

Sunday, February 21, 2021 – Message by Pastor Mark Johnson

Questions for further reflection and discussion

Share a story of someone that you pursued for relationship. Was there a reciprocal response to your pursuit?

Overview:

Pastor Mark reminded us that to Pursue Jesus is to pursue a person, a who, not a what. Some of us grew up being taught that pursuing Jesus was about modifying our behaviour or being able to recite certain facts about Jesus and the Bible.

What does pursuing Jesus look like in your own life?

Mark started by sharing some verses that reference pursuing Jesus by using the various images such as thirst and others. Read these verses and discuss whether they reflect your heart for God.

John 5:39-40

Psalm 42:1

Psalm 63:1

Psalm 27:4

Which reference most resonates with you and why?

Mark listed eight points to help us pursue Jesus.

#1 Live in His presence

#2 Live in His Gospel

#3 Live in His Word

#4 Live in other books

#5 Live in culture

#6 Live in suffering

#7 Live in prayer

#8 Live in anticipation/expectancy

Which of these presents the greatest challenge for you and why?

These help us with the “how” of pursuing Jesus.

The following references give us the “why.”

John 1:1-5

Eph 1:3-14

Col 1:15-20

Heb 1:3-4

What are the implications of the truth of these verses?

Mark closed with the following prayer by Augustine.

Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You, and desire nothing save only You.

Let me hate myself and love You.

Let me do everything for the sake of You.

Let me humble myself and exalt You.

Let me think of nothing except You.

Let me die to myself and live in You.

Let me accept whatever happens as from You.

Let me banish self and follow You, and ever desire to follow You.

Let me fly from myself and take refuge in You,

That I may deserve to be defended by You.

Let me fear for myself.

Let me fear You, and let me be among those who are chosen by You.

Let me distrust myself and put my trust in You.

Let me be willing to obey for the sake of You.

Let me cling to nothing save only to You,

And let me be poor because of You.

Look upon me, that I may love You.

Call me that I may see you, and forever enjoy You.

Amen.