

The Story of Jesus
Part 45
When Things Get Desperate

Chris Figaretti
Lead Pastor
November 28, 2021

MY STORY

1. All of us wrestle with decisions – some with more significant consequences than others. When have you wrestled with or felt overwhelmed by a big decision with significant consequences? What happened?
2. What has God called you to do that you don't think you are capable of doing? Why do you think you aren't able to do it?
3. Chris said that if God calls you to do something, He will give you the ability to do it. Do you believe that? Have experienced this in your life? How? Share in your Life Group.
4. Do you ever wrestle with obeying God? What does that look like in your life? Do you have anyone to talk through this struggle?
5. There is no other way to God than through Jesus (John 14:6), and there is no way to live life as a follower of Jesus other than by obeying God's will over your own wants and desires. What do you think about that statement? Do you believe it? If not, why not? If so, what will you do with it?
6. Do you have anyone praying with and for you on the front end of your struggles rather than when you reach a point of desperation?
7. Prayer is based on your personal relationship with God. Do you find that God generally answers your prayers or not? Why did you answer this way? Can you think of any reason why God isn't answering your prayers? Read Proverbs 28:9; does that verse speak to you at all in relation to your prayers being answered?

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8. Chris told us that persistence in prayer doesn't get God to change His mind, but it's in that persistence in prayer that God changes us. Have you seen this work out in your life? How?
9. It's the week after Thanksgiving. How are you following Philippians 4:6? How have you seen God fulfill the promise in verse 7 in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Mark 14:32-42

Re-read these passages out loud in your group. Ask the people not reading to close their eyes and try to put themselves in the place of Peter, James, or John. What do you feel or think as you approach these passages in this manner? Did you learn or experience anything new?

What is meant by what Jesus said in Mark verse 38: "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak"?

Chris said Jesus' prayer didn't change the outcome (Jesus still went to cross), but it transformed how He approached it. Do you also see that in these passages? How can prayer transform your approach and perspective to a difficult situation or circumstance?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. In Mark 14:38, Jesus says, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." Have you ever felt like that? What was going on? How was it resolved?
2. Is there anything that is currently weighing heavily on you - an issue that you're wrestling with? Share that issue out loud with your Life Group.

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3. How does the thing that is weighing heavily on you relate to God's will?

4. Have you wrestled with the thing that is weighing heavily on you through prayer, study in God's word, wise counsel with other believers in Jesus? If so, what is God telling you? If not, why aren't you seeking God in this?

5. Chris said that faith is choosing to obey God even when it doesn't make sense to do so. Given this definition, in what area(s) is God calling you to have faith right now? How will you walk that out? It's OK if you don't know exactly all the steps you'll take, but how will you get started to exercise that faith by obeying God?

6. The Gospel is the story of substitution and salvation. The Son of God gave Himself as a substitute for you so you could be saved. If you've not yet asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, are you ready to take that step? If so, share with your Life Group and pray for each other.

7. The power to obey comes after we pray. Think back on the issue you identified earlier that is weighing heavily on you. Will you choose to surrender your will to God's? Do you want what God wants more than you want what you want? If you answered yes to that, ask God to make that statement true in your heart. Give God permission to change your attitude. Take a minute to surrender your will around the area you are struggling to God.

8. Take a minute to share and celebrate the conclusion of the Life Group semester with each other. How have you been impacted by the time you've been spending with the other members of your Life Group this semester? What have you learned? How are you seeing God at work in your life based on the time you are spending together each week?

Your Next Steps are: 1) Reflect on an issue weighing heavily on you, seek God's will through prayer around that issue, and choose to obey God even if your step of obedience doesn't seem to make sense.