

The Cost of Discipleship: Deny Self, Take Up Your Cross, Follow Jesus

Anthony Kim

Good evening. Welcome to Wednesday evening Bible study. I will be starting a series on discipleship. We'll see how long this goes for. I'm looking forward to where we will go. This is a new series for Wednesday evenings. So if you will please bow with me as we go to the Lord in prayer.

Father, thank you for this opportunity to come before you and ask for your help for all of us. Lord, help me to be spirit led and have your word filled in my heart and to be able to give your words with clarity and with unction by your spirit's help. I pray for the listeners that you would give them the grace of concentration and stop their ears, Father. Bless them, God to really remind ourselves of what the called disciple is in our lives and how we are to follow him according to what Jesus has made clear to what that looks like in scripture. So, Father, bless us to this end. I pray, Father, that we would continue, God, as disciples of Christ to grow in the knowledge of thy son Jesus. I pray that you would bless us in this way in Jesus name. Amen.

All right, let's go ahead and turn to Luke chapter 9 and we'll be in verse 23-26 this evening. Luke 9:23. Go ahead and read through verse 26.

And he said to them all, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it. But whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it? For what is a man advantaged if he gained a whole world and lose himself or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the son of man be ashamed when he shall come in his own glory and in his fathers and of the holy angels.

You know, life brings us in moments where we can have joy and we can experience seasons of struggle. Just think of moments where you have experienced joy. Getting your first license, driver's license, it's a joy to get it, right? But what ends up happening? Got car payments if you're on a loan. What happens when the car breaks down and you don't have enough funds to pay for it, right? So that excitement is there in the beginning and that's what salvation looks like. Salvation to the Lord is a delight because he's taking care of something that we couldn't accomplish, right? But there are seasons of struggle. There are seasons where there's going to be difficulty and Jesus makes that very clear. He tells us what discipleship looks like from beginning to end. Many of our decisions are not always like that. Sometimes we get so excited in the beginning, like I just gave an example of the driver's license, but we don't often think about all of the repercussions of having a car, right?

But that's not the way the Lord Jesus is. He makes it very clear that this is what it's going to look like from beginning to end. And you know if our lives were more like that, how much more prepared would we be for life through no matter what the struggles may be like? You wouldn't know exactly what the next step's going to look like, what the next step is look like. And you know, whenever there's good planning, what ends up happening, you know, that the expression if you plan to fail, you fail to plan is true. And so planning is very important to God. I mean, didn't he not plan the universe into existence, right? We see that in scripture. You see over and over God's plan for our lives.

And one of the areas is the call to discipleship. That is in the New Testament. That's what Jesus came primarily to do is to make disciples. Besides him dying on the cross, our lives is a constant call to dying to ourselves.

Now verse 23 I want us to think about this in this way. I've been reading the book on the cost of discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Has anybody read that book? Okay, we got one out of many. Okay. It's a wonderful book. He was a man that lived during World War II and he was a true disciple. I mean he died for you know not renouncing Jesus Christ as savior and lord. He died to the very end for the cause of Christ. And he says something very important in this book. He said, "Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life." Let me say that again. Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life. So, with this in view, let's examine our text this evening, grasping the essential conditions that Christ tells us how we are to follow him. And as well as not only the conditions, but we're going to also see some significant warnings in this passage of not choosing to follow Christ. So, we got conditions to follow Christ and then significant warnings of not choosing to follow.

So, verse 23, let's look at it again. And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. So the call to following Christ is general. We see that in the word all. It's general. It's extended to everyone. And but if you see in this passage, I would circle if you have a pen, that's a condition, right? That's a condition. It is to all, but this is a condition, a conditional statement. And he's indicating that there are challenges with following Jesus and we must not minimize it or ignore this. He puts it right at the very beginning after he makes his statement to all you must follow this condition.

And what is it? We'll see the first one is come after me. Come after me. You see that in the text. That's what a desire coming after me. You want to go to this. It's this idea of I want to have a desire to follow you, Lord. It's a want. And you see that with will. So he's talking about your will here. Your will. Will needs to be the first thing of denial. Do you deny what you want to what God wants? That's the first thing that he conditions us with. And discipleship begins with that deliberate act of yes Lord, not my will but your will be done. And this is important for a genuine desire to follow Jesus. And so we see if any man will come after me as that first condition that intentionality is foundational to the Lord Jesus Christ. There again there's nothing to minimize here. This is essential. So he wants us to reach at the heart level. That desire of wanting comes from the heart level condition. That walking in the path of a disciple is first he wants your heart because that is where the will the center our command center is at. Which direction are we going to go? And he wants our heart in it.

And so discipleship means movement, moving forward. It's lining up behind the Lord. It's following wherever he leads and wanting him to lead, not us. We are always and must always walk behind him. Never to walk ahead of him. That is the first condition. Must always be following him. Aligned to what he has planned and what he desires for us at the heart level and we position ourselves again behind him so we can follow what in his footsteps not in our own footsteps not someone else's but his footsteps so following Jesus's disciple begins at that heart level of Lord you lead you lead my will your will be done it's as simple as that but it's a profound truth that all of us as disciples must always remind ourselves he wants to reach at the heart and that's a genuine thing right look at everything in your life if you genuinely want to do something you want to do it you shouldn't be forced to do something nobody should have to keep belittling you it's something that you want to do and that's how you know you're a disciple that you really want to follow Jesus you really want to be behind him that's just a constant reminder for ourselves.

And so it's a great truth to always keep in mind. The desire is that the savior is never absent, right? He's always leading. He's never absent. We are always following every step, every process. We're never alone. Always remember that in genuine discipleship, you are never alone. You're never absent because you are always following in his footsteps. And that's a simple truth, but yet profound.

Now, let me just focus on some desires that we have to deny. Let me draw some of them here. Sleep. Sleep. That's a big one, isn't it? We want to sleep. We desire to sleep. I have a problem with I sleep a lot. And that's one of the shortcomings. I want to sleep more, but you know what? Does God want us to sleep all day? Does God just want us to be lazy? No. He wants us to do something. He wants us to be led. And what is that? What is his desire? He wants us to be in the house of God. Isn't that his desire? Why did he buy bloodbought his church? So that he could we can be with each other. To do what? To love one another. So that what the world would know that we are his disciples. How can we do that if we don't want to be with each other? That's a big one. And that's that love again. We want to be together because Christ did the thing that we couldn't do. He bought us one by one individually to draw us called out eklesia right called us out to be the family of God to be adopted in this body. What a wonderful wonderful reminder. And so profound truth sleep. So we got to neglect sleep to what? Worship the Lord. Does that mean just only Sundays? No, I'm talking every day. How is your devotional life? Are you waking up earlier just so that you can read God's word and pray unto him? Is that something that you want to do? And that's an area that all of us struggle with, right? Waking up a little bit earlier. And in my home, I wake up before this is an ongoing battle, but it's been more consistent lately is waking up before everyone else does and just setting up my time and just enjoying God's presence uninterrupted.

It's a great reminder of Jesus. When did he go and pray? When did he spend time with the father? Was early morning, late at night? When it was uninterrupted, right? This what is devotion? It's a strong desire that that's what the root word of devotion means. A strong desire wanting to spend time with the Lord and that's our time and sleep is one of the factors that we must deny. Deny deny. What's another area? Sports activities. Especially when you have more children. You know I'm a sport advocate. I love sports. I love playing sports. It's going to get harder as I get older. As many of you know that are older, it gets harder and so you want to maximize that time right

early on, especially when your kids are young and you have the time for it. But that's an area we have to deny. We have to deny because sports consumes a lot of time with a lot of people, doesn't it? I hear that a lot when I was working in the corporate world. Oh, I gotta take my kids to the ball game. I gotta do this. I gotta do that with them. Get so involved in their lives. What would be better? Sports or spending time having devotion with them.

I'm not talking about choosing one another. It's prioritizing. Isn't it devotion to the Lord and including your family in it? I'm so privileged. You know, our oldest daughter when we pray, she knows when we're going to pray. She folds her hands and at the end she closes her eyes and then she says, "Amen." And even when she's pray, my wife told me she prays sometimes on her own. She would just close her eyes. Amen. You know, it's okay. Our job as parents is to be what? Imitate to they might imitate us, right? Train up your child while they're young so that when they're old, they will not depart from it. That's Proverbs. Our job is to train them up. And what is that is imitation? When they're young, they can't understand your words, but they see you. They're watching you. And so that's so important. How again do we dictate our desires in the area of sports, hobbies?

I had a lot of hobbies when I was young, you know, spent a lot of time playing the piano. I enjoyed the piano. I enjoyed building computers even when I was really young. I enjoyed just building things. I enjoyed using my hands, fixing things. I love doing that. But again, does hobbies take over the president of spending time with the Lord? Denying yourself of your pleasures, right? Again, wants talking about wants here. Are we going to rearrange our time and spend less money on our hobbies and spend more time in the word and spending more time with getting books and reading and having a desire to read more of scripture and reading more about our Christian faith and our history.

Possessions, that's a big one, too. Possessions, wanting more and more things, especially us here, we're privileged. We can buy a lot of stuff in America. Materialism, it's so easy. Amazon, just click next day, right? It's so easy. It gets addictive and we have to constantly set aside our wants again wanting more possessions and more of the spiritual things. More spiritual things than the material things. That's at the heart level. What about popularity? Oh, it's this is always a big one, right? Our egos get to the best of us. We want to be known. We want to be first place. But again, is it going to compromise your convictions? Are you going to be elevated where you don't even think about the Lord and glorifying him? That's the danger, right? That we get so egotistic that Jesus is not even mentioned in our lips when we reach that point. So again, it's a very fine line and it's a constant reminder of our possessions. Think about the rich young ruler, right? One thing that Jesus said you lack is your possessions. Give it all away. That's your stumbling block. And what happened? You see, he denied the Lord, not himself. And that was his shortcoming.

Two more. Popularity and pleasure. We live in a world of social influencers. Okay. Followers. Following so many influencers. This is an area that younger people have more difficulty in. And I'm just speaking to the young people and of course the older people is who are you following? You know, who are you following? There are some good men that you can follow that are preaching the word. Absolutely. But I'll be very careful with following just anybody that has a lot of followers. That's not a place your focus if how popular this person is, but are they true? That should be your test and truth to the word of God. That's important. And of course, it's so easy to

fuel our addictions. Again, in a material world, there are many, many addictions in this world and pleasures forever more. And it's just prioritizing our pleasure with the Lord, being pleased, being enjoying his presence, delighting in his word. Psalm 1, right? Delighting means like it's sustained joy. That isn't just you have joy because of circumstances, but you have joy just for knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. Pure as simple as that. And that's the idea. And it's so easy how addiction can cause so many problems in that area, right? And so we must always be delighting in the word of God.

So discipleship requires a genuine heart level desire longing for God above all else. These are the ones I just mentioned. And it's impossible to cultivate this desire if we're not yearning for him and surpassing all other things and people and allowing those things to trip us up. I like what Psalm 73:25 says. This is the Psalm of Asaph. This is what he said. Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. Did you catch that? There's none upon earth that is desire beside thee. That should be our always reminder. The Lord is first above everything else.

The next thing that we see here, the second condition is denying self. Look with down with me. It says let him deny himself. So if any man will what? Deny himself. The call to discipleship has another condition. And we must always remind ourselves of this is this difficult command of denying self. It means to refuse yourself. Meaning you can do it but do you want to do it more important than spending time with the Lord? Would you rather refuse whatever it is of things or people than him? That's the idea. Luke 14:33 says this. Likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. That's a very difficult command. All see we often think if you let go of this, what's in it for me? Right? That's our flesh, right? If you're honest with yourself, that's what your flesh says. What do I get out of this? But with the hard change, we don't even let that consume us, right? We go, it's easy. Because if you are consistently desiring the Lord and you're seeing the Lord working in your life, it gets easier and easier because he confirms and assures you that he is better than anything else in this world. And that's why he says this, this is a point where you should strive for that anything that you have, just go through your list. Everything you have, you'll give it all that. Just desire the Lord to forsake all. Can you do that? It's a worthy call, isn't it? It's a worthy call of the Lord. Because you see, as again believers, we have been bought with the price. More precious than anything that we can possess is what he did for us.

So, we no longer have the right to control our own lives. That's another way of putting it. We belong to Christ. This is the essence of denying self. It's relinquishing our pursuits of our own personal pleasures, seeking to live by our own power and abandoning the belief that we are always right. It's getting to everything of our self. And he wants to just reconfigure everything with a new heart in all these areas. Because in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 it says we are a temple of the Holy Spirit. It says this what knowing not that your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which you have of God and you are not your own for ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are gods. So he possesses everything. Amen. That he is the one that owns us. And we know he can take care of us. We've seen it as believers. We know it.

That's the core of the Christian life. This is what John Calvin said is that the sum of the Christian life is self-denial. The sum of the Christian life is self-denial. That's a remarkable statement, isn't it? Awtoer put it this way. He says that the Christian life is not a playground. It's not for us to enjoy and please ourselves anymore, but a battleground of sacrifice. That's what battleground is, right? We are sacrificing ourselves for the cause of Christ. That's what he is saying there.

So, we have to be constantly vigilant of where our heart is, where our heart level at when it comes to the desires of the Lord and denying ourselves. And he knows it's going to be challenging. He says it in this because he knows that you will have a hard time. So, it takes faith and it takes constant faith to take our eyes off of this world and off of what we want and place it on him and trust him. That's what he's saying. Just let go. I will take care of this. I will take care of that for you. You know, DL Moody puts it this way. He says, I have more trouble with myself than with any other man. Is that true of you? That it's not anybody else. It's you. It's you pointing to yourself. You are the hardest person. You are the most troubled son. Can you say that about yourself?

The third one that is conditioned is death. So it gets from hard to impossible. Let's look down with me. The third condition says this. So if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily. Take up his cross daily. Now, if you can think about this, dying to yourself is difficult in itself, but he's saying daily, every day of your life. If you start adding it up, it's impossible. That's the conclusion. You should never think, "Oh, I could die to myself every day. Are you sure about that?" But he makes in this impossible thing to just make it extra clear, you can't do this. You can't do this without my help. Another way of putting it because it's a demand that's again difficult.

And during that time in Jesus's life what was the cross I mean we don't see people dying on the cross but these are the things when someone saw someone on the cross this is what was understood one was shame it was a shameful thing so someone will look at you look at you now think of that of dying yourself. Shame. You're called shameful or suffering. Dying on a cross, you're suffering. Third was torture. Torture. And then the last one of course leads to death. Progressively progressively worse. So when one takes up a cross, it's the idea of the final march towards execution that everything in you is dying is dead. It's not just denying it anymore. It's death. You die to everything. It's done. Final execution. You can't bring it back to life. So cross is a symbol carried by condemned criminals signifying a final humiliating and excruciating execution to carry a cross meant accepting that you were saying goodbye to everything with no possibility turning back. No possibility of turning back. We're called to crucify the idol of self, of self, our own fulfillments, our own promotions, our own self-centeredness. All of that is an idol. And he's saying die to all of this daily.

So discipleship requires us to surrender our own personal desires, giving up our rights, giving up our rights to seek vengeance and the right to engage in physical harm to other people. We're dying to all of the things that we in our flesh want to fight for. JC Ryle puts it this way. Religion which costs nothing is worth nothing. A religion which costs nothing is worth nothing. There is cost to this. And Dietrich Bonhoeffer said this. We live in a time of cheap grace where Christianity is more identified with health right and wealth than surrender sacrifice and service.

Bonhoeffer said when Christ calls a man he bids him come and die. He's taking this verse this is the invitation for us to come and die. The call discipleship presents demanding conditions.

The question one might ask is, do you desire to still follow him? Are you still actively engaged in self-denial or are you committed to dying to yourself to your sins and desires? Is it essential for you to take up your own cross daily? That process of dying itself is a continual ongoing practice.

The last condition of discipleship read down with me. It says simply and follow me. Follow me. It's a continual here emphasizes following is to go with that's what it means to go with and in the continual tense. It signify that constantly of following Jesus. So disciple is constantly following following following following. And Jesus intentionally ensures that followers understood the significant cost of discipleship for what? Removing the false converts. You see false converts will not be able to do any of this consistently. That's what Jesus was doing. And he knew that these are the areas that false disciples will deny him of.

And I mentioned about Mark 10 the rich young ruler. Jesus honed in to his heart and said you must relinquish all your possessions. He knew that was his stumbling block and he was disheartened by the saying and he went away sorrowful. He was sad. He didn't he wasn't joy filled with joy. He was sorrowful because he had great possessions. He could only think about possessions. He couldn't focus on Jesus. That was his stumbling block. So what is the one thing that's blocking you from Jesus, right? Jesus will point it out to you like he did with this young rich one young ruler. He will tell you exactly what the one thing is that's stumbling you. So Jesus did not pursue him. Did you notice if you notice in that rich young ruler passage, he didn't go run after him. He didn't go and demand that he follow him. No, he left it up to himself. It has to be a heart. You want you will have to want to follow me. And even says there in the passage before that he loved him. He loved him. And he missed that. He missed that point that Christ loved him. He cared more about things than knowing Jesus Christ.

So the true church, the true church of Jesus Christ is being constantly purified. These are areas that we are constantly constantly purified individually. And as a church, that is what he's doing. He's purifying. That's what his blood does, right? He cleanses of all of our sins. But he does the same thing as a church in each one of our lives. He's constantly purifying his church and that's why discipleship is so important to the church as well.

Now many followers when they were following in Jesus' day there's a passage in John where he talks about where it talks about the feeding of the 5000 and the 7,000 and John 6:66 says this from that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him and what that passage is raising is a critical question is when things get tough, right? You might have enjoyed being with Jesus when he's giving you things, but what if he's not giving you things? What if, like in Job, he takes away? When what happens when it gets tough like that? Many disciples, false converts leave at that time. They will fall as long as there's something giving to them. As long as it's about them. In Luke 18:8 makes it very clear. This is Jesus. He says this, I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? It's in the time he's of this passage is when things get tough, will he find faith on the earth? Meaning still following Jesus or will you quit?

The challenge of following Jesus goes far beyond a casual commitment. Do you see anything casual about this? Jesus is not an optional feature or an add-on to our lives. No, it's a complete transformation. It's not just I'm adding something to my existing life. No, your life is done. It's a full commitment. It's a serious commitment. There's nothing casual about it. He demands our complete devotion of our time. And that means following him daily. That's a true follower of Jesus. Prepare to surrender everything, every relationship, every possession and your own will. So what takes priority is faith in him. Are you willing to continue above everyone else to hold him as first place in your life? Again, just one thing he requires everything he'll take care of. And even says in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and then all these things be added to you." The idea is that things are not more important than relationship. Relationship above things. Just a really great reminder. I often pray for myself and for others.

Verse 24. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. So now we're going into in this section we're going to cover some warnings. So we talked about conditions and then warnings. So I mentioned earlier these are the conditions for following Jesus. And then here are now warnings if you don't follow Jesus beginning in verse 24. So the first warning is the paradox of self-focus. The paradox of self focus. He says, "For whosoever will save his life focusing on your life shall lose it. But whosoever loses focus, another way of saying it, losing focus of your life for my sake the same shall save it." So holding tightly to your current life, that's the idea. And possessions will prevent you from receiving what Jesus intends for you. It's the focus ultimately when you settle the matter of surrendering and committing to following Christ regardless of all the cost that he will secure your true life. Your true life. Gospel of Mark puts an additional but very vital clause. Let me read it to you. It says it this way. But whosoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels will save it. That part gospel will save it. He's saying here is that we're not only dedicating our lives to him, but we also are proclaiming the good news in our lives. So it's verbal. It's not just our lives, our character, but he is talking about our whole character, our whole conduct, our whole conversation is that proclamation of the good news.

Our mission is to share the gospel that it's so good when we lose focus of ourselves. It's so good to focus on Jesus Christ and what he has given to us in his sacrifice for us. You know, that's something that we are to be known by is by sharing the good news to everyone that we can. That's possible. And 2 Timothy 3:12 says this, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." So, it's just all of it is tough. He's trying to make it clear, look, you can't do this yourself. You will need me through all of this, but a transformed heart again will be able to do it. Amen. A transformed heart will be able to do it. 1 Peter 4:12 says to the suffering saints, he says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you."

The American churches are slumbering. That's what one writer has put it. And this is a man that looks at persecution all the time. He's saying one area that America's struggling with is the slumbering. It's not the proclamation of the gospel, the true gospel, not living out Christ likeness, saying we're slumbering in this area. And he says the areas that is inoculating us that's the term that you use meaning making us sleep the tranquilizer that's putting us to sleep is these two areas is entertainment and self-absorption and that's why I pointed out these things about what our human desires if you just allow it to best in a culture that feeds on that and approves of that of

course, of course this is true. Of course, it will put us to sleep. And it's entertainment and self-absorption. And we must constantly see that's in front of us and plan for us to deny those things and put to death those things more and more because in American church, it's feeding itself to death by these things. And then in the worldwide church, it's being murdered. So there's death happening. That's the idea. But how are you going to die? Are you going to just die by just dying slowly being self-absorbed? Or is it going to be for the Lord Jesus Christ?

Verse 25, for what is a man advantage if he gain the whole world and lose himself or be cast away? It kind of goes to what I was saying of this self-absorption entertainment again, personal success, right? This is what it's talking about. You're just walking up the corporate ladder or whatever it may be of success and the pinnacle and he's saying look this is what's going to happen. You're going to lose your soul if you just go and continue to be inoculated. Saying this is what's going to happen. What advantage is it? He's using an economic language here. What profit is it to forfeit your own soul? Exchanging your own soul. What a profound truth that you might immense all these things of your pleasure and then you forfeit your own soul. He's saying your soul is more important because it's what's thing that's going to last not anything in this world. That's he's saying anything that you possess in this world, right? What advantages is it? It's going to all be temporary anyways. It's another way of saying it. So why would you do that? Why would you put yourself in that situation? Because you will end up in the misery of hell.

Verse 26. For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words of him shall the son of man be ashamed when he shall come to his own glory or in his own glory and in his fathers and of the holy angels. So, this is Jesus essentially saying, "My words are important. All that I've said up to this point, are you ashamed of it? Are you ashamed of anything that I said here?" Because he's saying, "If you've been paying attention, it's not just me, the son of man, that will be ashamed, but he's saying in father and of holy angels." There's a big audience here. Is it really worth it? Do you realize what is at stake? It's not just this visible world. There is something beyond us. He's helping us to see to take our eyes off of this world to take our eyes of ourselves to constantly remind that before us. There is something bigger than you think it is. And he wants us to show that. And he's saying, "Pay attention to my words. And when you do, then you won't be ashamed. And when you're not ashamed, then there will be the true kind of glory that he wants for you. That you glory in the Lord and the father. That's what he desires.

So as Jesus had made these conditional statements, these warnings, where are you in discipleship? Are you following or are you not following? That is the question I want to pose before everyone. And I would ask at this time as we close, as I close in prayer, I want you to pray about these things. We do have our prayer list, but let's really seek the Lord in these areas. Amen. Let's pray.

Father, thank you so much for this time. Lord, you are so good. You're so clear. You show the beginning from the end, God. You show the exact plan that you have for us. And so I pray, Father, that you will make it very clear to each and one in this room, God, to remind ourselves, are we following or not following in the Lord's steps. I pray father that you would make us vulnerable in this area where is at the heart level and all these heart checks that we are to think seriously upon to see where our commitments are. I pray father that you will give us clarity as we pray tonight in these areas that the Lord wants us to examine. Please God bless everyone here

that they would do that soul search tonight that they will examine themselves to see whether they are living in the faith of the in the Lord Jesus Christ. And I pray father that if they do have concerns that they will come to you Lord for the help that they need God and the strength that they need to continue to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. And if those who are not following the Lord Jesus Christ that they will come to know my son Jesus tonight. God please bless us to this end in Jesus name. Amen.