

Machine generated transcript - So we're going to we're going to continue this morning we're backing James we went through just the first couple of verses last week of James and we talked about kind of the theme in who James was and who he wrote to and all those kind of things that help us correctly interpret something when we're reading it in the Bible and so I want to encourage if you missed it go back and watch and you can you can pod cast those things you can watch him on video a lot of that is through our website or you can any one of the podcast apps out there you can just search G R E O N G and you'll find us on there and and you can stream our podcast and and that's that's a good thing but I want to encourage you to listen back on that a lot of that's going to come back into play this week I want to go over a couple things again James was the brother of Jesus OK And so he's the one who's writing this letter and who he's writing it to makes a big difference especially in a couple of these verses here is we get going James writes this letter to this dispersed church all right there was a massive wave of persecution that came upon the Christians in Jerusalem and they spread all over Europe OK Europe and Asia their lives were on the line and these these Christian people just spread out and and they started to have started to find churches find other people people started coming to Jesus all of this stuff started to happen all right but one of the things that happened was they didn't have teachers right away all right and so they were trying to figure out theology and that's why Paul writes to a lot of these things and another thing that happened is the Christian faith was super new when this happened all right it was a very new things were there were a lot of brand new believers in Jesus that weren't mature believers yet and so James writes this letter out to these these Christians who have been have scattered all over. All all over Europe and Asia about what mature Christianity looks like what mature faith Lou. Slike all right and that's that's really important to get that as we look at that OK so we're going to start in inverse to again we went through this a little bit last week. But I want to I want to hit this again right now OK So James Chapter one Verse two all right if you're not familiar with your bible James in the New Testament All right it's toward the back of the New Testament you can kind of flip back there and look for for James I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation If you're looking on you know your phone if you've got log OS or you version and you can pick a translation and you want to see the same ones that I'm going to the same words I'm going to read the L.T. As they want to read if you've got your own favorite That's absolutely OK I just want you to know that all right so James Chapter one starting in verse two says Dear brothers and sisters when troubles of any kind come your way consider an opportunity for great joy for you know that when your faith is tested you're in durance has a chance to grow so let it grow for when your insurance is fully developed you will be perfect and complete needing nothing all right and that's where we stopped last week all right and right there again for most of us that is a major challenge consider it a joy when trials come. Right it doesn't say be excited and do jumping jacks because. Trials came it says considerate joy I find joy in the middle of your trial. Because it's a chance to grow we've talked about this a little bit last couple weeks so many of us pray that God would give us by miracle what he wants us to grow in through discipline right we just pray that God would miraculously help us to break an addiction we pray that God would miraculously help us to be more patient we pray that God would miraculously do all of these things in our lives and really what God is saying is you've been given lots of opportunities to grow in this and you just get frustrated in the middle of a time trial instead of having a chance to apply it and actually grow. All right and we talk about this so one of the ways to do it how do we begin to find this is to know right now we're right there to know that God is going to use this opportunity to give you a chance to grow and then we're going to get to verse five and this is important because out of context this verse just sounds crazy right and not crazy but it just doesn't make as much sense if you need wisdom ask our generous God and He will give it to you he will not rebuke you for asking so what is the context of asking God for wisdom when we're in trials right. When we're in the middle of a trial we're trying to grow through it. We're supposed to ask God for wisdom and I'm going to ask you to be really honest I'm going to ask you think about the last major trial you went through in life I'm going to ask you what you ask God for and that trial for the trial to be over that's honest what else. He'll make quickly. What else would somebody is cheating back

there I'm just joking I hope that is what you really ask for what else patience strength that's real common understanding right and God said This right here in the middle of the trial to grow through it what we should be asking for isn't all that other stuff isn't bad to ask for. But what we really need in the middle of a trial to find joy and to grow through it according to the Bible not my opinion it's wisdom wisdom right if you need wisdom ask a generous God and He will give it to you he will not rebuke you for asking the people who James wrote to have problems write they were in the middle of persecution lots of them were struggling with those kind of things they also had difficulty praying we're going to get to these verses later but if you look at James Chapter four one through through one through three or James Chapter five thirteen through eighteen they were praying they were just asking for the wrong things. OK So when we're going through these difficulties what should we pray about and James says Ask God for wisdom. Ask God to give you wisdom as you're going through a trial somebody said that knowledge is the ability to take something apart and wisdom is the ability to put it back together right many of us know people who are really knowledgeable right they're really intellectual They know a lot of things. But right there they lack a little and maybe the common sense department you know like maybe you bump into somebody who knows everything but you saw them and they were wearing like four shirts that day you know because they just forgot they'd already put a couple of them on you know some of some of you know you know exactly who I'm like some of you are like you some of you already hate your spouse I don't I don't encourage that but yet some people have a ton of knowledge but very little wisdom wisdom is the right practice of knowledge right it's one thing to know it's another thing to put that into practice wisdom is the right use of the knowledge we have so we need to ask for wisdom when we're going through strain or through trials and here's the deal why don't we ask for strength or deliverance or Grace or all those things I mean those things are bad that's where but why why should we ask for wisdom is because if we don't have wisdom we're going to waste these opportunities and it's just going to be a trial that stinks and we're not going to grow on the other side of it many of us have had those trials right we've had a trial and rather than growing through it we're either the same on the other side or worse. Right. Because we got focused on all the wrong things we had learned lessons we got better we got angry and we took it out on somebody else and we just waste an opportunity to actually grow listen this takes maturity nobody does this on accident nobody is just wired in the middle of a trial to say how can I grow through this. Why we learn as young children. In the middle of trials to throw fits that's what that's what's wired in us right we go through something we don't like and we scream and we yell and we especially if you're you know in public your children probably do that right. But what happens either nothing happens or you're rewarded for throwing a fit just to get you to shut up and you learn OK throwing a fit is what I should do. Right or you're disciplined. And you learn have maybe throwing a fit isn't the right way to deal with this and your parents have to start teaching you better ways to handle things that you don't like right that's maturity the fit is hard wired into us. It takes maturity to learn how to deal with disappointment or struggle or trial in a positive way. And that's why James says ask for wisdom. Many of us are given strength in the midst of a trial because we ask for it and all that strength does is allow us to make stupid district decisions with more strength and it's actually worse off for us. Than if we don't have. Asked for wisdom ask for wisdom verse six. Says but when you ask him be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver for a person with divided loyalties as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord their loyalty is divided between God and the world and they are unstable in everything they do most of us have heard those verses completely out of context about everything we ask for. Right like if you ask God with divided loyalty you're like you're like a wind tossed that's just what we hear but what is he talking about here. When we ask for wisdom and trials. Right and I'm not saying that you should have divided loyalty when you asked God for other things that's not the point I'm trying to make. The point I'm trying to make is what he's talking about here is in the middle of a trial in the middle of a struggle when you're asking God for wisdom be sure that your faith is in God alone we talked about this last week about how Peter gets out of the boat right in the middle of a storm and people give him junk all the time because he's he sank right and I

don't know I relate a lot to Peter a lot of times I've done things before I've thought about him I've said stupid things because my mouth has always worked faster than my brain you know like I mean those those things happen to me on a regular basis so I feel like I can relate to Peter in a lot of ways right and so Jesus comes walking out on the on of the stormy water in there in the middle of a sea they think they're going to drown and they think Jesus is a ghost at first reading they're all terrified and then they hear Jesus is voice and they see him out there in the middle of the storm Yes Peter said but Peter is the only one who got out of that boat. He's the only one that said I want to come to you Jesus and he does he walks on water toward Jesus that would be awesome I used to pray all the time to be able to walk on water and I'd like look at heaven like Jesus is up there so if I keep my eyes I never once was able to do it. What an amazing thing though to be able to walk on water and he's the only one. That had that opportunity but we know the story if you've been serving Jesus for any amount of time you've heard that story if you're branded your faith maybe you don't know what happened. Jesus orange Peter is walking on water toward Jesus and all of a sudden he's like oh yeah there's a storm. And he starts looking at the water surging and he starts seeing the wind here hearing the wind and hearing it how and he takes his eyes off Jesus and what happens he sinks. Right and thank God Jesus is there he reaches out to grab his hand and says he lifts some up now again I said this last week and I will say it again this is not in the Bible I cannot say this definitively but it is my firm belief that at that moment Peter's faith was back in Jesus and I don't believe that Jesus carried Peter back to the boat I believe Jesus Peter walked back to the boat because his faith was back where it needed to be. All right again I can't say that definitively Please don't be like this is Jason theology it's not it's my opinion. OK but I believe he was able to do that in the middle of the storm when our focus is in the right place we will find answers we are to ask in faith we don't have to be afraid of the answer when we're asking God for what he tells us to ask for. Right now what I would say is in the middle of a trial or a storm if you're asking God for something other than wisdom you might not know what he's going to do. But if you're in the middle of a trial and you're asking for wisdom you can have faith that he will give it abundantly because God said he would. You don't have to wonder what his answer is going to be he already said he'll give it and given the abundance if we pray in faith and will listen for wisdom. It's not always easy it's certainly is not easy in the middle of a trust struggle to ask God for what he wants us to ask for. But it's right this doesn't mean water magically get what we want. But we will have wisdom James compares doubting here doubting believers to the ways of the sea right one minute. We're up one minute we're down. Like a barber and on windy day up and down up and down and up and down and up and down not because the fish is pulling it. But because it's just right in the way and I would say I think if most of us in this place were flat honest if we were just completely honest we would say too much of our faith journey has looked like that. When things were good we ride the wave. And when things are bad we ride the wave down. When things are good ride the wave up. When things are bad we ride the wave down. And what James is saying here is our faith doesn't have to look like that we can have confidence in who God is in the middle of a storm. We can find answers to our questions in the middle of the storm and we ask God for wisdom and faith. Mature faith is an up and down faith. It's a faith that finds joy no matter the situation that's happening I want to be the first to tell you that's hard. It's different we're not talking about simple faith today that's not the theme of James how to have simple faith the theme of James is how to have mature faith. That requires growth that requires changes in our thinking a lot of times. Maturity by definition is not dependent on circumstances. You're not mature because mature things are happening you're mature because you are making mature decisions no matter what's happening mature faith is the same way regardless of the circumstance our faith in who Jesus is remains unchanged. Our trust in who Jesus is remains unchanged and can I say the most difficult part of all this isn't those it's that our joy because of who Jesus is. Remains unchanged that's not simple but that's mature. And that's the whole point. Of James then he goes into this weird section OK verse nine. Believers who are poor have something to boast about for God is honored them and those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them they will fade away like a little flower in the field the hot sun rises in the grass withers the little flower droops and falls and its

beauty fades away in the same way the rich will fade away with all their achievements. That is a strange thing in the middle of a talk about maturity and trials and Taishan is not like we're going from trials and temptations and joy to poor people are blessed by God and rich people are awful right I mean that's if you just like very. Very light least skim over this and you take it completely out of context is that not exactly what that sounds like I give your poor that's God's blessing. And if you're rich God's upset with you and it's going to fade away like like a flower dying. That's fine we just move on you know I don't want to either is God's blessing poorness you know you'll find that anywhere else in the Bible. You talk about how the poor have easier a lot of times because all they have to trust in is got well rich people skin struggle because we put our faith in money instead of in God. I can tell you if you live in America even if you're in the lower echelon of people that have money in America you basically won the worldwide lottery. Because compared to most of the world even the poorest of are poor or rich I'm not saying that's easy for those of you who are struggling financially Don't mistake what I'm saying I'm just saying if we don't have money we can find places that give us food. And water and shelter and a lot of places in the world if you don't have money for food or water or shelter you just die not trying to be crude or crass. It's just how it is come with us on a four missions trip some time and see just how life is and most of the places of the world so in the middle of this talk on trials and joy and maturity we get these verses from James So what are they saying believers who are poor something to boast about Forgot to honor them I remember that he's writing this to a group of Christians who've been scattered persecuted killed hunted. Imprisoned they've lost their businesses many of them many of them have lost everything they had to run as fast as they could or they were going to die. And so what they're doing now is they're looking around. And they're seeing themselves as poor and they're wearing that title. Because they were economically low Hughes can't you says because they were economically low they were low in the eyes of the world and no doubt in most instances low in their own eyes their poverty produced a lowliness and mind and James says I don't want your terrible circumstances to make you think of yourself as inferior right I don't want your terrible circumstances I want your check book to define how you see yourself so we were sitting about this morning to keep this from happening he actually uses a word it's not in the N.L.C. But you'll find it in most of the other translations he actually calls them. Brothers so you don't have a lot of money. Or brothers in the faith. Our identity is not to be found in our checkbook and identity is to be found in God's blessing his blessing. Being part of his family. All right so don't let God or don't let your checkbook decide and then he goes on and he talks about the rich here right. Some of them for whatever reason were able to still have money maybe they were able to take it with a maybe they found a new business maybe some of them were just already there there were places not the whole world was persecuting Christians all the time there were places of safety some of them may have gone there they still had money and you can see what happens then they start to classify themselves as rich and see themselves as better than they are just like humans do almost every time we're surrounded with money right we put our trust in our checkbook instead of In God we start to think of ourselves as better than those who don't rightly even have shows about it in songs about the haves and the have nots and the have nots and all of these kind of things and we allow our checkbook to define who has value and who does it whether we don't have money or whether we do have money and all James is saying here isn't he's not saying God can't stand you can you have money he's saying all of that is going to fade away none of it's going to matter. Your bottom line when you die doesn't guarantee you a better place in heaven you don't get to write a check and be like I'm going to stay in the penthouse now because I had money it's all going to fade away and even aside from heaven many of you know what it's like out there to have major economic changes that were no fault of your own and they just happened because something else happened right I think about the recession a few years ago and how crazy that was as prices just fell on things that had value before and rose on everything else many of you have suddenly lost a job. Right or the business folded or whatever. If our trust is in our money before God. We need to understand. That the hot sun rises in the grass withers. And its beauty will fade away in the same way. The rich will fade away with all their achievements it's not about your soul it's not

about those things it's about what our trust is in. And mature faith doesn't allow external circumstances to decide who we are mature faith is about understanding that it is not our checkbook that defines us but God it is not somebody else's checkbook that defines them but God and if we're judging people based on what they have. We are in the wrong plain and simple if our trust is in our stuff instead of in God. Our trust is in the wrong stuff and we're in the wrong. That's what mature baby looks like how can I say that that has a new trials and temptations How can I say that this is still about maturity because Read verse twelve if you stop writing eleven it doesn't make a lot of sense but just read the next worse worse. Apparently I just turned into a German right there all right. So all right. Verse twelve one of my favorite things about James is if you look at it James quotes his brother so often which must have been we're going to talk about this last week right but James quotes his brother James is the son of Mary in Joseph Jesus parents right James the author of this letter is Jesus's half brother. Or adopted brother or whatever word you want to use right there. That's that's who James is can you imagine writing words of wisdom quoting your sibling real easy especially for younger siblings right you love quoting the older one as the wealth of knowledge. Right I know that but that's what he's doing James parallels the Sermon on the Mount like crazy particularly the section on the Beatitudes I'd encourage you as we're going through James to read back to that sermon a couple of times and you will see how much of what James says flows right out of Jesus a sermon on the Mount Now I don't believe James was there we actually know that James wasn't following Jesus as the Son of God while he was alive James comes into faith in who Jesus is after Jesus's death and resurrection all right but he's quoting his brother and he gives a beatitude right on the heels of talking about money. Right on the heels of talking about where are our vision should be where our thought should be in the middle of trials God blesses those who patiently endure testing in temptation afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to them so James is saying again we put our faith on things in this earth far too often. But we are blessed when we come through a struggle and we have continued to keep our eyes on Jesus and in the future there is going to be a huge blessing and all those things and I would tell you sometimes that blessing is here on Earth but for sure there will be blessings when we see him because. We patiently endure testing intimidation it is such an important thing to have the right. Knowledge of us we still to this day they did in James's time and we still to this day have a tendency to equate our prosperity with God's blessing on our life. If things are going well and money is coming in somehow we think that means we're right in the middle of God's will but when things are going bad and there isn't enough money to pay the bills we feel like all we've messed up somehow and now we're not in the will of God and what James is saying is none of that stuff is what is supposed to decide whether or not you know you are in the will of God. We keep our eyes on Jesus and we understand that he is God and He will be with us now you know I want to say. God is not against people who are rich right Abraham was rich job was rich David was rich OK by any measure in any society there are rich people in the Bible who are followers of God It's not about being poor or being rich it's about knowing what is defining us. And allowing God to be the one that defines us it is such an important thing so we're going to read a few more verses and then we're going to be done for the day all right. Verse thirteen. And remember when you are being tempted do not say God is tempting me God is never tempted to do wrong and he never temps anyone else Tim Taishan comes from our own desires which entice us and drag us away these desires give birth to sinful actions and when sin is allowed to grow it gives birth to death so don't be misled my dear brothers and sisters whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from our God our Father who created all the lights in the heavens he never changes or cast a shifting shadow he chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word and we out of all creation became his prized possession listen people often times allow their difficulties to to give them a sense of entitlement right we're like oh man. Things are hard that means I can do things I normally wouldn't do because things are hard right sometimes it goes like this God is obviously sent this trial the trial itself caused me to Tempted therefore God tempted me so it must be OK right we are masters at convincing ourselves that stuff is and that is not true is true if we are honest in this place I don't care if you're for or if you're one hundred four we have all been

guilty of this convincing ourselves that something is OK when we know it's not we know it's not but we play the justification James and James is saying very simple here do not say when you're tempted that the temptation is from God James makes a very distinct difference between God sending a trial and God sending it to him Taishan God may send a trial he will not sin Temptation is a matter of fact many of us who are Christians like to blame all of our temptations on Satan. Right home and being tempted so obviously that Satan in one of James response to that. Your sin your temptation comes from your own sinful heart you what's in you is responsible for the temptation that you are struggling with right now. Right now I am not saying that Satan does not tempt that Satan will never come at you and trying to get you to do something wrong but that only works because there is already a sinful nature inside of you if you were perfect and Satan came same game it was like ah you're not perfect you'd be like yes I am look but you're not we're all born with a sinful nature that's been passed down to us from Adam and Eve in temptation does not come from God We do not get to blame God for being tempted we're expressed Lee told not to that God will never author Tim Taishan. We're told to be wise and realize that God can't tempt anyone to sin because God has no capacity for sin He is perfect. We however have capacity for said some of you may have already this morning it was last night it was a month ago we all have the capacity and in us and instead of blaming God What we need to do is ask for forgiveness from God and then ask for wisdom in the trial were given to images here and neither one of them is is really all that flattering if God cannot tempt us how is it that we sin James talks about verse fourteen each one is tempted and he is drawn away by his own desires and entice. Responsible for that this this first image this this word drawn away or enticed is literally Lou word and it's a fishing metaphor for those of you who like fishing stuff. Were literally the fish in this story. OK And what he's saying is we're going about our business and then something shiny or something that smells good goes by and we immediately can't think of anything else except for putting our mouth on that thing and then we're pulled against our will in a boat right so you are the fish in this story there really known for their intelligence right fish are known we know walleye are the smartest animals in the world they've written books about it. That's not true at all they're actually pretty stupid right it's a dumb animal says how it is they taste great but they're dumb now I don't think God is like your dumb look at us comparing you to a fish and saying that when we are enticed or lured we change our gaze so fast that all we can think about is that sinful thing and we allow it to lure us away from the good things. Don't be like the fish. Asked for wisdom focus on God The second image that he's given kind of here is of childbirth. And he talks about this now I'm not saying childbirth isn't a gift from God It is but I don't think anyone would say it's fun and he says that sin in this way right he talks about temptation this way and he says the suggestion is that like our lust entices us and seduces us in man will surrender his will to lust and lust then gives birth to sin. The temptation isn't the sin you get that it's not sinful to be tempted the Bible even says Jesus was tempted OK the temptation isn't the sin giving into the temptation is where the problem arises it is not a sin to feel temptation. It is a sin to be lured by that and allowing that then to come alive inside of us maturity has a right understanding of how this. Stuff all works about again the path that James has let us down because fish right. This would be a sorrowful path if you did in this other way but there is something that breaks the power of sin and delivers us from spiritual death the power of God working in the heart and mind. Will break that power and you can see that in verse eighteen. He chose to give us birth by giving us his true word and we out of all creation became his prize possession I talked about this during worship this morning many times we pick up our own label I fail at this fail at that. Not good enough here I wish I was more like that and that person seems to have it all figured out why can't i be like them I don't have enough money or man I have now and now the passages in the sand I have money about I've been depending on my money so now I'm all messed up all over again. I care too much about this or not enough about that. And we make this list that we run through of all of these things in our head and we wear all these labels I'm a failure I'm not good enough it's my fault if it wasn't for me things would be better and what we forget in the middle of all that is that we are the child of God. According to James we're not just a child. Or a child who's the prized possession. Of our Creator. And for some of you in this place today

you can relate to a lot of this stuff I can't man I'm thirty eight years old some people think that I look much older some people think I was complimented earlier today a lady didn't think I was thirty eight not today it was earlier this week she actually told me I had a body type that meant I was going to live forever whatever that means. I thought it was funny I'm not going to live forever I'm thirty eight I made a lot of mistakes in my day I'm not a pastor because I'm perfect. It's a matter of fact I'm far far from it. I'm not a pastor because I've never experienced anything hard if you've heard my story you know it's not true. Not a pastor because only all other bad things happened to me and I didn't make my own dumb decisions because if you've heard my story you know that's not true oh pastor simply because God asked me to be one and he called me to be one and here I am. But I'm here to tell you that it is easy to relate to the things that James has talked about here too many times I have been snared by the desires of temptation I have been the fish that chased the lure too many times I've judged people or judge myself by what was in my check book too many times I have been in the middle of a trial and I have ridden up and down in my faith as things got easier or harder and I did not find joy in the middle of trial I only was able to find any sort of semblance of it again afterwards. Many times in my faith I have allowed circumstances to decide my value for me. Instead of being mature in my faith and allowing God to do that no matter the circumstances instead of reading the scripture and seeing what God would say of me I've allowed X. Turtle voices and the wrong internal voice to decide. What was happening in my heart and to decide my value snot OK. It's not what maturity looks like I mean I'm not saying that that stuff is going to send you straight to hell I think most of us don't want to someday look at our children as we were you know us on the edge at the end of our life and say you know what I really enjoyed being an immature person I hope you learned a lot from it and follow in my footsteps right most of us want to pass on some good. Most of us want to be good right now not some other day that means maturity requires effort. Choir's discipline requires making good decisions like I said we can't just pray that God is going to make us mature and expected to happen it would be awesome. But God tells us how it's going to happen we find wisdom in the middle of trials and we only pick up the right labels and we stay joyful through the middle of them and allow God to grow in us that's how we become mature I want to encourage you in this place to allow Jesus to do what he needs to do last week I handed out some of these lists. I don't know. If I've ever handed something out in church that I heard more about during the week and most of you hated me for this not literally but you did not like this list because it's difficult. Right it's easy when we try and just identify our sins as a list of do's and don'ts but when we start talking about heart issues it becomes a lot more difficult if you didn't grab one I'd encourage you to come get one. Just to pray through it just to loud God to speak I'm just going to set him right there maybe I'll set him over here too. Then people will know that you're trying to just grab the list right because they're in more than one spot. I don't turn to grab one just pray through it there's a lot of mature things out there that list was super convicting to me when I read through it. In the best way just in a way to help me redefine again. Who I Am I'm not a list of failures. I'm not quite as good as I think I am and I'm good in that Jesus has chosen me but I'm not flawless. I'm not without sin and it's good sometimes to evaluate those things as long as we remember. That we are chosen by God. We are not just a list of failures most of us think about it like that right like we think about when we stand before Jesus some day you know the Bible says we're going to stand boldly in front of Him The Bible says that we'll be able to boldly approach is strong and stand in his presence but most of us think about the time when we stand in front of Jesus for the first time as the fact that Jesus is going to be up there with his list well you messed up here here here here here and here and this is why you're a failure but because of my blood I'm going to let you in even though you're terrible a life right you might not think about it just like that but most of us are really nervous to stand in front of God. Instead of what Scripture says that we can boldly stand before His throne knowing that we are His children in forgiveness it's not because we're awesome it's because he did everything for that to happen already what is maturity look like in your life I'm going to pray if you're in here and you know I did this last week and I want to say this again if you're in here and you never chosen Jesus it is the most important this none of this makes sense without the cross you can't start trying to be a

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mature follower of Jesus without Jesus in you first. Right if you've never chosen Jesus you never received his forgiveness he came to this earth two thousand years ago he lived he tot he died and then he rose again not just for fun but because the blood of a perfect lamb was required for you to be forget it and if you've never chosen chosen him before I want to encourage you in this place come and talk to me afterwards I'd love to pray with you talk to the person who brought you and ask them questions they would love to do that if they're too afraid come and talk to me together. I don't leave this place without using Jesus but here's the second thing I know it's the batterer battle of the border today and some of you care way too much about it. I love football too I'm not trying to make it sound like I don't some of you couldn't care less and you have no idea what the battle of the border means regardless I would encourage you not to allow kickoff to determine what God can do in your heart it's much else today if you're good. And I pray you can go no big deal. Some of you need to do some business with Jesus this morning Steve encourage you to do it if you were here last week if you didn't read this was not injured you can get one I don't for some of you walking to the from the church is the scariest thing you can do. You'll be fine. We don't bite much Jesus you're good I thank you God for who you are. I thank you that you didn't just come to this earth and leave and say figure it out. You gave us a blueprint of what maturity looks like it's not an easy blueprint God as a matter of fact I don't like it sometimes. Because hard but it's right. I don't want to be a mature follower of you I don't want my faith to be tossed about like an hour in the waves I want to know you and I want to find joy in the middle of it all for those of us in this room God for the for the many people it's so easy to pick up wrong labels to identify ourselves by all the wrong things. I pray God that you help us understand who we are and you we're not awesome because we're awesome. Or sons and daughters of the king worth or the prized creation because of who you are we're sons and daughters of the king that means us and that makes us princes and princesses. And some celebrate. Jesus are good and we trust in you. And man. If you gotta go you can go but I'd encourage you man if you turn on some music I'd encourage you those of yours who need to stay and do some business with. Stay and do some business with.