

## ***It is Not Good to Be Alone Part 2 (Gen 2:18)***

Picking up where I left off last week, I will give just a moment or two of review. I started in Genesis 2:18. This is before Adam and Eve sinned. The Lord declared this over Adam, “It is not good for man to be alone.” As I mentioned last week, this is in context to marriage, but it is a bigger statement than a marriage statement. It is a statement about God’s design of the human makeup. The Lord is saying that the human spirit cannot thrive alone.

Some folks have this idea, “Well, I am a loner.” They buy into the narrative that they were designed to be alone. I want to encourage you to reject that false narrative. God, who is in relationship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—from eternity past, made us in His image to be connected and to need one another. This idea that “I am a loner and I do not really do that other stuff,” the Lord is saying He has something better for you. He has more to give you. So I want to encourage you if you are one of those folks that: do not accept that narrative because the devil wants to exploit the issue that we were designed to be community together. The enemy wants us in shame. He uses rejection and fear to get us to be isolated so that we draw back, because He knows that if we are isolated, he can pick us off and destroy us. Nobody is safe in isolation.

One of the great glories of the Body of Christ is that the Lord has called the Body of Christ to be a family. He would say, “I am taking these people, I am redeeming them from all of the earth, and I am setting them in local families so that they can thrive.” The problem—and we have experienced it here, and it is a global problem, and the Lord has an answer for it—is that many in the Body of Christ for a number of different reasons, though they are in a crowd, though they are on a worship team, though they are in a department, though they are in a ministry, though they are in a family, they still are alone at the heart level. Their hearts are isolated and guarded. The Lord would say that it is not good for you to be alone. Do not accept this at all.

Rather than focusing on the big subject of not drawing back and just settling into isolation, I am talking on the other side. I want to say to the Body of Christ that, before the Lord—though it is the enemy’s goal to isolate everyone in this room even if we are in a small group, in a marriage, in a family. He still wants us isolated so he can destroy us—I want to say before the Lord, “Lord, on our watch in these coming days we want it to be such that nobody in our midst is alone.” That is going to take the Lord’s help. That is going to take a lot of spiritual moms and dads being raised up who will take initiative and who will pursue other people.

Because, as you know, it is not enough to be in a congregation. You know, over my years of pastoring I have heard this many, many times over the years here and there—all over the world it is the same thing—people say, “I have been a part of this community, this church, for ten years, and I have no friends.” The idea is that an organization will make friends for you. It does not work that way. You can sit on row ten for ten years but if you are not engaging with people, and I mean more than a handshake, if you are not engaging, and no one is pursuing you, and you are not pursuing them, the enemy will set it up so you remain alone forever and forever and forever. I mean, not forever in eternity, but that is his goal because he wants to exploit this God design of your human spirit in order to destroy you.

I mentioned last week that, because we are created in God’s image, loneliness is a trauma. It is a trauma to be lonely. Again, you can be in a marriage, you can be in a small group, you can be in a friendship group, but still you can be alone at the heart level and the relational level.

The Lord would say, “This is not okay. I want to set this right. I want to correct this.”

The Lord wants to create a setting here where all of us are saying, “Yes, I am my brother’s keeper.” Because, when Cain sinned and murdered his brother, his excuse to the Lord was, “I am not my brother’s keeper.” That is, I do not have any responsibility for his well-being at all.

Though it is true you cannot be responsible for a thousand people or a hundred people, yet we can be responsible for five and ten. The Lord will orchestrate that, if we are paying attention, though we may not be able to orchestrate it on the human level and organize it all. The Lord will speak and stir people when everybody is looking at the fives or tens. The Lord would say, “You are their keeper. You are partially responsible in the grace of God to pursue them and to go after them and to touch their heart.”

Now the reason loneliness is such a trauma is because we have this loneliness feeling, the kind of one-liner of loneliness, “Nobody cares about me. Nobody sees me. Nobody testifies to my value. Nobody says words to me that tell me that I am valuable. I could walk through the room, and nobody sees that I am in the room. Nobody knows that I am alone. Nobody is celebrating my victories or my dreams. Nobody is fighting for me in my struggles and my setbacks.” That is, of course, exactly what the enemy wants to establish.

Now last week I looked at Psalm 68. I will review two verses, and then I will move on to a few different points. In Psalm 68, it says verse 5, that the Lord is a Father of the fatherless. He is a defender of widows. Here is the point I want to make, a phenomenal point that we could spend a lot of time on. It is verse 6, the Lord says that He sets the lonely in families. Now the context is widows and orphans, but it is bigger than that. The Lord says, in effect, “I am committed to taking lonely people, even if they are in the crowd, and I am going to find them a place of connection in the Body of Christ in every local setting of the local church across the Body of Christ.” That is His nature. That is what the Spirit is wanting to do. He wants to set every lonely person in this room in some relational context where five or ten people know you and see you, and they testify to your value. They fight for you.

We do not want anybody in this room to feel nobody is fighting for them. Now it is great to say all that stuff, but there are real practicalities to walking this out. It starts by us recognizing that God has declared it is not good. The enemy wants to exploit this loneliness thing to destroy people. If we see that, and we are aware of that as a community, then we are paying attention, we are more attuned to what the Holy Spirit would be saying when we look around the Body of Christ.

Now the question I want to bring up here is, what does *belonging* look like? You hear it a lot. It is all over the earth. I mentioned last week that this is the most electronically connected generation in history, but also the most relationally disconnected generation in history. It is going to get more intense in ten or fifteen years than it is right now.

The Lord has an answer. He would say, as it were, “My Body is going to wake up to this revelation that they are a family. They are going to learn how to see people in the way that I see them.” Because that is what it takes; we have to see people like the Lord sees them. So it is not just that we hang out with people who like the same music, have the same hobbies, have the same personality, like the same sports teams as we do. We actually see people like God sees them. That is where this thing really kicks into another gear. It is bigger than relating to people that are like us, whom we like in the natural, without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would say, “I will

so establish My Church so that people will actually see people who are not like them and will value them in the way that I value them.”

Now what does belonging really, really look like? What are the components necessary for 1,000 people to feel like they belong? These are the questions that I want to bring up as a leadership team, but also as a whole community. We need to be grappling with these issues. It is a conversation. It is actually a long conversation. I am going to throw out just a few beginning ideas of the conversation. Then, over time, I want us to really tease this out and ask, “Lord what are the components? What does *belonging* really look like? What is friendship? How do I know I have friends? Are they friends? Does this really count as friendship? Do I not have any friends or do I actually have them but never realized they were actually friends?”

That may seem a little bit odd, but the reason I say that is because one of the great enemies of belonging and one of the great enemies of community is idealism. Idealism is having expectations that are not humanly realistic and then being constantly in pain about the expectations not coming to pass. That kind of idealism, which it is all over the earth, has been on the earth for 6,000 years since Adam.

In this generation it is ramping up even more because, in this social-media generation, idealism is just exploding and accelerating, because people put their ideal self on Facebook and all these things. Other folks know they are putting their ideal self too, but they kind of buy into that for these “1,000” people, what they post is really what life is like. Those people, most of them are not even really living that. It creates this incredible sense of anguish over the globe. Again the sense of isolation and loneliness is increasing more and more and more.

We are not going to solve it tonight, but in these next months and even a couple years it is really important that as a community we actually discern what are the components that go into *belonging*. When is *belonging* actually happening? When is friendship actually friendship, and when is it not friendship? The reason we need to have mature, seasoned, and discerning conversations about this because as it says in Proverbs 13:12, a very well-known proverb, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” When we have hope or expectations that are not fulfilled, the heart gets sick. When the heart gets sick, disappointment—that is another word for it: disappointment—the pain of a heart-sick person is very, very damaging to their ability even to relate to other people. So it is important that we are actually aiming at the right targets and that we are actually pursuing the right targets and that we have exposed idealism to the best that we can. We pursue realistic goals; that is one part of it. Then another part of it is that there is a whole new initiative to pursue people here—I am talking about the whole Body of Christ but I am talking about here as well.

I am concerned and my heart is focused on here, but for everyone I am talking to this is a struggle and a problem. We need spiritual moms and dads and a community of people that are actually taking initiative in proactive ways to pursue people. First Corinthians 14:1 tells us to pursue love. Now, everybody knows that verse, “Pursue love.” I want to use another word with *pursue*: take initiative. Take initiative to pursue people.

Now again you cannot pursue 100 people. It does not work that way. If you pursue 100 people, you are probably not pursuing anybody in reality. You are just being friendly on the run. It is better to get a smaller number that you are focused on. Look for people that are not merely the popular or the cool or the ones that can open a door for you or that have the same likes that you have and the same personality you have.

I want each of us, as a community, to begin to conscientiously ask the Holy Spirit, “Who are the five or ten people You want me to pursue?” They may not be in the group that you are naturally associated with or they

might be. “Holy Spirit, would You show me?” I am going to pray in a few moments. We are actually going to ask this question, “Would You highlight five or ten people that I can pursue in love?” Again this phrase, pursue love, well, we all know this verse and it is kind of like water off a duck’s back. It is easy just to flow and just not have any intentionality. What it really means is that you will take initiative on a regular basis to pursue people, to pursue them, to go after them, to take an interest in them instead of waiting for them to take an interest in you.

I mentioned the other day that I have talked to a lot of older believers who say, “I want to be a spiritual mom/dad. I want to reach some young people, but the young people are not accepting me as a spiritual mom or dad.”

I said, “The goal is not for them to pursue you and to accept you. The goal is for you to pursue them. You take an interest in them, you get engaged in their story, and in a little bit of time, more times than not, their hearts will open up to you.” It is not about waiting for people to accept us in a role, in a spiritual mom or dad role. That is not the issue. The issue is: we are going to take an interest in them. We are going to want to know their story. We are going to know their dreams. We are going to know what their struggles are. We want to pursue fighting for them.

More times than not—I mean there are always those weird situations where it is never going to happen—but more times than not, the heart of the one being pursued will start believing, “Wow, you are really in this for me. You are not just trying to establish your role as a spiritual father. You are actually caring about who I am as a son or daughter in the faith.”

Now, the enemy wants us to demand to be pursued instead of being the pursuers. That is what the enemy wants. A lot of folks say, like I mentioned the hypothetical guy in row ten, “I have been here for ten years and nobody has pursued me.” I remember talking to one guy, and he was making a complaint about the community. He goes, “Well, I hear this stuff about community, and I have to move house. I am moving to some other house. Where are the people that are going to help me? Where is this community at?”

I said, “Simply ask the people that you helped move when they moves to help you now.”

His face went blank. He said, “Well I don’t actually help anybody.” That is, “I want to be the recipient of being pursued rather than being a pursuer.”

If we can take initiative, and if we begin to say, “Lord, who are they? Who are the people in our community? What does *belonging* actually look like?” we can make this change. This will not happen in a day or a week. It will take time. Because we want every single person in this building pursuing and eventually being pursued. Do not wait in fear and isolation because, you know, we all have human issues. Don’t wait to be pursued; be a pursuer. Show yourself friendly. Take an interest in folks.

Now one of the verses that I have looked at over the years is Romans 8:23. Paul talks about in Romans 8 how the Spirit of God is moving in us, how there are certain joys and breakthroughs and victories. Romans 8:23, he says that we even have the first fruits of the Spirit. We have the activity of the Spirit in our life. He says that even in the midst of the activity of the Spirit, really in our life there is a groan. There is a groan in us. By the way, the groan is never, ever satisfied in fullness in this age. It does not matter what relationship you are in, the Lord has created a God-ordained vacuum in your heart so that, whatever relationship you are in, there is still a groan, even in the midst of the joy. The Lord might say, “Your longing for intimacy with people is really echoing My design that you would have intimacy with Me. So though I will have people who will touch that

longing, and there will be joy in it, there will be a groan in it. There will be an element that no human can fulfill.” Some folks are looking for friendship, family members, marriage even.

Over the years I have counseled people. They were thinking if they got married they would finally be fulfilled and happy. I said, “It does not really work that way.”

I heard one preacher say—it was humorous to me but it was pretty accurate as well—he said, “Some marriages, in the marriage, it is two ticks and no dog.” That is, they are both sucking from the other but not actually giving to the other. I thought that was funny, ha-ha-ha, but actually there is really truth in that: two ticks, no dog in the middle.

The point I am making is that I settled this years ago, that in the midst of my walk with God, my walk with people, my ministry, I have always recognized—and it is in the Bible, there are several verses on it, I just pointed at one—there is still a groan, there is still a part where our heart is not satisfied except for the Lord, when we meet Him face to face. I mean even in the Lord we are not perfectly satisfied. He would say, “No, the groan is to keep you coming back to Me. I want you.”

The day is coming when we will see the Lord face to face in that day, and then the groan will be gone. Some folks are looking for friendship, they are looking for community, they are looking for marriage, they are looking for family dynamics, they are looking for a worship team, so that the groan is gone. This is part of the idealism. I tell them, the folks I talked to and in conversations on this, I say, “You know that groan in you is the God-shaped vacuum in your heart that is beckoning you to always be reaching for Him even while you are in relationship with other people.”

I want to give a few basic components. I am not going to give all the components, just a few of them, because I want us to go on a conversation together. I want you to think about it. I want you to add to this list. I want you to wrestle with it over the weeks and months ahead for us to get a more complete answer together.

How do you know if you belong to a community? Like, I ask people, “What does that look like? How do you know it happened?”

Surprisingly, though I guess it is not that surprising, many folks do not know the answer. They say, “I just know it is not there.”

I ask, “How will you know when it is there?”

“I don’t know. You know, maybe if, I don’t know, some of the popular people around like me and I am in their inner circle.”

I respond, “That is not the definition of belonging. That is a false definition of belonging.”

What **is** the definition? How do you know when you belong in a worship team? In a department? A friendship group? A local church? How do you know when the target is hit? Are you aiming at the right target? Is there ever a time—and the answer is yes—when you can rejoice that you are actually belonging even though the groan is still there? You are not totally satisfied because you are not meant to be totally satisfied, yet it is meaningful, and yet it is real at the same time.

We are going to have some small group discussions, some panel discussions, though not today. I want you thinking on it right now. I am just stirring up the conversation because it is a long-term conversation, not a one-hour or a fifteen-minute or a small panel conversation.

Number one, one of the components of belonging, well, this is not in any order but I am saying one of the elements of belonging to a local church family is: ***Do you buy into the vision and the values?*** Has that vision become your vision? Here is how you know it is your vision: when you move somewhere else, do you still pursue that vision and that value?

Over the years I have seen folks in our context who, when they moved on, still pursued the same vision and values. I have seen others who, when they do not have a stipend or an official position, they are not connected to the vision or values at all. They may be just a mile down the road or on the other side of the world, but the vision and values—I am not saying this even negatively—never were theirs. It never dawned on them that they were to look for a community where they actually bought into the vision and values at such a level that if they were somewhere else they would still pursue that vision and those values.

So that is one component that everyone in the room can ask each other, “Am I here because I didn’t have anywhere else to go?” Obviously, for ninety-nine percent of us, that is not the case. Am I here because I just did not know what to do? Am I here because of...? Or because of...? Or because of...whatever those answers might be that would be negative. Again, the majority of us are not like that.

Take a real inventory in your heart. Are the vision of this house and the values of this house something you own? When you see people walking in it, does something in your heart say, “Yes, yes”? If you were somewhere else, you would still say yes and yes? That is one component of belonging. It is often overlooked, and we run past that too quickly. Without that in place belonging is not going to be stable and solid under pressure. So I just wanted to throw that one out: Do you buy into the vision and values so much so that when you see some other people, just the people next to you, walking it out, something in your spirit says, “Oh, this makes me happy to see this happen”? Again, if you were somewhere else, would you still pursue this vision and these values?

Another part of belonging is—this is a very important part—***you have a realistic function in that body that is meaningful to you.***

Now, some folks have a function, but it is not meaningful to them. They feel, “I do this because I am waiting for something else.” I appreciate that. I have done a bit of that in my day. I am not putting that down. My point is, sometimes we are in a function that is not the one that we want, but it is actually the one the Lord wants for us. Our struggle is actually with the Lord because we do not like His leadership in that function. We say, “No, Lord, You do not really get it. I was made for something very different than this.”

The Lord might say, “I know. I have plans for you, but for now I want you to actually see what I see in the function you are in.” For a lot of folks, the disconnect is their function; it does not mean anything to them. Even though it might not be their ultimate place of function, it actually means something to the Lord, but they are disconnected from seeing it at that level.

So maybe—the worst-case scenario—they do not really buy into the values and the vision. They do not mind them, but they do not really buy into them. They are in a function they don’t really value, even if the Lord has them in that.

Now some people are not in their function yet. Organizationally, it is just not there yet. Others, they are actually in a place, but they do not like the Lord's leadership that He is delaying giving them the role they really want. You see, He is building something into their heart. So the discontent and the pain of that is actually one of their hindrances of belonging. I have seen that many times over the last forty years.

***Another element is friends or friendship.*** We are going to talk about: when is a friend a friend? I think that it is very, very remarkable if you have twenty or thirty people who know you in a general sense. I mean, they are happy about you, they see you, they celebrate you, even the most general way. You have familiarity with goodwill in it. If you have twenty or thirty people in your life just in a general sense like that and two and three close ones, you are blessed among men on the earth. A lot of folks imagine they are going to have twenty or thirty close friends. They have friends around who actually celebrate who they are, but they are in so much pain that they do not have the friends they want. They feel it is not the right circle or it is not the number they wanted, even though the twenty or thirty are actually celebrating them. I am talking about in an introductory way, but it is real. That is, if they were gone or something happened, these ones would notice and their hearts would be hurt for them.

Some say, "Well, it is not really friendship."

Then I say, "Okay, what is friendship?"

"I do not know, but that is not friendship."

"Well, there is a sense of goodwill. They know you a little bit, not really well. They celebrate what they see in you. They would fight for you a little bit. They engage with you to some degree."

"Yeah, but that does not count."

I say, "Well, maybe it does count! Maybe some of that really is something for which we are saying to the Lord, 'Lord, thank You for the twenty or thirty, and if I have two or three really close ones, thank You!'"

I have been in leadership for all these years. Most people do not have two or three really close friends. A lot of folks have the twenty or thirty, but don't value them. They say, "Ah, that is not really interesting to me."

The Lord would say, "If you would ask Me what I think about them and what they think about you, you might actually be able to celebrate even that introductory friendship level because that is still meaningful."

So again I will say that if you have twenty or thirty people who kind of know you, you are on a team, you are in a department, they have a sense of goodwill towards you, they care about your well-being in a general sense, and you have two or three really close friends, I am telling you that you are in a good position, but only if that makes sense to you.

But if you look at that and say, "Nah, that is not good enough because they are not pursuing me though I am not pursuing them either, and I am waiting for somebody really exciting to take interest me, then I will know I have a good friend when that happens," I would say that you are aiming at the wrong target; you are aiming at the wrong target.

Well, those are just three simple components. There are five or six or seven more that we could put in the conversation as simple and as obvious as they are. Again, I am drawing on my years of pastoring; I don't want to pretend I am a know-it-all in this, but I have seen it so much. Many good people are disconnected in those

simple three things. They are not even aware they are disconnected, because they are aiming at a target that is completely different from that. They have been in the Body ten years, twenty years, thirty years, and they have never hit the target. To some of them I say, “Are you aiming at the right target? Are you asking the right questions to the Lord?” Anyway, that is just a little reality check, a plumb line check for our own hearts.

My real passion is not to make sure everybody answers those questions correctly. I could lay out a number of components of what a friend is, a general friend, and a close friend. I will do that at another time a little bit. I want us to be thinking about these things, talking about them because if we are aiming at the right target, we have a chance to actually celebrate and not just be sad about the target we are not hitting when we don’t even know exactly what the target is.

Again, I have asked many people over the years. Some really have clarity about it, but a lot just do not. They say, “I do not know. I just know I feel lonely.” Well, let’s break it down. “I don’t know how to break it down. I don’t have words for it.” Again, it is this “hope deferred makes the heart sick.” They are aiming at an ideal. Though they have amazing people around them—yes, weak, broken people, but real, sincere believers around them—but they cannot connect with any of them because they are looking for something else. They are waiting to be pursued though the Lord is telling them to be the pursuers. They are thinking, “Well, you know, I have been around for years . . .”—again I have heard this over the years. I am not even talking about IHOP per se, but it is true just everywhere. I have ever seen it—“I am waiting for somebody to take the interest in me.”

Well, my passion is to see—I do not know if passion is the right word—but I am real concerned as a spiritual father, I want to see 200-300 men and women who will be activated and empowered in their own heart to be conscientious, really conscientious, about being a pursuer. They would be conscientious about taking initiative towards other people and not waiting for someone to take initiative towards them.

Then even asking the Lord, “Who is it around me that You would have me sow into?” Maybe for a few years, maybe not so long, you do not have to know the amount of time. You are saying, “I just want to see what You see about that person.” You see, it is a new paradigm shift, it is a new view of people that I believe is going to happen to the Body of Christ worldwide because the Lord is really going to set the lonely in families. He is going to have a context where there is a core number of people—I do not know what the percent is, ten or twenty or thirty percent of that Body—who are actually taking the initiative with others. Truly, we are all supposed to be taking the initiative.

I have watched over the years, and a lot of folks say, “I know I should be taking initiative, but I am still waiting for somebody to take initiative towards me because I am weak and I am broken.”

I understand that we are all humans. I am saying that if we had a couple hundred who were going after this and saying, “I want to be one of the cultural-shift agents of change to really strengthen this place in the next couple years,” and even if the Lord sends you somewhere else, you are going to do it there as well because it is godly, it is the kingdom of God, it is what the Spirit is saying. He is really restoring the family. He is not going to wave His hand and have people suddenly just be connected. He is going to have realistic views of some of the points I have made.

Being able to celebrate and engage with the Lord on that which is less than amazing and perfect, but we are celebrating it instead of drawing back with a pain in our heart waiting for the next train to come by or somebody



more cool coming—The Lord would say, “No, no, I want you celebrating. I want you to bloom where you have been planted. Celebrate that person right there. I have put them right in front of you.”

“Well, I do not know. I don’t really like him that much.”

The Lord might say, “But I do, and I want you to see what I see when I am looking at them.” Would you be one of those? Would you be a spiritual mom and dad? In the Scripture it is called a pastor. It does not mean a “staff pastor.” It is being a spiritual mom, a spiritual dad.

I believe that, as we become more conscious as a body that we are our brother’s keeper for five or ten people, we are going to see more and more people connected. That we realize do have a handful of folks around us towards whom we have goodwill and a good attitude. We may feel we are not that close to them. The Lord would say to celebrate it instead of blow it off. Thank Him for it instead of ignore it. Actually enter into the conversation in a deeper way. Take some initiative and pursue them a bit. I believe that as we do this as a community, we are going to see more and more people connected. It takes time. That trauma of loneliness is going to be healed little by little. Do not cop out on the trauma of loneliness, saying, “I am so traumatized I am just going to wait until someone pursues me.” Again, that is the common way of the human race, not just the Body of Christ. This is how humans are.

By the Spirit we are going to see there is a bigger storyline. There is more to lay hold of today. There is more in this room that we can engage with now. We do not have to wait until revival, or wait until some great thing, or wait until somebody really cools comes and embraces you. Say, “I am not waiting on any of that. I am going to start entering into in a new level now.” Now, there are a number of you who do that already, and you do it well. Others of you have begun to do that in the last year or so. The Lord wants there to be a whole new initiative, a whole new awareness of this.

So what I want to do in just these last few moments: I want us all to stand. I am going to ask you to come forward if you are saying in your heart, “Lord, this is something I want to take up to a whole other level in my life. I want to be a spiritual mom and dad in this house.”

You may be twenty-two years old; there are plenty of sixteen-year-olds to whom you can be a spiritual dad. You do not have to wait until you are forty or fifty or eighty in order to be a spiritual mom or dad. The twenties can pursue the teens, and the thirty and forties can pursue the twenties. You can be a spiritual mom and dad soon, if you will take initiative and pursue. See yourself as actually commissioned to be one of them and not wait for somebody to do it to you. Now we all want somebody to do this for us, and, I mean, I appreciate that—that is good—but we are not going to wait on it. We are going to rejoice when it happens, but we are not going to wait until it happens.

So I want to invite folks to come forward to stand before the Lord. You are saying to the Lord, “Lord I really want to make a decision to evaluate where I am at. I want to be one of these guys”—whether you are here in Kansas City or in some other city it does not matter. This is not just about helping the situation here. It is way bigger than that. It is a kingdom-of-God paradigm for your life and God’s view of the weak and broken people that He set you around that you are celebrating them, engaging with them even in their brokenness, before they are real cool and real fun to be with, because God likes them.

So I want to invite you, anybody who would like prayer for this. Maybe you think, “Well, I **have** to go up now.” No, don’t do it that way because you can still answer to the Lord and stay in your chair. You are saying, “I need to, I need to make some adjustments here. I need to make a real paradigm shift changes in my heart.”

In the days to come I want to discuss more of the components of what belonging looks like. I gave three of them and how easy it is to disconnect. Then I want to talk about what even general friendship is, how valuable it is, and some of the components of it.

So, Lord, here we are, and we say yes to You. Lord, we say yes to you, all over the room here, many more than are up front. We want to start being pursuers in a new way. Show us the five or ten around us whom we know or do not know. We want to be spiritual moms and dads and grow in it in the next months and years. Lord, we are not waiting for someone to knock on our door. We are going to start celebrating the weak and broken people around us. Show us, Holy Spirit, show us what You see and what You feel when You see these five or ten people around us. We thank You in Jesus’ name, amen and amen!