



CANYON HILLS

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Series: Mark

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Jesus Calls Us for the Gospel

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Happy Mother's Day! Good morning, church! My name is Pastor Jeff and I just want to say, being married to a mom and having a mom myself, you guys are awesome. Thank you. I am filling in for Pastor Steve today and it's just a joy to be here. I'm one of the pastors here on staff. Thank you for being with us.

I wanted really quickly to remember last week. Pastor Dave talked about how awesome it was with First and Best Sunday. We had hundreds of you being faithful and giving for the first time or giving obediently, and we want to just praise the Lord for that, but I honestly thought the most powerful time of the service was when over 2,000 people came forward and brought their requests to the Lord. They wrote down their requests to God, those impossible situations, those things that really needed to be in the hands of God and we went and brought them to him.

What I have in my hand right now is about 25 cards of people I've been praying through. This is about half of the stack of people I have, and I just want you to know and just be encouraged that everyone on staff here at Canyon Hills, all the pastors and all of our lay elders, have been praying for you. We've been praying for you as the cards have come up. We have prayed through these cards diligently and faithfully and we have been agreeing with you in prayer to the Lord.

My encouragement to you would be to keep on praying these things that you brought to the Lord, to God, those impossible situations, those things for your friends, your family, and yourself. Keep on going. We're praying for you and we're continuing to pray for you. We have a God who answers prayer. We have a God who is powerful and loves to work by answering prayers of people who put their trust in him.

If you have had an answer to prayer, if God has already been faithful to you, we want to celebrate that. We've already gotten emails coming in to some of the pastors just celebrating ways God has provided for them, in some ways financial, in big family situations, and in healing. We've seen many prayers for many things, and if God has been faithful to answer that prayer, we want to hear it.

You'll see on the screen that it says, "If you have a story to share of how the Lord is working in your life, we want to hear it. Email mystory@chccbw.org. We want to continue to recognize how great our God is. This isn't about saying, "Hey, doesn't Canyon Hills have everything together?" It's not about that at all. It's about saying, "Don't we have a great God who answers prayer?" So, if you have an answered prayer, share that with us, just so we can celebrate with God together.

Why don't you turn in your Bibles with me to Mark, chapter 3? We have been in the gospel of Mark. We've been going through the book of Mark as a church. We took a little bit of a break for Easter and for that *First and Best* series. For those of you who have not been here in a while, or maybe it's your first time in a long time or first time at all, thanks for coming. We like to go through books of the Bible verse by verse, chapter by chapter, and just look through things.

Let me give you a quick recap. This is about the ministry of Jesus. The book of Mark is about Jesus Christ. It's about his life, his death, and his resurrection. In this particular part of Mark we're in, we're talking about his life. Specifically within Mark, he really gets to the point and the purpose of the *mission* of Jesus and the *ministry* of Jesus.

The *mission* of Jesus is that he would come to earth to bring redemption to his people. As God, he would come down in human form, born of a virgin. He would live a perfect life to bring redemption to his people. The way he went about his *ministry* was to preach the good news and then to serve people.

This morning, as we look at Mark 3, we have a passage that in one sense serves as a big overview of Jesus' ministry. He is continuing to do what he was doing before. He is continuing to preach the good news consistently in different towns and places. He is continuing to serve people by healing them and helping them, and he's continuing to get quite a gathering of people who are following him wherever he goes.

In the part of this passage on which we are going to focus, Jesus is going to call 12 men. He's going to call them for a special purpose, to partner in his work. The title I have for the sermon this morning is, *Jesus Calls Us for the Gospel*. Not, "Jesus Called His Disciples for the Gospel." Jesus calls you and me for the good news.

It's always easy to read the story of Jesus and say, "You know what? That's nice, but I've already kind of got my mind on what we're going to have for lunch for Mother's Day and what my to-do list is for next week," but my encouragement is that we would look at this text from Scripture and see its truth, but also see there is a call for us at the same time, because Jesus calls us to follow him, to be in community, and to be sent on mission for him.

Jesus called his disciples to be purposeful with his good news and we are called to do the same exact thing today. God is looking for people who will trust him and then go out with the gospel. God is calling you today. If you have your Bibles open, would you stand with me for the reading of God's Word? We're going to be, again, in Mark 3. We will start in verse 7 and we'll go through verse 19 together.

"Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.

And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, 'You are the Son of God.' And he strictly ordered them not to make him known. And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.

He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."

Father, would you be with us this morning as we look at your Word? God, we've worshiped you. We have remembered your faithful love for us. God, now, as we look at Scripture, I pray that we would see your calling and your purpose in the gospel and how you give us the same calling. Lord, I pray that you would ready our hearts to hear what you have to say. I pray that your Spirit would be moving in the hearts and minds of everyone here, including myself, as we hear this message together. We love you, Lord. In your name, amen.

Jesus calls us to follow him, to be in community and to be sent on mission for him. The first thing I notice from this text is in verse 13. It says...

1. *You are called by Jesus to follow him.* If you have placed your trust in and surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, you are a disciple. There are no levels or tiers within the relationship we have with Jesus. If you have put your faith in him, you're a disciple now, and you have been called by a gracious King.

In verse 13, Jesus **"...went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him."** Who could Jesus have called? He could have called the wisest people to come and influence people for the gospel. He could have called the most dynamic speakers. He could have called the most successful, beautiful, and wealthy people. Instead, he called a diverse group of normal people. Not overly impressive, not particularly special... Jesus called to him those whom he desired.

Later in his ministry, Jesus said to his disciples, **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit..."** For us, this should be encouraging because we are not called to faith or discipleship based off of our own merit or worth. It's really easy for us as people to think, consider, and follow the thought process that if we want to have a relationship with Jesus, we need to figure out how to be good enough.

I was chatting with a friend. We've spent a lot of time together recently and it has been great. I love this guy. We were sitting across the table from each other and chatting about some things and he was getting really excited because he was going to share his testimony because he was getting baptized. He was just pumped, over the moon. He was one of the 80 people who have been baptized this year. It has been great.

I said, "Okay, well, tell me. How did you come to faith in Christ? How did you come to believe in the Lord?" He goes, "Well, I was driving in my car and I was just thinking, 'How could a holy God love me?' I was driving and thinking, and then I came to the realization that God loves me because I'm good enough. There must be something in me, something I've done, to which God would say, 'You know what? I will send my Son to die for him,' because I'm good enough."

He was passionate and getting pumped and excited, and I'm just kind of sitting there smiling, thinking, "Oh man. How am I going to talk to my friend about this?" So, I was thinking about it and kind of praying as he's going on and on and, again, passionately saying, "It's awesome! God thinks I'm good enough!" I go, "Hey, man. I love you. Why don't you go to Ephesians 2 with me, and why don't we read verses 8 and 9 together?" So, we read it.

I read it out loud to him. I'll read it to you. **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."** I said, "You know, man, I love you. I care about you. I know God loves you, but do you think God loves you because you're awesome?" He goes, "Wait, so there's nothing good in me that would allow me to have a relationship with God?" I said, "That's the gospel."

There's a big difference between being called into a relationship with God by his grace and then being called through our own effort, because God doesn't save awesome people; he saves broken and dead people, and then he transfers them into the kingdom of his Son. That's the message that gives us hope, because if it was about my friend, me, or you, we would never achieve enough or do good enough to be able to reach up to Jesus and touch him. He had to reach down to us. We needed him and we need him to call us to follow him.

That's what he does with his disciples. He calls his disciples to follow him. Jesus didn't ask his disciples to do an easy thing. They were going to need to follow him as Lord and fulfill his ministry. For us, Jesus asks us to do difficult things. Let's be honest. It's hard to follow him, but we don't want to think we need to measure up to be good enough by our works, like the story with my friend, but we also don't want to go to the other side and think Jesus wouldn't require anything of us to be in relationship with him.

An old saint, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, puts it like this. He says grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is pricey. It is not cheap to follow the Lord, but it's grace that he would let us do it at all. His grace is shown in the disciples he chose and in the fact that he chose you and me.

For my life, I know God has been with me for everything I've ever done, which means he has known every thought, every motivation, and every action. In my worst moment, he was there and he was affected by my sin. He felt the pain of my sin and he still gave grace to me. He still gave grace to you. He still saved us.

That's our hope and joy this morning, right? The steadfast love of God in that he would give us the privilege of following him. It's grace, but let's always remember who is King. Jesus said, "Follow me." He's on the throne. He's the one in charge. The disciples understood this. They came to Jesus because he called them and said, "You're going to follow me." They said, "Okay," and we're asked to do the same thing. We are called by our gracious, loving, faithful King to follow him.

2. *As a disciple, you are called to community.* Fundamentally, Jesus calls us to a deep, abiding relationship with him and then to do life together with other believers. In verse 14, it says Jesus **"...appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him..."** Jesus calls his disciples to a vertical relationship with God, with him, first.

Over time, you can see, if you read through the Gospels, Jesus had such a close and intimate relationship with them that at the end, he was saying, **"No longer do I call you servants...but I have called you friends..."** That's how close he knew them and they knew him. Jesus has called us to discipleship, and because of that, he first and foremost calls us to be rooted in him.

In John 15, Jesus says, **"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."** As Christians, we are called to reflect Christ, to represent Christ. To do that, we need to be with him. We need to know him.

I think about this and I think about the relationship I have with my wife, Ashley. Ashley and I dated for four years. We were somewhat of high school sweethearts, and then we have been married for nearly 11. Honestly, at the beginning of our relationship, I thought Ashley was getting the better end of the deal, because, I mean, look at me, right? Over time, I realized how awesome and amazing she was and how fortunate I was to have her and how much I had outkicked my coverage.

I can confidently say, and I think husbands will agree, that the more I get to know and learn about my wife, my best friend, the more amazed I am and the more in love with her I am. When I got married, my "I love you," my "till death do us part," and my "I'm committed to you" were nothing compared to those statements now. I meant them then, but they mean so much more now because I've been with her. I know her better than I ever have, and we are invited to an even more intimate relationship with Jesus today. Jesus called his disciples so they might be with him.

What does that look like for us? For the disciples, they heard from Jesus and they talked with him. What does that look like for us today? For us, we hear from Jesus today through his Word, through Scripture, and then we talk with him through prayer. With Scripture, we're able to see

God's holiness, his grace, his kindness, and his purpose, all in this book. It's on every page. Every bit of it is profitable for us. Every bit of it reveals his character, his love, and his mission.

I try to encourage my friends to read through the Bible once a year. I don't care if you do it cover to cover, but read every word of Scripture once a year. It just keeps all of the text fresh and just reminds us of every bit of God's character and his love for us. So, I ask the question this morning, how is your Bible reading going? How has it been going lately? Do you prioritize your day to learn from God and to spend time with him?

I have a Life Group on Tuesday night with some other married guys. We'll sit in a circle together with mutual ministry: guys with guys, and girls with girls. They'll ask me the question, "Jeff, how's your Bible reading going?" In fact, they'll get even more specific. They'll say, "Jeff, how many days did you read your Bible last week?" I need that. I need to be reminded of that. I need to be pushed to that. I need to be encouraged in that, because it's important. It's the way I hear from Christ.

We hear from Jesus today through his Word, and then we talk with him through prayer. Prayer is simply just personal communication with our Savior. It is made for us to be able to go to him, to ask him for our impossible requests, like we did last week, but it's also a means to remember his faithfulness and thank him for his kindness, like we did earlier today, and then ask him for direction on where we should go. It's a way we can trust God more, to be part of his work and purpose, but it's also a way to have a deep relationship with him.

I love what Pastor Koby said about Psalm 63. It's a way for us to thirst for him and long for him more than anything else. Like Koby said, I also struggle in this area. This is hard for me. I love to read Scripture. I love to read about God, but it's hard for me to talk to him. It's hard for me to sit, slow down, listen, and communicate with him. I need this. I need to have deep, honest conversations with my Savior.

How about you? How's your prayer life? Do you have intentional time with God when you talk to him, when you listen, and when you reflect on who he is, other than Sunday morning? Jesus is inviting you, he's calling you to be in that type of community with him.

Looking back at the passage, it says Jesus appointed 12. He called his disciples to be a community together. This wasn't Peter by himself or John alone, but a group of diverse people. These guys were different. On this team, we have some rich people. We have some poor folks. We have people who work with their hands.

We have people who are more of the suit and tie type of people. We have some extreme differences, too. We have Matthew, the former tax collector, the employee of Rome, and then we have Simon the Zealot, the anarchist who wanted to overthrow Rome and would kind of try to create revolts and things like that. Can you imagine them kind of shaking hands for the first time? Jesus says, "Hey, Matthew. Meet the anarchist. Anarchist, meet the tax collector. It'll be great. It'll be good."

There's just lots of diversity here, and Jesus called them to be united together with him. For us, God has saved us into a diverse family of believers who share Christ together. In Hebrews 3, it says, **"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."** Like his disciples, Jesus doesn't call you to follow him by yourself. He calls you to follow him in the context of community.

That begs the question, do you have people in your life who drive you to Jesus, who encourage you in your walk with him? Are you doing the same thing? Are you helping other people grow in their faith? The way we would ask at Canyon Hills is, "Are you in a Life Group?" We need each other. Jesus called his disciples to be on a team, and he calls us to be on a team of believers together. He calls you and I to be in community.

A lot of times, we would want to finish here. We'd pray and go home and it would be nice. You can have a nice relationship with Jesus and you can have some friends for a long time and be able to have some lasting relationships to help you grow with Christ. It seems attractive, comfortable, and nice. It seems doable. If we stop here, we haven't read the whole thing. It's incomplete. Let's go back to the text and see what Jesus does next.

Verse 14: **"And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons."** Jesus' ministry often looks like this pattern. He saves lost people, he brings them to himself, he builds them up as believers, and then he just sends them out as leaders.

3. As disciples, we are commissioned to follow and extend the ministry of Jesus. We are sent. We are called to go and be about the kingdom of God, every one of us. You have been saved for a purpose. God uses imperfect, broken people to extend hope to the world. He uses all different kinds of people.

He uses engineers and he uses artists. He uses stay-at-home moms and he uses women in the workforce. He uses people with doctorates and people who haven't gotten their GED. He uses people who have grown up in the church and people who just converted from Hinduism. He uses European, African, Asian, and Latin people. He uses people with great physical abilities and he uses people with great physical limitations.

Jesus uses people and he calls people. He calls redeemed sinners to be apostles to be sent on mission to share hope, and that's you. It's you. We are commissioned to follow and extend the ministry of Jesus. Notice that Jesus wasn't asking them to do anything new. He was calling them to do the same ministry they had just witnessed him doing. It's the same thing for us. All we are asked to do is to follow Jesus' lead.

A game I like to play with my kids from time to time is a simple game. You all know it. It's follow the leader. I'll be walking around in a line and maybe I'll hop on one foot for a little while. I'll turn, and then I'll turn, and I'll sit down, and do different things like that, and they just have to follow me. It's great. It's a great time killer so Mom can make dinner. It's awesome.

I'm walking around and I'm doing this, and they don't know what I'm going to do next, and that's not important. What's important is that they're just following me step for step. They're just walking behind me and seeing what I'm doing, right? We are called to do the same thing. As followers, we don't need to know 100 steps ahead. We don't need to know 10 or 25 years down the road what God is calling us to do. We need to know if we're willing to follow him today and promise to follow him tomorrow. That's what God wants.

What's our mission? What does Jesus call us to do today? Our mission, as a church, as disciples, is to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. It's simple. We are called to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to see people come to faith in him and then to build them up so they can do the same thing.

In Matthew 28, Jesus says, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."** That is always our call. Go and make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

Isn't it great to know you don't have to come up with something new? You don't have to come up with a revolutionary way to glorify Jesus, because he has given us, you and me, the formula: share the gospel and love people. He just calls us to honor him and glorify him with our words, with our lips, and then with our actions. He calls us to preach Christ with the Word and communicate the gospel.

When Jesus came in his ministry, in Mark 1:15, he said, **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."** We, as ambassadors, as disciples, are called to communicate the gospel in a clear and compelling way, which means you not only have to know what the gospel means, but you also need to be able to communicate it effectively, honestly, urgently, and with hope.

Just as a way of reminder, the gospel, according to God's Word, is about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus came and lived a perfect life here on earth so he could be a perfect example and a sacrifice for sins. Jesus died on the cross and was buried as a perfect payment for anyone who would believe in him.

Any person who puts their trust in him can be saved by the blood of Jesus. Three days later, Jesus rose from the grave, so our hope is not for this life only, but we have eternal hope. The gospel is the message of eternal hope for saved people, like many of you in here, and the gospel is the eternal message of hope to lost people, like some of you in here. Do you know the gospel? Do you know how to share the gospel? When was the last time you shared it?

We're called to preach Christ and we're also just to care for hurting people. The passage says something curious in verse 15. Some of you might have looked at it and circled it, put a question

mark by it, or something. The passage just says the disciples would have the authority to cast out demons.

I was chatting with Pastor Steve about this and he said, "Hey, I'm going to cover this in chapter 5, so don't worry," so just hold tight. In about three years, when we get to chapter 5, you guys will get to hear all about that. Let me just say a couple of passing remarks with that, though. Demons are real because they're in Scripture. Jesus dealt with them throughout his ministry, and throughout the early church, Christians are given guidelines and encouragement on the subject of spiritual forces, and that's in Scripture.

Scripture is applicable to us today, and so it would be wise of us to not just write this off as simply a thing for the early church. Yet the thing we need to focus on for the purposes of this morning is that anytime a demon is present in the ministry of Jesus, they are oppressing and hurting people God made in his image, and those people are suffering and need help.

Now, let me be clear. I am not assuming that *any* person who is suffering is dealing with demonic forces. Not every person who suffers is being affected by demons, but every single person in Scripture who was affected by demons was suffering. The takeaway for us is that we are called to care and love people who are in need. Just think about the people who are hurting and affected by hardship.

The people who wrote on these cards, the friends whose names you wrote on these cards... These are people who are suffering or who have hurt themselves, either by their own thing or something that has happened to them. They're hurting, and as Christians, as disciples, we are called to love and consider them, even when the world would say avoid them.

Are you praying for people you know and love who are hurting? Are you going to God for them and agreeing with their prayers and their cries to the Lord? On a practical level, who have you had over for dinner lately? Who are you loving and caring for? Who have you become friends with, and has that friendship been motivated by the gospel?

Jesus calls us to preach his name, to share Christ, to share hope, and then to love people who need it. He calls us to follow him, to be in community, and then to be commissioned, to be sent for the mission, and that's a difficult call. There's no other way to put it. That's just hard. In fact, I think it'll get a little harder. Here are some expectations of what it looks like to follow Jesus.

A. *Expect rejection and opposition.* We flew over the beginning part of this passage, but in verse 7, it says, "**Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea...**" Why did he do that? Because in verse 6, it says the Pharisees were going out and meeting with the Herodians to try and destroy him, to kill him. Jesus has people after him, and so he leaves town because the town is trying to kill him.

It also says, in verses 11 and 12, that there is spiritual opposition. The demons are saying, "We know you are the Christ," and that's not in homage or respect. That's like, "We know you're the Christ and we're ready to duke it out with you."

Jesus dealt with direct opposition his entire ministry, and the reason why is because the gospel message offends because it calls people sinners who need a Savior. "You're not good enough. You need Christ!" That's a hard message to hear, and I would say that if you are communicating the gospel clearly, there are just going to be a lot of people who reject it and a lot of people who will end up rejecting you.

Jesus said, in his ministry to the disciples, **"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."** So, don't be surprised if people don't like the message of hope.

B. Expect to deal with messy and hurting people. Again, in this passage and throughout his ministry, Jesus was in the middle of chaos. These are diseased, hurting, and broken people who are crying out to Jesus, who are pushing each other to try and get to him, who are throwing themselves on him to the point where Jesus was like, "Hey, guys, get a boat ready so I can be out in the water so they don't crush me." In that, he showed compassion, love, patience, and kindness to them.

Just hear this. If you are living out the gospel, what we are called to do, what you are called to do as a believer, your life will be messy. It will, because we live in a world that is filled and riddled with sin. We have people who are suffering because of that and we have people who are sinning because of that, but sufferers and sinners are both hurting and they need hope.

Sometimes we love people who have a spotted past or who are dealing with some things, and it's like you show love and care for them, and then they kind of pull off the mask and life-barf all over you and you're like, "Man, I don't know what to do with this!" Yet why would we expect people to have life put together and figured out if they don't have Jesus as their foundation?

Why would we expect someone who just got saved last month to all of a sudden be completely changed? Why wouldn't we walk through that mess with them? Messy people need love and care, and I would just encourage you and say to put yourself in a position to be able to share hope with people in pain. Love the people you have prayed for. Pray for the people you haven't prayed for yet.

C. Expect to be with Jesus. When you obey the call of Christ, know you have Christ with you. In the promise Jesus gives in Matthew 28, he says, **"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."** Jesus promises to be with us as we serve and glorify him. He says, "I'll be in front of you. I'll be behind you. I'll be above you and below you. I'll be with you while you're doing what I called you to do for eternity, forever." That should be enough.

You can deal with some rejection from people if you have Christ with you. You can deal with messy situations if you have Christ with you. Jesus promises and says, "If you answer my call, I will be with you." He calls us, you and me, the same way he calls his disciples. He chose us as imperfect sinners to be saved and to follow him, he has called us into community to love him

deeply and to love other people, and then he has commissioned us and sent us to share the greatest hope anyone could ever have.

I'll finish this morning with just a simple statement. *Answer the call*. Don't resist the call of God. Don't assume this message is for the person sitting next to you and not for you. This call is for you; answer it. For some of you, that's going to mean, "I need to surrender my heart and life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, because I haven't yet." Answer that gospel call. For some of you, that means just admitting, "I've been at church for over 20 years, and I've never fully surrendered my heart to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior." It's okay. Answer the call today.

Some of you have been trying to do life by yourselves. You've been trying to follow Jesus by yourselves, and Jesus is saying, "You cannot do that by yourself. You need other people and you need to be seeking me all the time." Answer that call.

For some of you, Jesus is calling you out of comfort and complacency, saying, "I am calling you to be on mission for me. I want to have an open, honest conversation with you. I want you to be willing to go to the ends of the earth with my name, and I want you to be just as willing to go to your neighbor, your cousin, and your coworker with my name." Answer the call. Let's pray.

Father, we come before you thinking of the song we sang earlier, "Lord, I give you my heart. I give you my soul. I live for you alone. Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake, Lord, have your ways in me." I pray for my friends, my brothers and sisters who are here. So many people here who I know so well, and so many people I haven't had the privilege to know yet, and yet, Lord, you know them.

You love them and you're calling them today for greater devotion and a greater love for you. I pray that they would answer that call. We can't do this without you, Lord. We need you. It's not about us. It's about you, your kingdom, and your glory, and we want to give it all to you. We love you. In your name, amen.

If you're here and you haven't put your faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, come down and pray with someone here. We'd love to pray with you. We'd love to give you something to go home with to be able to develop that relationship. If you need something you maybe wrote down prayer for and you still need prayer for that, come up. They'd love to pray with you. Again, if you have answers to prayer, share that to mystory@chccbw.org. I hope you guys have a great rest of your Mother's Day.