



# CANYON HILLS

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Series: Nehemiah

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## **Be Faithful: Responding to Inexhaustible Grace**

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If I haven't met you before, my name is Jeff Potts. I'm one of the pastors here at Canyon Hills. It is just an honor and a joy to be here with you this morning. I was talking to Dale Murphy, the elder who came up and shared the devotion for Communion this morning, and I said, "Hey, can I just get your notes and we'll just preach through those again? Then we'll go home and be fed, and that'll be really good." But I don't get to do this very often, and so I'm going to go with my notes, if you don't mind, and we'll do that together.

Why don't you open in your Bibles with me to Nehemiah, chapter 10? We have been going through this book for a number of weeks now. Pastor Steve has been preaching through it. He has gone 13 consecutive sermons, and so he said, "Hey, that sabbatical felt pretty good in the summer. I think I'm going to take another break," and so he asked me to fill in this morning, and I said, "Yeah, you bet." I love getting to do this.

As a quick recap for you, if it's your first time, or first time in a long time, we have been, again, just walking through Nehemiah, kind of in a cursory overview. A few weeks back, we looked at Nehemiah 8, which Steve called, *Bring the Book*. That was where Israel reestablished God's Word as their authority. They noticed, saw, and recognized their sin, and then they asked for forgiveness.

The thing to which that applies with us today is we can always look at God's Word, and God's Word, Old and New Testament, is totally sufficient, relevant, and applicable to our lives. Then in Nehemiah 9, there were two sermons Steve gave on repentance and how we go to the Lord and dwell on his character, and how we then respond and ask for forgiveness in the things where we're not living according to his standards.

In the midst of chapter 9, they celebrated God's inexhaustible grace, and we worshiped in that last Sunday. Then in Nehemiah 10, the nation of Israel responds by committing together to be faithful to their gracious and generous Savior, and so our title for today is *Be Faithful: Responding to Inexhaustible Grace*.

Have you ever had a moment where you needed some grace, where you were completely at fault, no doubt about it? You might have even been punished to some extent, but not even a fraction of what you deserve. That's grace, and we come here to celebrate God's grace every Sunday morning, and we come to know it more and more.

A realization of God's grace completely changes your life. It changes your thoughts, your motivations, and your actions. We come here to worship God because he has a never-stopping, always-active, constant grace, and that grace secures us in his Son, in the work of Christ, for the purpose of worshiping God and giving glory to him.

So, like the chorus we just sang, there's another chorus that adds onto it. It says, "O come, let us adore him," and then it says, "We'll give you all the glory and we'll praise your name forever." Because of God's grace, we now get to live with purpose and meaning, because we live, now, with and for God. Because of God's grace, we no longer have to work to try and earn his favor, but we can live in response to the love he has shown us.

God calls us this morning, just like he's calling his people in Nehemiah, to a growing affection and increased faithfulness in our relationship with him, and so we respond to God's inexhaustible grace by living faithfully. This hits every aspect of our lives: our closest relationships, our work, our time, and even our wallets.

God's grace changes every part of our lives, and our call is to be faithful to him in response. What does it look like to be faithful? To be faithful is to be consistent. It's to be someone you can count on. To be faithful also means to look like and be like the original. As we increase in our faithfulness, we look more and more like Christ to the world, shining a bright light of hope into a world that needs it.

Yet what does it look like to make a commitment to faithfulness? We have an example of that from God's Word, so if you are at Nehemiah 10, why don't you stand with me for the reading of God's Word? Let's look at it together. I am not trying to butcher a bunch of names in verses 1-27, so we'll start in verse 28. Thank you for your grace to me in that.

**"The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes.**

**We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.**

**We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.**

**We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law.**

**We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD; also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.**

**And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God."**

Thank you. You guys can have a seat. Let's pray together.

Father, we are here because of your grace. We are here responding to your grace in worship this morning, remembering all of the amazing things you've done for us. Lord, as we continue to worship you in the looking at and thinking critically on your Word, I pray that your Spirit would move in this place and that there would be hearts convicted and changed.

Lord, I know there are people here who do not have a great relationship with you. They know you in name, but they don't love you and follow your commands, and they certainly don't know who you are in your Word. God, I pray that they could hear that you are a faithful, loving, gracious God and that we can respond to you in holiness because of what you've already done for us. We ask these things in your name, amen.

This morning, we are going to look at five commitments to faithfulness. This is what the nation of Israel committed to, but it is also what we can apply to our lives this morning, so let's just jump right in.

1. *Be faithful with biblical community.* God saves sinners into a community of believers, and so we respond to God's inexhaustible grace by investing in biblical community. Look at verses 28 and 29.

**"The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, join with their brothers, their nobles..."**

The beginning of the chapter, which I conveniently did not read (more for your benefit than mine, because I would have butchered all of those names), points to Nehemiah and 83 other key leaders. These are the priests, the Levites, and the chiefs, and they are all committing, arm in arm, to change.

The reform starts with the leadership, but then very quickly involves everyone. That's the same for us. Change is not simply a top decision that trickles down to other people, but change is a community project. We need each other to grow into the image of Christ. It takes every single one of us.

Do you remember what Steve said last week? If you were here and you got to hear the message, he said at the end that God's purpose is to see us conformed into the image of Christ. Really, he just pulled right from Romans 8:29. **"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."**

God's purpose, God's plan in our life, is not only to save us, but then to comprehensively and patiently change us to make us look less like we use to and to make us look more like Christ. He shapes us, molds us, and puts things in our lives that draw us closer to him. He does that, and that's his plan, but he does that in order that Jesus might be the first of *many* brothers. God saves us into a family.

In Ephesians 2, Paul writes about how the Christian is saved and brought near by the blood of Christ, and then is simultaneously folded into a membership of other believers. Milton Vincent wrote a book called *A Gospel Primer for Christians*. It's a great read. I would encourage you to read it. It's nice and short, too. He says,

"The gospel is not just a message of reconciliation with God, but it also heralds the reconciliation of all believers to one another in Christ. Through the death of Christ, God has brought peace where there was once hostility, and He has broken down the [racial, economic, and social] barriers that once divided us outside of Christ."

That makes me think of the Life Group that Ashley (my wife) and I have on Thursday nights. We lead a LINK group: College and Young Adults. Every Thursday night, we have this group that comes together and we have amazing diversity within our group. We have different levels of education, different backgrounds, different upbringings, different skin colors, different languages, different voting preferences, and different hobbies, and it's great.

It's like the only thing we have in common with each other is Jesus. We're a motley group, committing to knowing God more and growing in our love and affection for him. We were praying this last Thursday. I was praying with a group of the guys, and there we are, praying hand in hand, just praying for each other and praying that God would help us to grow in our love and affection for him, and that we would know him more, sin less, and be able to have wisdom in the midst of life's circumstances.

We're praying for the person next to us, and all of this stuff. I'm drawn to tears, because all I can think of, while I'm holding my friend's hand on my left and my friend's hand on my right, is how much I need this. I need this so much. I need other people in my life who are praying for me, encouraging me, and interceding for me so I can be faithful to God.

How about you? Are you joining with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you faithfully invested in a biblical community? Are you in a Life Group? If you are in that Life Group, how are you praying for the people in your group? How are you invested? How are you contributing to your group? How are you serving your group? The call we have here in the text, and the call we have today, is to be faithful to God with others.

*2. Be faithful to know and obey God's Word.* God saves sinners and continues to pursue a deeper relationship with them, and so we respond to God's inexhaustible grace by faithfully seeking God in his Word and then applying it to our lives. A commitment to faithfulness is going to find its foundation in God's Word.

Let's look at verse 29 together. "**...join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes.**" There was an understanding that their commitment was serious. It meant a lot. If they disobeyed the law, they said as much.

"We understand we are entering into a curse, that you will punish us for not doing what we're committing to do, but if we obey the law, we are entering an agreement with God where he will bless us, protect us, and be with us." This is really the main thrust of their commitment together as a nation.

"We will observe God's Word, and then we will actively obey it. We're going to hear God in his Word. We're going to obey God from his Word, and then we're just going to repeat that cycle over and over again." That applies for us this morning, because faithful Christians are committed to know God's Word.

We are committed to know God's Word, and this requires time, thinking, and consideration, but we consider the law of God so we can understand it. There is just incredible joy in every depth of relationship we have in God, because the deeper we go, the more satisfied we are in him, because God's Word reveals his holiness and love for us as sinners all at the same time.

It points out your sin while showing his patience. It gives you overwhelming hope, not in your goodness, but in his faithfulness. The more we understand God, the more we understand love, grace, peace, joy, and rest, and the more we obey him, the more we see his glory, power, and kindness spread to others.

So, there is incredible fulfillment that comes with our growth in Christ, and that comes from reading the text he has given us. Bring us the Book, indeed. Faithful Christians know God's Word, but faithful Christians are also committed to obey what God's Word says. The nation of Israel committed to observe the law, but they also committed to do the law.

Earlier in the passage, they promised to walk in God's law, and that just reminded me of Paul speaking to the Colossian church. **"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."** God is looking for faithful people who will not only understand Scripture but consistently obey his Word.

Before I was working here, I worked for my dad. He owns a painting company, and so what did I do? I painted, of course. While I was his grunt for many, many years, he would tell me to do certain things. What he would tell me to do was pretty simple, but there were implications that went with it. So, he would say, "Jeff, go and paint the wall white." Pretty simple, right? Yet there are things I have to know and understand to be able to obey that correctly.

First, I have to paint. I can't just take a bucket of white paint and throw it onto the wall. I need to use the proper equipment. I need to do it correctly. I'm supposed to paint the wall. As I learned over the years, painting the wall does not mean painting the ceiling, the other walls, the lamp, the artwork, the light fixtures, or the carpet. You have to paint the wall.

The last thing is you have to paint the wall *white*. Don't paint it red, yellow, blue, green, pink, or whatever you think would work better. "Paint the wall the way I've asked you to do it, and be faithful in that." It's simple, but there are criteria we have to understand to be able to follow through.

Jesus said as much. Jesus is interested in our obedience. He says, "My family, my mother and my brothers, are those who hear the Word of God and do it." God is interested in obedience because that's the proof that we understand what he's telling us. We are called to be consistently hearing and obeying God's Word.

So, for you this morning, are you seeking God in Scripture? Is Bible reading a consistent practice in your life? Take it a step further. Are you applying Scripture to your life? Does your daily Bible reading affect your daily habits? Who's in your Life Group to hold you accountable for your reading and for obeying God's Word?

Well, if I could set out a challenge for you in 2017, it would be to read every single word of the Bible, the whole thing, and do it with someone else. Be faithful to know and obey God's Word, and do it with other people. The Israelites joined together to commit to God's Word, and they

were committing to the totality of the law, saying, "Hey, we're going to follow every bit of it, everything."

That's the big picture, and now here are some issues we specifically need to address and commit to. The first two points were kind of large, and these next few points are a little more specific, but again, they still apply to us today.

3. *Be faithful to put God first in marriage.* Verse 30: "**We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.**" God saves sinners and gives marriage as a picture of his love for us, and so we respond to God's inexhaustible grace by committing to God's standards in marriage and in our pursuit of marriage.

The Bible defines marriage in Genesis 2 and Ephesians 5 as one man and one woman being faithfully bound together as an image of God's intimacy with us. It is pure. It is beautiful. It is good. God loves marriage. He established it as the first explanation of human interaction. He gives us, within it, the ability to have amazing intimacy, socially, emotionally, physically, and even spiritually. God values marriage above every other relationship, because it is a picture of how much he loves us. God calls us to honor him with our marriages, and that is a high calling.

Israel realized this from reading Scripture, and they realized they were falling short, because they were giving their sons and daughters away to other nations that didn't worship God, and so they said, "We will stop doing that." This is not a verse about interracial marriage. This is not a verse about some kind of caste system or social order. This is a verse about Christians marrying or even pursuing to marry someone who is not a Christian.

I just got back from Peru about a month ago. I went with Ashley (my wife) and a team from LINK, our College and Young Adults ministry. It was 13 of us, total. We just had a great time serving and honoring the Lord, but I had a particular conversation with a student who was living over in Peru. He's from there.

He was pursuing and kind of spending significant time with a young woman, someone who was in his college. He liked her a lot, and it was very obvious when he talked about her how much he liked her. She was interested in Jesus, but there wasn't a lot kind of showing up in her life, and he was very committed to the Lord, at least in what he was saying.

The guy was totally twitterpated with this chick, and after listening, eventually I just said, "Hey, man. Is God first in your life?" He said, "Well, yeah. Of course." I said, "Okay. Is God first in her life?" He goes, "Probably not." I said, "Okay, well, if Jesus is Lord and Savior in your life, and you're pursuing someone who doesn't love Jesus with all their heart, eventually, you're going to come to an impasse. The question is, are you willing to compromise your relationship with Jesus to have a relationship with someone else?"

I think the question fits this morning. So, to my single friends, how are you pursuing marriage? How are you honoring the Lord in that? What is your filtering system for a potential spouse? As Christians, our number one criterion for a spouse is not a physical attribute or a bank account

balance but a genuine and dynamic relationship with God. Are you staying true to godly convictions with your dating habits, and even with your purity?

To my married friends, how does your marriage reflect your relationship with God? Are you living by God's standards within the confines of your marriage? Are you protecting the purity of your marriage and of your spouse? Because we are called to purity even after the wedding vows. God calls us to purity, and biblical marriage protects that purity through God-glorifying intimacy, love, and vulnerability.

We are committed, as a church, to celebrate and invest in biblical marriage. It's a big reason why we started Young Marrieds ministry last year. We just wanted to celebrate and promote marriage the way God intended and to really try to foster good relationships as people are creating a foundation for the rest of their lives. Really, our desire, church-wide, is that this would be a place where biblical marriage can grow, be celebrated, and thrive.

One of the things we're really excited about next year is we are having a big marriage conference with a guy named Paul Tripp. Paul Tripp is a big-time Christian author, and he writes on marriage, the heart, and biblical counseling. We're huge fans of him, and he's coming June 16-17 to come and talk with us about marriage.

This isn't just something we're going to do for the Young Marrieds here in the church. This is something for every married couple in the church. Even over and above that, this is not just for the people who are married. This is for the people who are currently single, who are hoping to be married someday, who are on the path to marriage, who maybe even haven't considered marriage to this point.

We want you to know what God has to say about this subject, and we are excited about it. We're committed to it, and I hope you guys will kind of earmark that in your schedules. God has called us to put him first in our marriages and in our pursuit of marriages. Let's be faithful in doing that.

4. *Be faithful to worship God with your time.* God saves us to worship him, to give him all the glory, and we respond to God's inexhaustible grace by faithfully setting aside time to give him that glory. Verse 31: "**And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day.**"

When they looked at God's Word, they realized they were compromising their Sabbath. They were changing their worship habits around to be able to play to the public marketplace. Just to put it simply, the Sabbath was not a very special day for them. I was reading this, and I was reminded of what Pastor Koby taught about in the summer, when we did our Ten Commandments series.

He taught on the fourth commandment in Exodus 20: "**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.**" The Jewish people were looking at God's Word and they saw they weren't



honoring God with the day God gave them to rest and enjoy his presence. They were just doing business as usual, as if it was any other day.

I looked at this passage and I just had to ask the question, "Jeff, how about you? Look in the mirror. Does God get your best time? Jeff, is there something that gets in the way of you being able to worship God? Jeff, does your schedule reflect having God first in your life? Is worshiping God just an optional thing on Sunday?"

Is worshiping God just another thing on Sunday? Jeff, are you just attending church on Sunday morning for all three services because you're getting paid to do it, or because you love Jesus with all your heart and you genuinely want to grow in your faith in him and celebrate with other people who want to do the same?"

How about you? Does God get your best time? Is Sunday worship your priority? This is a weekly opportunity to join with brothers and sisters, with family in Christ, and to worship passionately, sing loud, and learn more about God's character and our identity in him, and it charges us up and sends us out to go and extend hope to a world that really needs Jesus. Do you worship God with your time? Is it the best thing? Is it the priority thing, or is it another thing? Be faithful to put God first with your time and your worship.

5. *Be faithful to biblical giving.* Much of the chapter is committed to our budgets. God saved sinners at a great cost, by giving up his very best for us, and so we respond to God's inexhaustible grace with the way we give. If we have a heart that desires to worship God, then our budgets will be a direct reflection of honoring God and worshiping him above ourselves and above other people.

I'm reading this book by Randy Alcorn. It's called, *Money, Possessions and Eternity*. He says, "...our handling of money is a litmus test of our true character. It's an index of our spiritual life. Our stewardship of our money and possessions becomes the story of our lives." God is pursuing our hearts, and our hearts are often revealed by how we give.

Let's just look back at the text, because most of the commitments given by the Jewish people in this chapter were directly related to their giving. The first thing the whole community commits to was to give to the work of the ministry. Verses 32-33:

**"We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God."**

This is something that, again, started with leadership, but then very quickly involved everyone. They committed to give to the work of the ministry. You heard the obligations that we are committing to give to, and it started sounding like, "We commit to giving so we can pay the electric bill, so the electric works, so we can read our Bibles together on Sunday morning. We

commit to giving for different supplies necessary for all the youth programs running during the week, serving hundreds of students every month, from elementary to college age.

We will commit to give so there's money for pamphlets in the counseling office, so we can have biblical resources for people who need to remember God's Word in the midst of their situation. We commit to give so there is shopping money to get fresh produce and meat for the 75-80 households that come to our food bank on Tuesday night. We will commit to give so there are vests for the parking lot guys so they don't get run over in between services on Sunday mornings."

They committed to give to the work of the ministry. Then they committed to give their first and their best. Verse 35: "**We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits...of every tree...and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks...**" The firstborn of everything. These are not the leftovers. This is not, "Lord, whatever we have left, we'll just kind of give that to you and hope that's good." No. "We're going to give you the first thing. We're going to give you the best thing, the most valuable thing. What we value most, we're going to give to you."

Lastly, they also committed to manage the contributions well. "We are going to give it to the proper people, who will then oversee and put it in the proper place, and we're going to keep track of every little bit of it." This is a call for the pastors and the elders of the church to manage the budget in a God-honoring way. There's just a ton here in this little section. Everyone commits to giving their first and best to the Lord for the work of the ministry, and then everyone commits to being accountable to collect and manage the money well.

For us, next week, Randy Long, our vice chairman of the elders, is going to come up and present our church budget. He is going to give a report for 2016 and our plan for 2017. It's actually like a really exciting five-minute period within the service, because we get to talk about, hopefully, how we are carefully and diligently honoring God with every penny with which he has blessed us.

The takeaway for us, this morning, is as we as a church look at the text and say, "Man, we really need to make sure we are taking care of the money with which God has entrusted us," are you taking care of the money God has entrusted to you? Do you financially give regularly, cheerfully, and sacrificially to the work of God? Every dollar you touch is an opportunity to honor the Lord, and he calls us to manage his money well and steward it for his purposes.

That begins with faithful tithing. Just as a quick review, to tithe is to give 10 percent of your income to the Lord, so if you make \$10, you give \$1. It's our first and best, so it's before taxes, retirement investments, mortgages, rent, the kids' toys, and before we go purchase the newest iPhone. We give to the Lord. Are you tithing? Are you giving?

If you're not, what's stopping you? What stops you from giving obediently and faithfully to God? Is it a lack of trust? Maybe you don't think God is really going to take care of you. Is it a lack of love? Maybe you don't give because you don't love God, and you will save up and plan for things

you really love, like a vacation, a concert, or a certain kind of clothing, but there just doesn't seem to be money in the budget for the Lord.

Do you not give because of a lack of discipline? Maybe you want to give. You see all the verses that talk about giving to the Lord. "Yes, I want to give my first. I want to give my best." Then Saturday night comes along and you check your balance, and you have a zero. You don't know where the paycheck went. Israel looked at God's Word and they saw that they weren't obeying God in this area, and so they committed to change. We're called to do the same thing. Let's commit to be faithful in our giving.

I have presented to you a list of things to do, five things to be faithful in. Let's just get back to the main thing. We are responding to the grace of God. If you are looking at this as a list of things to do to be good enough for the Lord, you're missing the point. We do this because of what God has done for us already.

I love the verse that showed it from 1 Peter. It says Jesus himself bore our sins so we could be dead to sin and live for him. These are just simply ways in which we now live for him with our relationships, our time, our budget, and our marriages. We just commit and say, "Because of what you've done for us, Lord, we will now live by putting you first in all of those areas."

When we are growing in our faithfulness and our consistency, we start looking more like the original. We start looking more like Christ. That is exactly what God has saved us for. Be faithful. There's no greater calling for the Christian than to just simply follow through with what God tells you to do.

He doesn't call us to be extravagant. He doesn't call us to be over-the-top or anything other than just consistently obedient. Over time, God is faithful to just use that to change us and mold us into the image of his Son, to be a great light for the gospel. The more we do it, the more hope we have in him, because we realize it's all because of him that we can do anything, and we want to do more for him.

Before we pray, we have our eyes closed and our heads bowed down. Was there something you heard this morning that made you think, "Man, I need to change that"? Was there something you saw in the points or on the screen that made you think, "Man, that was a hard one to look at. I need to make a change"?

Do you need to commit to community? Do you need to find your Bible and start reading your Bible? Do you need to evaluate your schedule or your budget? Do you need to trust God with your marriage and start honoring him with your marriage?

With this many people here worshiping this morning, I know there are people here who don't know Jesus and don't love Jesus, so forget everything else I've said and just hear this. Just commit to knowing and loving God with all your heart. Just commit to that and say, "God, for everything you've done, for everything you promise to do, I want to follow you with my life. We can talk about the details later, but first things first. God, I want to follow you with my heart."

If you're here, I just beg you to just do that today, because God has a grace that is overwhelming, inexhaustible, and always sufficient for you, and he loves you. He loves you so much that he sent his Son to die for you. Put your faith in him today. For the rest of us, let's just pray to commit ourselves to the Lord and to obey him more and respond to what he has done for us.

Father, we just come before you, just so grateful because we just consider your faithfulness and how you did it perfectly with your Son. God, every bit of hope we have is because of you, and so, because of that, we want to respond and live the way you call us to live. Lord, for my friends who are here, I pray that we would be faithful to you and to you alone, that we would put you first, and that you would get the glory for that. God, we give you all the glory. We give you all the glory because of the work of your Son. We love you, God. In your name, amen.

If you are here and you need prayer for something, we have a small army of people who would love to pray with you and for you, just hear what's going on in life, and try to encourage you. If you don't have a relationship with Jesus, the most important thing for you, if you want to know more about that, is to come down here. Get some more information. We'd love to talk with you. We'd love to encourage you and give you something you can read and consider. I pray that you'd do that today. God bless. Have a great day. We'll see you guys next week.