The Pursuit, Pt. 1
"What Are You Pursuing"
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Are you spending your life chasing things Jesus never told you to pursue while neglecting those things He said mattered most?

1. Everybody is Chasing Something

There is a difference between chasing something good and allowing something good to be our ultimate pursuit.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

2. The Pursuit Begins Within

Matthew 6:19-21

Whatever your heart is attached to reveals what you truly value.

Matthew 6:22-24 (NIV) "*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

Whatever controls your vision and allegiance directs your life.

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV) *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your

heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Whatever consumes your thoughts reveals where you are placing your trust.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) *"But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

3. What Has Jesus Called Me to Pursue?

A. Pursue Intimacy with God

John 15:4-5 (NIV) *"Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

The greatest thing you can pursue in this life is not something God can give you. It's God Himself.

B. Pursue Righteousness and Christlike Behavior

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

Philippians 3:9 (NASB) *"And being found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith."*

Righteousness is imparted on the basis of being connected to Jesus.

C. Pursue the Mission of Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The Great Commission is a command to continue the Mission of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

The Greatest success in life is not accomplishing your goals. The greatest success is fulfilling God's purpose for your life.

4. What Keeps Us Chasing the Wrong Things

A. v. 19-21: Misplaced Treasure

If you are treasuring the wrong things, your heart will become attached to things that won't last.

B. v. 24: Divided Allegiance

You can't serve God fully if you are fully trying to fulfill your own pursuit.

C. v. 25-34: Anxiety or Worry

Anything in your life that becomes bigger than Him is a danger to your calling and purpose.

5. Three Ways to Change Your Pursuit

A. Examine What You are Actually Chasing

v. 21 (NIV) *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

This week, identify one pursuit that has been competing with your devotion to Christ.

B. Reorder Your Daily Priorities

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) *"But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."*

Before beginning the day, ask the Lord, "What would it look like to live like I am seeking first Your Kingdom and Your purposes?

C. Take One Intentional Step of Obedience:

James 1:22 (NIV) *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."*

Choose one step you can take within the next seven days, and follow through.

Is what you are chasing moving you closer toward Jesus?

Jesus gives a better invitation:

-Pursue Him
-Pursue Righteousness
-Pursue His Mission