too much to the physical that you don't even think about the spiritual implications when you are in comparison mode as it were and it causes us to measure our standing with God by our success our performance to others that is actually superficial and masks the deeper problem which is an inward need for a savior. Someone who is living in this kind of realm doesn't need a savior. They think they can save themselves by okay I'll just do better next time you know or you know what I messed up so let it be. It can lead to indifference. It can lead to I can just do it in my own effort and it leaves out a

savior. That's the problem. We need to be saved from comparison. And if you don't agree with that there's something wrong with you. Why is a savior so important? Namely why is Jesus Christ important in your life? He saves us from comparison. Did you ever think of it that way? Because comparison is a sin issue. It is a sin issue. And if you don't call it for what it is then you are living in spiritual blindness.

So open your Bible to Mark 10:17-31. And we're going to meet a man by the name of doesn't even have a name in the Bible but he is called the rich young ruler. The rich young ruler. You ever piece out these words separately? He was rich. He was young and he was a ruler. Think about this. I was talking about comparison. He was the rich one in comparison to everyone else. He was young. He got this when he was young. There's that comparison. And then third he was a ruler. He reached the highest level authority compared to a people. You see that rich young ruler and we're going to see how he compares himself with other people in this text. He had everything in another way of saying it compared to the world's standard because he was comparing himself to others with his wealth his youth his authority as I mentioned and all of his moral achievements. Yet we're going to find out his soul was missing the one thing that absolutely mattered. So let's see how Jesus exposes how his outward successes can hide the thing that's most needful inward his soul and how comparison can cost us far more than we ever intended. This conversation between Jesus and the rich young ruler invites us to consider what we might be holding on to. So as you're reading as I'm reading this text what are you holding on to and whether it's keeping you from following Jesus fully? Because if you are holding on to something you are not following Jesus fully. That's what we're going to see in this conversation. So let's begin with verse 17. The word of God says And when he was gone forth into the way there came one running and kneeled to him and asked him good master what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? Notice his eagerness. He ran. He kneeled and he asked. He runs and he kneels and asks outwardly. It looks like a good prospect right? We see his eagerness but we're going to see some mistakes.

We continue on verses 18 to 20. And Jesus said unto him Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one that is God. Thou knowest the commandments. Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Defraud not. Honor thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him Master all these have I observed from my youth. So let's look at this. The young man measures his spiritual standing by outward comparison. That's his understanding in the text. Outward appearance. He checks off the commandments as it were. Jesus didn't talk about the four towards God of this 10 but he did focus on six of them which are towards mankind regarding how he treats others. And he goes on and says I've done them all Lord. But notice which commandment Jesus deliberately omits from verse 19. Can you see which one he omitted? He omitted Thou shalt not covet. Go back and look at the ten commandments. He didn't say Thou shalt not covet. So he replaced it with instead defraud not. You see that in the text defraud not. Jesus leaves it out because covetousness is status. Dealing with status and possessions and comparison. And he's going to get to that in the conversation with the rich young ruler which was actually the hidden sin and that dominated his heart. That was not something that was visibly outward. But Jesus knowing his heart he waits. He waits. See coveting is an internal state of the heart. It's desiring what belongs to someone

else rather than the other word that the Lord Jesus used. He used all of them that are outward. And this one defraud not isn't in the original six of the ten commandments toward man. But he puts it together in all the outward appearance because defrauding not is not an inward thing. It's an outward thing. It's a practical action of don't rob people don't cheat people or withhold what is rightfully due to someone. You see Jesus wanted to see where his outward appearance is and if it was really matching up. And okay great. But we're going to go into what you're not doing right. And let's look at that verses 21-22. Then Jesus beholding him I love this. Loved him. Loved him. I would underline that. And said unto him One thing thou lackest. Go thy way. Here it is. Sell whatever thou hast and give to the poor. And here's the promise. And thou shalt have treasure in heaven and come and take up the cross and follow me. And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved for he had great possessions. Jesus looks at him in genuine love. He is not harsh with his words here. That's why I told you to underline those words. He did this in a loving way. He wasn't harsh or condemning. No he just exposed the idol of his heart. Isn't that how he deals with all of us? He gently tells us this is what's wrong. Now what are you going to do? What are you going to do? What was already there. He wasn't telling him to do anything. He was just exposing what was already in his heart. The possessions. What was that actually brought him grief? Here's the subtlety. Possessions you might think bring you happiness. It actually brings away grief. He went away grieved. Do you see that? Because he had much possessions. Possessions bring more problems doesn't it in reality. And he didn't even catch that. But in the text we see that he was he went away grieved for he had great possessions. He was so troubled by those possessions. It's so sad. The man traded his eternal call from the Lord Jesus Christ for temporal status and wealth choosing to hold on to what he had accumulated his great possessions rather than following the Lord Jesus in discipleship. Notice he was calling him to discipleship with the words take up the cross and follow me. And he said No I rather have my possessions. No Jesus I rather not follow you. That's what it was implied by his statement. Again creation versus creator. He cared more about the creation more than the creator. You see we can easily zoom out and look at our own lives. This is the whole point of this conversation. Why it's in the Bible. Because in many ways we gravitate just like the rich young ruler. We want to be rich. We want to be youthful. And we want to be in authority. These are three things that we're wrestling with all of us in this room. And if you say you're not you're fooling yourself. The point is that these are things temptations that we are struggling with right now in this room. I'm struggling with this right now. You are too. And the age that we live in again I share with you it is now gone to the whole world. And if you're not careful and you say I'm not struggling with this you're going to go right into it. And the more you lie to yourself the more you open yourself up to the world and comparing yourself. So this is why Jesus does this in a loving way. You have no idea what this is going to do to you. You have no idea. I'm not sure if you ever read this text like that. Here is about honesty. See outwardly the things that you have in your whatever social media platform actually reveals your heart. It reveals your heart. So imagine think about what's on your feed right now. That's what you're struggling with. And that's the stuff you have to let go to fully trust in the Lord Jesus. And you go how is that? Yes you're supposed to obey before understanding. Obedience before understanding. That's always the way Jesus works. He didn't tell the young rich young ruler here this is what I want you to understand. No he said just follow me take up your cross put that down and follow me obedience. And then he was and then he gives understanding to the disciples. He doesn't give understanding before that. How do I know

that? Because we're going to see in the text he will show the disciples what this means. So let's look at it. Verse 23-27. And Jesus looked round about and said unto his disciples here it is. How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God? And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again and saith unto them children how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God? It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. I want you to pay attention those that trust in riches. That's what the rich young ruler was doing. He was trusting his riches. And he says It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. You see rich is different from wealth. He doesn't use wealth because wealth doesn't mean that you're using your money just to make yourself rich with a lot of possessions. Actually a wealthy person can be like a rich person but a wealthy person's distinct is they give it away. They're not trying to build up becoming more possessions for themselves. They actually use the money and use it wisely. That's what a wealthy person does. That's why Jesus never condones wealthy people. He just says those that are rich that have great possessions. See in the culture of the day wealth was viewed as a direct sign of God's favor. But in this case this man was rich. He wasn't using wealth in the sense that I just explained it. He was holding it for himself. He was holding it all for himself. And the disciples then were stunned because if a wealthy moral man couldn't make it who could? Here the disciples didn't understand. You always see this kind of way that the Lord Jesus dialogues with the disciples. He will say something and then he would have to say it another way for the disciples to understand. Sometimes they don't even understand completely. You'll see that in the text. Notice it. He says first How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God. That's his first statement. Then he clarifies it even more. It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter in the kingdom of God. You see that he's always trying to cut deeper to our understanding. And Jesus uses hyperbole here. This is a figure of speech that uses extreme deliberate exaggerated statements to make a point right? And a camel can't physically go into an eye of a needle. That's a hyperbole. And he would use this to explain it's impossible a rich man to go into the kingdom to enter into the kingdom of God. It's impossible. And just kind of fast forward. He says with man it is impossible. With God all things are possible. Right? So let's go into verse 26 and verse 27. He goes on and says they were astonished out of measure. Literally they reacted that they're like wait this is not normal this doesn't make sense Jesus. So they were saying among themselves this is I don't understand. And then he says and they continue who then can be saved. I thought this was the standard to be saved. And Jesus looking upon them says with men it is impossible but not with God. Or with God all things are possible. So here Jesus completely reframes what is needed not what they think it's needed for salvation but what truly is needed. We need God. We need God. See the rich young ruler just simply needed to trust Jesus. But he didn't see him as God. He saw him as a good master. It would have been a totally different conversation if you said Jesus you are the son of God but he called him a good master. That's why Jesus said no only God is good. He was trying to correct his understanding of who Jesus was. The idea is Jesus reorients the disciples understanding to understand what true calling of salvation is. That's not achieved by what you gather but receive through what God does in your life and it's the impossible things that we can't save ourselves that we cannot inherit our possessions in heaven and so he says you have to lay down you have to lay down the rich young ruler had to lay down

all of it primarily he focused the very thing that he need to lay down was his possessions. And usually that's how God works doesn't he? He takes care of the one thing that's the issue in your life doesn't he? He deals with one thing at a time. So a life of true discipleship is found in laying down our idols to follow him. This is we see this throughout scripture. If he would have taken up his cross and followed Jesus he would have been part of the conversation with the disciples. Did you notice that? He missed the point that Jesus was trying to say to him but he had to lay down first before following. Discipleship is never about hey follow blindly. No there's always something that needs to be laid down for true following of Jesus. And you do this ultimately with your life and you trust Jesus with your life. And that's an ongoing process in discipleship. It's an ongoing process.

Let me illustrate this by someone by the name of William Wilberforce. This man was a politician in England back in the 18th century. You might have heard of this name because he was on track to actually being the next prime minister of that time. He was reaching all sorts of milestones in his in the political arena. Yet he became a Christian. And what he needed to surrender was everything for Christ. And I believe he didn't become a prime minister because that was something that he was struggling with. He didn't want to get into the political sake of being political. He wanted to get in there to exalt Christ and to glorify him. So he refused to live a life for personal ambition getting up in the ranks for himself or comparing himself with other people. Instead he gave four decades 40 years of his life enduring intense hatred ridicule and opposition for this purpose. Here it is abolish the transatlantic slavery that was going on the trades of slaves between different parts of the transatlantic. He was trying to abolish all that. God was using him to do that. And Parliament then passed the Slavery Abolition Act. And here it is just three days before he died. He didn't even get to see it passed. That's called faithfulness. That's called trusting in the Lord with all of his heart with all of his strength right? With all of his soul all of it. He gladly traded the world's measures of success for calling from the Lord that was worth losing everything for. He lost everything. Most of people would be would in the world would love to be in his position but yet he said no to all of that because God called him to do that one thing. One thing that took the most of his life to do. That's a calling. We live in a time where people are just moving from one thing to the other one thing to the other. There's hardly anyone. It's now rare. It's becoming more rare isn't it? That someone just sticks to their call until again God calls them home. Like in the case of William Wilberforce you see a lot of this in the old missionaries the old Christians. You see them steadfast unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord. For they know that their work is not in vain in the Lord. Right? 1 Corinthians 15:58. And you know that's God right there. Right? I'm sure he was wrestling with all of the hostility and the opposition and the ridicule. But you see he took his eyes off of this temporal world. And that's something for us to constantly do. You know the thing that comes to my mind Martin Luther once said I've got so many things to do in my day that I must pray for three hours. Not for three minutes not for 30 minutes but three hours. And he has a lot of things to do. I mean that always humbles me and I for myself as a preacher as a pastor I constantly look how much time do I spend preparing a message and how much on my knee how much am I on my knees praying that this message would affect you just as it does affect me that it's not about me but I think about the people that are going to be in this I think about the impact this message. It is powerful. It's a powerful message. I mean it's the Lord Jesus speaking truth. But is the

message sinking deep within your soul and fulfilling the very thing that you need confirmation on? Because he will always deal with your heart. He's never going to deal with superficial things. He'll always deal with the most deepest inward heart issues. And if you will just surrender yourself to what Jesus is calling you to do you will find great joy great peace great strength and growth in your life. This is all very very important. This is all very very important.

Let's go on and verses 28 to 31 or rather let's go through verses 28 to 30 and we'll leave verse 31 at the end. Then Peter began to say unto him Lo we have left all and hath followed thee. And then Jesus answered and said Verily I say unto you there is no man that hath left house or brethren or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for my sake and the gospels. But he shall receive as a promise in hundredfold. Now notice the word now in this time houses and brethren and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecutions and in the world to come eternal life. At a glance if you look at this you go Oh it's prosperity. But it's not. It's not. The rich young ruler could have been by the way part of this conversation too. What could have answered so many of his heart issues but he was willing to trust the Lord Jesus. It's so sad. But here it is. Jesus never asked for surrender without promising something greater in return. So you saw the hundredfold. Now what does that mean? You may ask says What about us? Peter is saying What about us? We gave up everything. We did do what you asked us to do like you'd asked the rich young ruler. We did. We did lay down our life. We did lay down our fishing business. Remember that they dropped their nets. We did do that Lord. We did follow you. We're following you right now. We gave up everything. And Jesus responds with this promise. Whatever is surrendered for my sake and the gospels is multiplied back here. It is the hundredfold is this in fellowship with other believers. Welcomed into the spiritual family in the houses and in their lands of other believers in Christ and eternal glory the eternal life. Do you see that? You're now part of a different family. You have different brothers and sisters and mothers and so on and so on. And then now you're part of the church family. And in this case right there weren't church buildings like we have today. There were houses. So they were gathering with other fellow believers in hundredfold of homes. Do you see that? That's what he's promising. And I can tell you and you know this if you've been a believer for a long time that is so true. How many brothers now you have and sisters in Christ spiritual fathers and spiritual mothers those that brought you to Christ or people from I mean I can just be in another state and I run across another Christian and man we come to an agreement with the Lord Jesus and then now we're just opening up our lives. So you have no idea what you have now until this reality becomes your reality and you go Yeah I have more than enough. I have the very people that I need in my life. The people that I used to hang out with when I was lost oh they were we were just transactional. We were just talking about superficial things temporal things. But now I'm part of a spiritual eternal family that actually cares about the deep things that concern God and Christ right? Has that has God opened your eyes to this what you have? And no no there's no comparison right? It should bring to you the conclusion there is no comparison. Your life is good. You are secure in Christ. You have everything you know you need. God is if you're in need God's going to send someone to help you. He's going to send a brother or sister in Christ. You've seen this in our church. I've seen this in other churches I've been part of. It never fails. So why go on in comparison? If you think of it that way the power of comparison will be mortified. You'll be able to put off quickly. That's the understanding that Jesus wants for you to

have regarding comparison. And the rich young ruler didn't get to hear this. Oh he would have been set free from sadness and grief and he would have had joy that he would have been part of the the close disciples with Peter. I'm sure James and John I'm not saying that it's there but the closest were following Jesus. He would have been able to be part of that and he missed it. He missed it because he didn't obey Jesus. He wasn't willing to let go of the great possessions. How sad it may be for someone in this room that you may be that rich young ruler and you've been missing the mark but you're still alive and you're still given an opportunity even right now. And you don't need to struggle with that anymore. If Jesus is speaking to you clearly and you have understood this truth clearly because Jesus assures the disciples that they have answered the call and they are the ones that are going to be receiving the hundredfold and they did right and they did right Peter one of them he wrote two of the letters in the New Testament and James. And we can go on and on but that's for another sermon.

Let's go to Mark 10:31 the last verse. He says But many that are first shall be last and the last first. What the Lord Jesus is saying here is that the kingdom of God is flipped from the kingdom of this earth. The kingdom of God is a flipped paradigm of the kingdom of this earth. What is prestigious to the world is foolishness to God. Worldly status becomes upside down. Another way of saying it. Those who spend their lives trying to stay first through comparison will end up last. But those willing to become last for Jesus and the gospel's sake will be lifted up by God and put be put first. These are the obedient disciples. Not much recognized in their life. The last we don't get much recognition. Who will receive the greatest honor will be first. Those who receive honor here in this earth will be last. On our own we are just like the rich young ruler. We hold on to our self-righteousness our possessions and our comparative pride. Yet we cannot get through the eye of the needle on our own merits. That's what the Lord Jesus was emphasizing. See Jesus did what we could not do. Jesus who held all the riches and glory in heaven willingly laid it all down way before we ever did. Amen. He stepped into our world went to the cross bore our sins and died the death we completely deserved. He was buried and rose again so that he can break the power of sin namely comparison and greed and all sorts of other sins. And so through the Holy Spirit when we have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as our savior he now becomes our Lord. And the Holy Spirit allows us to obey him. And God grants us the power to go through our hearts because he will reveal more and more of our heart problems of sin. And he will bring up to our minds our idols again and again and again so that we would live our lives that is pleasing to God by letting go of those idols which the Holy Spirit will give you the power not just to reveal it but also to lay it down. That's why the Holy Spirit is to live why he lives in us to conform us to the Lord Jesus and the way he laid down his life so that we may be able to lay down our lives. So think about one area one area just one tonight. Where is the Lord Jesus speaking to you about your idols tonight? Where are you most tempted? That's where you should start. Where are you most tempted to compare yourself to others? Whether it's in your calling or your financial status or your body image your relationships or your possessions. Here's what God is wanting you to do. Bring it honestly before him. Don't bury that in. He's trying to bring it up to your attention. Take that specific thing that God is showing you and then pray. Pray. Don't do it in your own strength. I said this in the last Sunday's message. We try to immediately try to fix it ourselves with our own hands but trust the almighty hands in prayer. When you're praying you're asking God take help me to take care of this situation. I can't. I

admit I can't do this. I need your Holy Spirit to finish the whole process. The Holy Spirit doesn't just bring it up and then have us take care of it. No he wants us to pray about those things and take care of those deep things. And if you're honest with yourself you know when God answers he doesn't answer the way you want it. So you got to ask him Lord help me to just obey you when you asking me to do something and not depend on my own understanding. That's how you bring things to prayer when you confess. And ultimately the Holy Spirit wants you to surrender all. All means all not partial. That's what salvation means. If you need to read the scriptures again this evening if God is not working in you right now maybe later this evening maybe you're too distracted right now but do you give up that easily on what God is doing in your life? Or do you allow him to pursue you with his love? Love is a pursuing act. That's why I want you to remember that word love. He's pursuing you in love. That's what love is. Without love is distant. But when love comes in he comes close. I have let me take care of that for you. Let me help you through this. You're not alone in this. I'm here. I'll take care of it. Trust me like you trusted me before. If you're a believer in Christ you know what I'm talking about. You know he always has you. He'll never leave you nor forsake you. Imagine us as a church family that are completely free from the exhaustion of comparison. Imagine living with peace with God and having a heart of generosity because that's what he will give you. Instead of keeping everything you'll be generous with your things knowing that your identity and security are anchored in Christ and Christ alone. And when you starve off the comparison you are feeding your soul. There is an action when you're giving putting off your putting on Christ. That's how you're feeding your soul. It's a person. His name is Jesus. He's feeding you. He's feeding you on the gospel. The good news that he's going to help us and save us from ourselves. This is what it means to live eternal life. As he says right now you can live this kind of eternal life now and forever more. This is what God originally created us to be to live in eternity. May God help us. Amen. To live this way. And if God has spoken to you I'm praying that something spiritual has happened in your heart. And you're coming out with more joy and more peace and more contentment in the Lord. Amen. All right let's go ahead and pray for the rest of our time. I'd like to ask some of the men to pray for these three things.