

Machine generated transcript - We've got a lot going on this morning I'm going to ask those who are here who went on her missions trip to Slovakia to come up even you shy ones come on I know some of you've been dreading this moment for two weeks in Abby I'm going to call you out by name Come on come on up here in the So we have some people who are on that ship that are like me in their very outgoing and we have so and they did you know that was fine and we have some people who are very shy and they're terrified of being in front of a group of people but you know what they all did a great job on this trip and it was a great thing so I'm going to ask them to do something really difficult and ask them to share one thing from the trip not twenty five things sherry but one thing from this trip OK. But this was an awesome thing and we want to encourage you and one of the reasons that we do this isn't just so people get a chance to talk but it's a chance for you to hear the heart of what goes on on one of these trips and a lot of you were instrumental in getting them over there this was an expensive trip it was twenty four hundred dollars for this trip because airfare to Europe is really expensive but we were able to do it for fourteen because of your generosity and so I want to say thank you and I want to encourage you to keep given to missions I want to encourage you to be a part of that and I'm going to do you want to Star know OK I didn't think so so I'm going to I'm going to go over here to Sherry and I'm going to let her start will work the other way around and we're going to share a little bit about what I said I'm typing but you know I did not say one topic yeah. Is. It Right yes we go oh she's she and we're here today but. You did. She did let our church family know that experience was spiritual we. Included some difficult personal strength to her and was amazing to be able to work for that for and besides other. And she said look you see very. But for me like. It's difficult to there's so many experiences were there two weeks you know to come up with one. Thing. But I chose my target Well when I said that this was not an accident so. I guess what I would say topic wise people the people in not just the people that you want to go see over. The Slovakian people specially the Roman people but the people that we went with these people here and also their missions to you in Montana you were able to develop relationships with people and the really neat thing about these people is is that God knows all of them it is a. Traveling through. I was thinking about here in this other country like past for example and there's all the at the last the last couple days and there's all these people you know. Every one of these people God knows each and every one of. Every little detail you know needs and their dreams and their hearts and he wants them all to know him and there are so many people in for my small brain as a human brain it's hard for me to fathom that as we go overseas and we see all these people and speaking of the topic of people there there was the Roma. Gypsy people were very passionate you know and I can relate to you know I love I love that didn't and they were so excited to see us we were excited to see them to win in the god to my heart and when we were with these people and were with them we're actually in it you know so if I get passionate when you see. Passionate just know that's just you know that's good that's OK I'm not alone there's other people out there that can be passionate too so we were able to minister to them but the especially all Minister to us all the people not just these people people from Montana but the people we minister to what went both ways I. See. So on this trip it was a really like changing trip out a lot of amazing things happened it was pretty amazing but the one thing. Oh no no no there you go OK sorry guys so the one thing that I got really didn't my heart that was. Pretty amazing on the last night we were with the Roma we just got done with church service and whatever and then we ate with them we have this party it was amazing. Right after we were saying our goodbyes and one of the pastors from there just came up to me and just he laid his hand on me and said thank you for your ministry right there and I felt like. The Holy Spirit run through me and it just it was amazing and but. It's I felt like I was trying to speak with me that moment so I got on the bus and I was just. Trying to listen to what he was saying and I felt like well you know he called me to missions right then. So. I'm looking at different ways right now to I. Become a missionary and probably come back so voc ed because that's where I was called so. Thank you. Hi. I guess one thing that really impressed me was the when we went with Roma gypsies. They were very very loving and. They just welcome you and like you were part of their family which we are in Christ but the thing that really impressed me was that these people in general are very very

poor I mean it makes our poor here look rich and they are so happy and so enjoy it I mean you could see the joy of the Lord on. To think that you know they can be so happy he's so loving so giving and yet have so little like no running water or plumbing or anything I mean you know we seem to as Americans seem to value ourselves on items things like their I mean you can just see that they're they're coming from a real a real thing from God and I just thought that was really really cool. I'm Jana. While I was going through my mind they are very happy and they have hardly anything like that or very or actually said. It was just touched my heart like you walk into these people they just surround you with hugs and handshakes and their own language welcoming you with the language barrier it was very hard to communicate but I feel like. Spiritually we are all able to can act and build relationships very very well. OK the media. OK on. I don't know really moved by her own I was there. How welcoming everybody was and. Playing with the. Big hits it was a. Kind of welcome you and. I don't know we were all it was kind of a family affair and I. I don't know he really knew my heart. I imagine. I thought it was really mean and how grateful they are and how loving they are when they don't have very much to be grateful for and I thought it was amazing just seeing people happy they were just to know that we care which they care so much about you just you can feel it when you walk into your room and I think we take it for granted a lot how much we have and just the world that we live and home easy it is to follow God here in this country compared to what a lot of other ones Thank you Gary. Thank you everybody this was a little more than half the team. Got people all over the place this morning so not everybody could be here but we took twelve people counting myself and John and these guys and I never counted John one time when we were counting I told people as Michael leave John in an airplane and when or at the airport when we left Not everybody knew me well enough to know I was joking and so that's a little while but I never count me either it's OK we just made sure we came back with ten and that was important so. It was a great trip and I want to thank you for being a part of it we do a trip one one of the year basically now that we've switched the Bogota trip to about every other year. We have so that trip will be leaving in January most likely this year and then in two years and summer of two thousand and twenty we'll be taking another trip somewhere most likely should the Lord tarry and that will be gone and so we want to courage to be a part of it we want to courage you to be a part of these teams if if two thousand dollars sounds like a lot of money and it does to me then start saving now you know if you have two years to save two thousand dollars that's a lot easier than trying to come up with two thousand dollars in six months and so I want to just encourage you to be part of the trip to Bogota usually cost somewhere between a bottle a thousand and twelve hundred bucks sometimes it's been a little cheaper sometimes a little more airfares what gets us on most of these trips but I want to encourage you to be a part of these things not because I want you to you know somehow put this spiritual stat on of like oh I've been on a trip no but because you go and you see something that helps you grow in your relationship with Jesus you go and you see missions at work and that is such an important thing and such an amazing thing I want to encourage you to not make excuses I know I've heard some people be like well I'm too old to go on a trip right now and I would challenge you that that is just not the case dory went the year before she passed right I mean it was one year before. Where she passed she was she was down in Bogota Colombia serving Jesus she couldn't haul rebar like she used to do but she found a place to minister while she was down there and that is amazing and and I want to encourage you to not make those kind of excuses if you begin planning far enough out you can make this happen and God will work through you and God will work in you and I want to I want to encourage you to think that way one of the things for me as I was there that was that was neat I got a little different perspective than than some of the people aren't on our team because I was in these places ten years ago and I went on this trip that was very similar ten years ago when I was a youth pastor in Montana and I went on a kid I went on a trip with like thirty six teenagers which I don't recommend but. I went there ten years ago and we got to see a lot of this stuff these this. Movement of Jesus in the Roma really started with the three pastors at this church and Sabino it three guys got saved they they actually left Slovakia they went to Switzerland as as street musicians and while they were there they found Jesus and none of them wanted to come back

but God spoke to them and they came back and they started to begin planting a church as far as they know and as far as anybody knows out there they were the first Christians and the Roma community in this area and now fourteen years later there's they don't know how many for sure but there's between two and four thousand Christians in this this area because these three men dedicated their lives to Jesus and went after it there's a church there now out of that church and I'll show you a few pictures in a second they've planted nine other churches in fourteen years and they've got nine to ten other places where they're doing Bible studies where they're hoping to start churches there because three people gave their life to Jesus and then people started giving. And in this area so I want to show you a couple pictures and this is where this is ten years ago OK I helped pour this wall for this church you can see it's brick there was they were it had begun the roof structure and some of the areas but they build kind of funny there this is like the main load bearing wall for the entire building and it was one of the last interior walls that went up and so it's just funny when you go and you do construction in other countries sometimes you have to learn other ways to do things and but we went there and I hope or that wall ten years ago can you flip the picture now and and this is what the church looks like now. This is why you give to missions people this is why you go on missions trips this is why you consistently do these things because it makes a difference and can you turn the picture right across from this building this is where we played with kids all day when we were pouring concrete so dirt field and we kicked around a soccer ball and we got to do those kind of things can you flip the picture now you can even see if you're really paying attention to detail look at the hill in the back you can see that same hill right so it's the same place now it's the parsonage that's where the pastor lives there was nothing there but a dirt pile and when we were there you can see kind of that gravel thing that was one of the things we did we just kept shovel and more and more gravel because they don't have enough room for parking we made a parking lot by shoveling gravel over there for them and we were able to do that ten years in ten years they went from having nothing no permanent building to having a church parsonage a community center where they feed people multiple times a day especially the kids that they teach teach educate they have a kindergarten there and they have a they're starting a garden in their back for a community garden so they can continue to feed and it's over the course of ten years of people giving and being faithful in doing these kind of things and you see that one of the things that I was so excited about and I mentioned this in the past is when we went over there last time we were able to finish the funding for translating the gospel into the. The language. In the New Testament and particularly when we went there ten years ago we got to finish that funding can you imagine having to learn another language to read another language to be able to read the Bible. That was their reality they had to learn another language or to read another language not just speak another language to be able to read the Bible lots of them don't even read their own language because they're they've been very poorly educated that's beginning to change now but we were able to raise money and ten years later I got to come home with this. The New Testament translated into the Roma language and this is this is what our money went for and they said that when they when they first got this done and they were able to start distributing it it was actually covered by the news which is amazing that anything in the Roma news would be covered over there because they're just not really viewed as human by most of society over there but it was covered by the news that the Roma went after God's Word like hungry people go after bread and they literally ran out of copies and that first that first day of the New Testament because so many people were so desperate to get a copy of God's Word for the first time that they could read that they just storm those gates until they had a copy they had to go start printing more and they're still printing more they're working on the Old Testament right now translating the Old Testament into into Roma and it's such an amazing thing so it was really need for me to be able to see what it looked like ten years ago and to see what we were doing ten years ago and then go back and work with the same pastors ten years later and hear the story of what had begun when I was there ten years ago there was only this church in Sabah No and you could see the state that the church building was in they were meeting in the pastor's home for the first several years until this this this building got done that's all there was it was one church and now it's

thousands of people in all these different place. And I just want to encourage you. When you give to missions it matters when you give to missions it's not just stump check you know what I mean it's not just going to go and do nothing it matters and I want to encourage you to be a part I want to encourage you to pray for missionaries I want to encourage you to give to missions and I want to encourage you to go and I just I absolutely firmly believe that when people get over and they see these things and they do these things got awakened something inside of you that is an amazing thing and I want to encourage you to be a part of it so as we as we as I speak today this is a message I preached a message similar to this as we were going through the short stories by Jesus we did this a couple years ago or we just went through some of his parables and we were talking about it and when we were over there I just I really felt I had to preach a couple times which is always interesting to preach through a translator and they do a great job but it can be a difficult thing if you know me you know I'm distractable and so having to say a couple sentences and then stop and listen to somebody else say the same thing in another language it's really hard for me to stay focused on what I'm saying it's like I lose my train of thought and it's a difficult thing but it's an important thing and I really felt as I was over there that God kind of laid this story on my heart again and so I just want to share it again as we go through this time and I want to ask you a couple of questions as we get into this and I'm going to ask just in simple way what do you find yourself longing for what what is something that that just consumes your mind right what is something that you find yourself willing to give up something else for right and at different points of our life there are probably different things that we could say that with I say one of the first things I remember that this was I had this I wanted the car right I was driving my dad seventy six G.M.C. Full time. Four wheel drive where the the front wheels in spin anyway but you know still use that gas for that you know we got about four and a half miles to the gallon and that bad boy it was it was amazing and but I remember wanting my own car and so I started to work for it that is something you can do by the way you can work for your own car your parents are not obligated to buy you a car I just want to say that real quick. But so I had this I started working for this car I started saving my checks because it's what I want in a bunch of my friends were doing a bunch of things right they were going to they were traveling and they were they were doing all this stuff but I want a car so I didn't go with my friends to Denver I stayed home because I wanted to car right and I didn't go do some of these other things that some of them did not that they were wrong but I wanted a car and I was willing to not do some of this other stuff because I wanted a car right and so I had I went after that car and I was able to buy it and I still had it when Mandy and me got married and it was what what year was it a ninety two Mitsubishi Eclipse it was it was my first car that I ever ever bought and it was awesome and there are other things that I have I have gone after my wife was one of those things. When we when we started to get to know each other and those things I actually had a chaser which was a nice change of pace and a very attractive thing to me but you know it was one of those things that kind of consumed my mind for a while as I as I went after my wife and and did those things I remember buying that guitar when it when I bought that guitar I had a guitar that's still hanging on the wall actually it's the second one and the first one I bought again I didn't have a lot of money and so I was saving up money to buy this guitar and it actually my the leader of my ministry team my freshman year forgot it on the trailer hitch and so we drug it across the gravel parking lot and ran over it for a while so the. The second one was the one that's hanging on the wall right now in our bedroom and Mandy has that one but when I wanted that guitar again it was one of those things that I started selling other stuff or I started saving money for all those things because I wanted the guitar that I wanted to play for the next twenty five years and I love you know I as on there if you see if you ever come up and look at it you can see there's places in the world where my pictures hit so many times it's literally just chipping the wood away now and then people are like Don't you want to know what no man every single one of those pick marks is mine and and I love it I went after it right now I'm kind of in this phase where I'm trying to refinish a guitar I've been I started building my own electric guitars which has been fun and but I just spent the better part of yesterday trying to figure out the perfect topcoat to spray on to this guitar you know what I mean and it was one of those things where

it probably took more of my attention than it should have especially when we're getting ready to leave for Montana tomorrow and. But you know what it's like to have those things that you just long for those things that you just want right and it's not bad to want something other than Jesus but it's bad when we want something more than Jesus right it's bad when we when what we are desiring shift our focus away from Jesus and on to stuff and no matter what that might be it's an important thing I'm going to ask a question right now that I'm going to get a little bit more into as we go further into this and it's simply this question what defines your voice. OK What defines your voice if you remember anything else today I want you to remember this question and like I said I'm going to give you a little bit more detail as we get into this but I want you to be thinking of this question what defines your voice I want you to turn to Matthew chapter thirteen I'm going to read verses forty four through forty six people usually laugh at me when I tell them that this is my favorite parable of Jesus but. Really is this is such a short simple thing that Jesus is to teaching about and it is absolutely my favorite parable and I'm going to read it for you here Matthew chapter thirteen versus forty four through forty six forty six I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation if you got an electronic version and you like to read the same words as the pastor that's the N L T That's the one I'm going to read out of Matthew chapter thirteen versus forty four through forty six juices talking about the Kingdom of Heaven and what it's like not just in this section but before and after it he's talking about what the Kingdom of Heaven is how it should be what it's looking like all right and so he says the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered in the field and this excitement he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls when he discovered a pearl of great value he sold everything he own and bought it and this is one of the this is probably my favorite parable of Jesus like I said People think I'm crazy when I say that but Jesus is talking about how we should value the kingdom of God right Jesus is talking about value and what should be important and he relates it in particularly to this merging with the great Pearle Now if you know me some of you have been coming for a while you know I have a pretty active imagination OK when I was a kid I was told I had an overactive imagination by my teachers I just think everybody else's imagination is a little broke OK I think mine is exactly how it's supposed to be and if yours isn't as good as mine I'm sorry. But so when I read things like this it comes alive in my mind all right so I'm going to tell you the story in how I read it all right and what I see when I read it all right I'm not trying to supersede scripture or anything like that you can check it back against this and see if I'm I'm changing any of the high points or the details I'm just simply going to tell you what I read when I read this all right and so there is. This merchant there's this man who buys and sells pearls for a living that is his job he he collects pearls he sells them he trades them he knows their value he knows their worth and his for his lifetime he has been doing this for a living right this man that's what he does to bring food home for his family he's done OK for himself right he just deals in one thing not multiple things he's a pearl merchant he's not a general merchant all right and so he's done pretty well for himself and he's going in one day on his way home from work a fisherman stops him and he says I have something that you need to see and this merchant is like I've heard it before you know everybody's got something I need to see right everybody every day somebody has got something I need to see in this guy's like no you're going to want to see this one is like fine I'm late for dinner but I'll stop and we'll look at your pearl all right and this fisherman opens up this container that he has and all of a sudden the world stops you know what that's like when all of a sudden everything goes into slow mo right in your life in the world just kind of stops turning for just a second and he saw the pearl that he hoped existed his entire life and all of a sudden nothing else mattered and he's like I need you to give me a few days to turn you know to trade some things around and I will be back and I will buy that Pearl don't sell it to anybody else and he goes home and tells his wife baby packed everything up we're having a garage sale and they start to sell everything. Everything he sells his other pearls he sells their clothes he even sells their house because nothing else matters except this Pearl and his wife is heated because there is no Perl worth everything right and his friends are like dude how are you going to keep making money if you sell all of your stock to buy one pearl that you have no

intention of ever selling right this is a bad business decision don't do it and he says I don't care because I found the one thing that matters more than anything else to me and he sells everything he has he gets rid of everything he all loads stocks in the on loans is he unloads his future. For this pro. And he goes back to that fisherman and he says I've sold everything. I'm ready to take that program now and this is what the Kingdom of Heaven. Is supposed to look like. This is how Jesus says we should chase after God. This is how we are to approach the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords that when we encounter who he is that when we see him that when we hear him that when we know Him Nothing else is as important. As Jesus nothing else is as valuable. As our God. The kingdom of heaven. Is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls and when he found one of great value. He sold everything he had to get temporal that's how we're see. That's what our relationship with Jesus should look like what defines your voice. When people hear you talk when they think of who you are. What defines you when people think about what drives you. What do they come up with it's really easy to answer this question about ourself right every single one of us who's followed us for any amount of time if we're like what defines your voice we like all it's Jesus for sure right because that's what we want to define our voice if we've been served serving Jesus Honestly if you're not yet. You probably wouldn't answer that way but most people have been serving Jesus this is what we really want but a lot of times it's not where we really are so it's not about what other people think I'm not trying to tell you that that's your measuring stick for everything I'm just trying to tell you that can be one of the things that helps us know what's really important to us when your friends think about what's really important to you based on what you talk about all the time what would they say. And I'm not trying to say if it's not Jesus the thing itself is bad I'm just trying to say. Should it be as important as it is I just got back from a missions trip where I saw people who had nothing. Live their lives with joy and talk about almost nothing but Jesus. And I came home and I spent like one hour on Facebook. And I saw a bunch of Christians who have more than we could possibly have talked about nothing but politics. And there is a really stark difference now before some of you get mad and walk out of here I'm not telling you that politics don't matter. I am not trying to say to you that you shouldn't be involved in the political process Christians absolutely should be. But what defines your voice I'll tell you one of the things that I'm guilty of is sometimes I talk much more passionately about football than I do about Jesus. I love football I think it's exciting some of you think it's the most boring thing in the world including my wife I love it I love the game I love the chess match of it all I love I love playing it I love watching it I like I don't just like watching the game I like all the little move and countermove in the offseason this is actually one of my favorite times of the N.F.L. Year right now as teams are like making all these moves you know to try and fill in gaps in their rosters and trying to work miracles in their minds with the with the salary cap is or trying to retain players and build build young tell I think it's exciting. And some of you are like I haven't heard a word you said after football and that's OK What defines your voice. I don't think there's anything wrong with loving football. I think there's something wrong. When I'm more passionate about football than I am about Jesus. I don't think there's anything wrong with politics I mean I think there's a lot wrong with politics I don't think there's anything wrong with you being involved in politics. But I think if you're more passionate about politics than you are about Jesus then things are just out of balance and it's time to change. Fill in the gap for whatever it is for you some of you cat lovers you weird people. I don't know fishing hunting around here. Some people I think are more passionate about their fitness and they are about Jesus it's nothing wrong with being fit it's more important than Jesus I know you would never say that. But what do you talk about more than anything else what defines your voice I think that's an important question. The reason that we chase Jesus like this let me just turn this around for a minute let's talk about Jesus. Jesus I believe according to what the Bible teaches right and this church believes not everybody in here will believe the exact same things but but I believe the Bible teaches that Jesus isn't just the Son of God He is God. Right the Father the Son the Holy Spirit he is he is God part of the Trinity if you think about the Trinity too long it's going to make you go cross-eyed but it is what it is. OK I believe that Jesus Christ is God that He is eternal and eternal doesn't just mean never ending which is how most of us think of it eternal also means never

beginning trying to wrap your wrap your mind around that too without growing cross-eyed OK I mean Jesus Christ the King of Kings in the Lord of Lords is an eternal God The Bible talks very clearly that creation happened through the Son OK if you read through John chapter four you read through a bunch of different places you will see that creation happened through son. Jesus Christ speaks and the world as we know it comes into existence and light is born and the sun moon and stars are created and eventually human beings. Are created. And then they fall and the whole story of the Bible is a story of God trying to being bring people back into relationship with him and in Matthew Mark Luke or John wherever you decide to start Matthew or Luke and particularly. We see the Almighty God step out of eternity and enter in to earth that He created that's a bad business decision. Most people would say all you have everything eternal all this stuff and you're going to just give that up for what. Bunch of people who don't really like you all that much anyway it's bad call and the Almighty God was born as a baby. Dependent on human beings for life or thought about that I think about that kind of stuff all the time. Jesus Christ had to have his diapers changed and he had to be fed and had to be taken care of because God became man he was just a helpless baby it's a bad shape bad trade. Then he goes through his life and he teaches. Mostly people hate him for it. A few people like. Maybe five hundred or so and it's whittled down to twelve by the end we're probably down to about seven at the cross until after he rises again people that didn't betray him when he had legions of angels sing his praise and have and. Most people would say. That's a bad trait then they betrayed him and they beat him with the whip made from leather of the animals that he created he carried a cross made from wood that he created to a hill called Dog offa that he created. They drove nails through his hands and its feet. With metal pulled from the ground that he had created. And they lift him up after they've rammed a crown of thorns on his head. Made from plants that he created and eventually they ran a spear through a side to make sure he was dead. Made of wood and metal he created. And most people would say. Was a really bad trait that God would allow that to happen. So a really bad deal he rose he conquered sin and. It's not really where I want to focus today it's amazing it's part of the story and you can't just skip over it because he did Jesus did not stay dead. Jesus rose from the dead and conquered the sin and grave why did he ought to do all that because first he allowed himself to be killed. By Bill says no one can take his life he had to lay it down. And most people would say that's a bad trade but you know what. You are is Perl and you are worth it it's bad deal all the way around it's bad trade I think most people would say I wasn't worth it. But Jesus didn't think that for a second. He gave up eternity and came to this earth as a dependent baby. He grew he lived he top and ultimately he laid down His life on that cross because you were the pearl he could not do without and it was time. To restore mankind to himself. And it required a sacrifice that only he could give. But because you were worth it. He laid down his life and then we're going to be like. I really love you but it's racing season. So I'll get back on fire with you after we're done how Jesus. Can really pay attention to you right now because my kids demand all my time Jesus how. Matt. I know your word talks about different things. But I'm really in politics right now and so when this is kind of boiled over you know when we're past that then I'll really pay attention to what your word says again got a football season obviously it's not my fault football games are on Sunday fill in the blank for you kind of hunting season it's only eleven months of the year what am I supposed to do I mean. I only have so many months how these things are bad. Not one thing that I mentioned is a bad thing another itself but when we get out of line. And things become more important than Jesus and other things start to define our voice other than Jesus first we are out of line with where we need to be and church I'd love to just sit here and be like it's no big deal but it is a big deal it was a big enough deal for Jesus to come and die for you some people in this place things are going great you've been serving Jesus with everything you've got in you. And that's awesome. Some people in here as we've been talking about this you've got a little angry because maybe I talked about one of the things that you really care about right now. I'd love to apologize but I'm not really sorry if it's more important than Jesus it's too important. There's only one option for that. Repent and start anew today it doesn't have to continue you don't even have to start up you said to put it in it's right priority. What defines your voice if it's something other than Jesus it's time

to change this is hard to do day in and day out. It's incredibly difficult to do day in and day out because you're like me and you're distractable. You're like me and sometimes you have a short memory you're going to be like wow I really had a great time with God today and ten minutes later you know flat tire on your way home in the rain now or frustrated we just forgot everything God spoke to us for human I'm not trying to say you're broken. Outside of we're all broken without a Jesus what I'm trying to say is. Wrong priorities just are what they are. And if something is defined in your voice other than Jesus it's time to make a change and I can't make that change for you. You and Jesus have to work that out so I'm going to ask a couple of questions and we're going first of all if you're in this place and you never chosen Jesus before. But you're ready today is your day. The Bible says that shoes in Jesus is really simple we acknowledge that we're a sinner we believe Jesus is who he says he is we confess our sins to him that's it. We have become saved the Bible calls us to live for him and that's more difficult but choosing him is really really easy and if you have never done that before you want to give you the opportunity to do that this morning if you're in this place and you have to just be honest and say you know what something other than Jesus is defining my voice for the people I care most about. I'm not going to call you up here this morning and I'm not going to ask you to lift your hand if you want to come up here for a something out I think that's awesome if you want to do that at your seat that's great. If you need to go talk to somebody and ask for forgiveness go get it done. I'm going to pray. That you don't let anything but Jesus define your voice like I said all you need to do some business I'm not going to call you up here because I don't want to just be one of those kind of endings but some of you need to come up you're. Not going to make you stand up to some of you might need to turn around in your seat and kneel and just do some business with Jesus repent. That our priority has not been him that has been something else and then make a change I want to reiterate nothing I mentioned as an example today is wrong in and of itself but it's wrong when it's taking over. Has more important than Jesus let's do some business with God I'm asking about your head and close your eyes. If you're in here and you've never chosen Jesus I'm going to give you a chance I'm not going to call you up here in front of everybody I just want to pray with you so if you're in here and you have never chosen Jesus before I want you to raise a hand and I just want to pray with you is there anybody in here you've never chosen Jesus but this morning you're ready this morning you'd say I'm ready to choose him I'm not going to wait long here is there anybody in here you've never chosen Jesus and this morning you're ready to do that. All right. Then that leaves us two types of people you can go and look at me there are the people in here who are ready to choose Jesus yet and if that's you I want to let you know that we're praying for you as a church family I want to let you know that we are we are pursuing Jesus and we want you to as well is the best decision you can ever make but if you're not ready yet we don't like to motivate out of guilt here. Or fear because if we can guilt you into something or cause you to be fearful enough to choose something somebody else is going to be able to talk you right back out of it. It's only Jesus and His Spirit that will draw you to him in a lasting way. So if you're not ready to choose Jesus yet then what I'm about to say doesn't really matter to you yet because until you make Jesus King in your life. He will never be your first priority. But there are those of you in here. You've chosen Jesus and you said I will follow him and I was reading through my devotion. Right before I left on this missions trip. And I was challenged with this thought that we as Christians and this was particularly talking about American Christians are right we as Christians are quick to accept Jesus. As Savior. But we're slow to serve Him as Lord and that really rang in my head has been rattling around in there for about a I don't know three weeks now I want to encourage you in this place some of you you've chosen Jesus as Savior. But you have yet to follow him as your Lord. Some of you have done that in the past but for whatever reason something else right now in your life is just. Taken over the driver see it's not that you don't love Jesus anymore it's not that you'd go to hell today if he came back. It's just that your priorities are out of whack and it's time to been the to him. And serve him. I'm going to pray for everyone in here today and if you are one of those people I want to encourage you not to just take it lightly and leave when I say amen. I want to encourage you to spend some time with Jesus. Repent of that action. Make a change today possible so important Jesus your good

07-01-18

and I thank you that you chased after me with abandon I thank you God that you thought I was worth everything that you went through. And I thank you that you thought that for every one God that humanity was worth the cross and you chased us. Like that merchant seeking that Pearl. And now God You ask us to seek you with that same passion that same desire God Sometimes we just get distracted sometimes I get distracted and I pray God that you forgive me. I pray Jesus that you stir in my heart. And you stir in the hearts of those who are here. And if we're just out of balance this morning God I pray. You help us to get back where we need to be your good God. Probably keep people safe during this holiday season. Go with those who are traveling. Help us to make you know. You're never afraid and.