

Computer Generated Transcript - Good morning. This is. This is from as you said I am from here. I was born into a river can you tell. Those who don't know me I don't I look like a deer or a person who. Lived aboard India river for the first till eighth grade lived in Grand Rapids except for four years as a missionary kid I have relatives in the room. I'm in trouble now that I mention to one of them the peanut gallery would be allowed today but. And I don't lead a ministry called Christ connection which exists to ignite pastors and churches through the power of prayer ministry just a kind of as you are getting going here this morning should do a few kind of were in the world has come and been for the last last while and also I need to for those of you who know my appearance I got a text from my dad last night which is you know where I said you know I said I can get here and he said would you greet the president well there is a whatever that means you're all greeted all right here good Consider yourself greeted by my parents. This building and before I even. The service started I had to walk over to the youth area because this church has had such an impact on my life over the years for that middle school early in. Childhood there used to be like a shout right in this area this is a way back. Way before your time. When someone said I was like this tall. I'm not that short but. When I was young there was a building out here and that was where the youth used to meet and. When I was a part of this youth group I felt the call to ministry and so everything that kind of has come out of that since then can be traced back to this time in the what God's done in this city and. I just want to say that as a place of Ongar and you some of you have been my Sunday school teacher son some of you have invested in various. Various ways throughout the years and what I get to do stuff around the country and around the world sometimes you don't get to see the rewards of investing in other people and so on behalf of the quarter of a million people that are part of our social media circle I say thank you on behalf of the twenty different states that I've spoken I say thank you I'm behalf of the fact that I'm now serve on America's national prayer committee which I don't know if you're familiar with the National Day of Prayer at all they're the group that helped found that event that we celebrate as a country part of that ministry and. So thank you. And I and now serve also on the Assemblies of God National is a prayer committee which is a team of about five of us to help raise a prayer across thirteen thousand churches it's the little things you do make a difference so thank you for it for your investment just to kind of again catch you up but I was here till eighth grade went down to the cities. For a for my high school and I was at high school I met my wife Jan who's. Well wife and daughter are home in the cities because I'm always on the road so we I believe in a whole church I believe in the power of the local church and and so when they don't come with me all the time but I feel like I need to short today. There where you go no I can see you right. Those in the back row right you know. We went down to the cities and I went to North Central then while. Your central I started nine years of senior pastor ing around the country and actually part of that while I was in turn came back partially interning here at this church and then it was thirteen years ago I started the ministry of Christ connection kind of out of the challenge of being a senior pastor OK being a pastor this pastor Appreciation Month. It's not always an easy job. They say it's like fifty different jobs that Pastor supposed to be skilled at you know different things that they're responsible for and so God put on our hearts to engage one hundred thousand people to pray for their pastor and see what what God would do us through that. A couple quick things that will lead into. What I want to say this morning and our message this morning is why do we need to mention my the time when my daughter we were married for twenty one years and the first ten years the doctor said you're not going to have kids and we prayed and God said something else. And so love and years ago are our daughter Samantha King him along just as a as an answer to prayer and in a way you know we are color Samantha is a kind of without whole story the Samuel that goes along with that which means I have a middle schooler So yeah you know she's just started mill school and I'm not so sure all this is all going to go down I'm not quite ready but I guess time marches on. Yeah now I'll get to where I was going. To set up on Iraq no that's all it said Just rolls off your tongue set up on your own to. Get Scandinavian name isn't it don't you think. For those who don't know you. My dad is from Sri Lanka which is an island country off the coast of India and if you ever have a chance to go there I recommend you go there in the winter months because it's a tropical island all right

and. If you were to go there and travel the whole country which you could it's only a third the size of Minnesota if you were travel around you would not find many sent to put your honest the reason you would not find many cent of what Iran has is as the story goes my great grandfather or great great grandfather made up the name. He made up the name this isn't a joke and he made up the name because he thought his name before hand was boring All right thank you grandpa no longer have a boring news. But I say that with purpose because as I have traveled around the country and there's something just inside of me that says life was not designed to be boring and as I read this book and see how all the people lived in this book it wasn't designed Christianity for sure it was not designed to be boring but I find as I speak at all sorts of churches too many Christians come in on a Sunday morning they put in their time and if they were honest with themselves they're kind of going through the motions just kind of doing this thing and it wasn't designed to be that way it doesn't have to be that way but I understand why that happens. I was as you can tell raised in the church and. To give you a reason kind of one of the reasons why people of boring Christianity let me tell you why I wear the shirt. That's the other question people ask me why are you wearing the Superman sure all right first of all it's because I'm a nerd All right. As a matter of fact I read my first book I wrote enjoying prayer one of the chapter titles in there is embrace the nerd within all right that's who I am that's who I have always been some of you who know me a long time can attest for that that's just that's just me all right so let me give this to somebody you know. Are you going to go. I was speaking in Florida this summer and. It was a fluke three services in a row and my wife came in between one of the services because I was throwing out books and she's like he really need to stop doing that we're going to go a lawsuit you know because apparently I've embraced the nerd within but not the athlete within are I so what I offer. Is the second reason that I were the Superman shirt is because Pastor station said the rest of you were going to be wearing superhero shirts but I guess you missed the memo there you know no I'm just kidding. Kidding no the real reason is that I believe that people have this idea in their heads in the church that there are super Christians and then there's the rest of us and if you've been around church for a while maybe you've met some of those people but they're the ones that we imagine that they wake up in the morning and float to the bathroom you know all those people you know they're the ones who we imagine somewhere in their house they have a phone booth that has been constructed by angels that they go in every morning and they they pick up the line it's a direct line to heaven you know and they get that knife before they fly off for their day and they get their instructions you know they're the ones that pray those are he's errors if you're ever been in a prayer service when they begin to pray it's just so amazing and they pray something I've heard it's something like this like home before your throne of grace and fall of one face I know that I am but a war so step on me God or watch me no no no no that's not our goal is one of these amazing prayers and you're like Wow Oh I'm not down so I don't get to do the stuff that we read about in the Bible and that's not true at all it's for all of us I love your series this summer where you talked about the people of the Bible and I love what Pastor Jason sand about how we get this idea that they're up in the stained glass and that's who they are and I like that's not the way it was supposed to be so my latest. Book is called not just for super Christians and I was when I first asked Pastor Jason to come and this is just come out the sure and oh and let me give this to my son school teacher here and there you go. Every Christmas I bring out a little thing she crochet for me and put it on the tree and it's a special meaning to me. But. Not just for super Christians is a look at that idea of different people and how we could encounter people in a way that would launch us into adventure with God And again as a nerd I can do things that you can't All right so when I'm writing a book I write things that probably you you wouldn't I think OK if I was wanting to look at people of the Bible how would I do that because if we have this idea that there's you know us shoot for Christians then there's people in the Bible right yes this is this is a different level that there are no not to spoil it for the book of James but one of my favorite verses the whole Bible is James Schefter five or seventeen where says Elijah was a human just like us you prayed earnestly that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain in the land for three and a half years again and he prayed in the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its cross and one of the things we find as we pull people out of the Bible that they're

just like us but they did a few things different that we did and that's how they get on an adventure and so in this book I sensually say OK I would interact with these people and I said How about a time machine. Because he says is how I what if you had a time machine in your house all right now if it's in your house that means it's not a De Lorean but it could be a Tardis No I'm just seeing all my people are all right I see my people all right. This is a time machine this is time machine and then in that time machine you bring out someone every day from the Bible for thirty days and then imagine you could sit down with them. And hook up a microphone and interview them for a podcast you know this is all I think. For thirty days they come out you interview them and they pull out a lesson for you on an adventure with God And so just to have some fun this morning let's crank up the time machine because I can and will pull out two people from the Bible and quickly see if we can all of us start on a new adventure with Jesus so make a plan so why don't we all just say well let's try something new for the next thirty days but now just for the next few minutes the first person that I want to bring out of the Time Machine is a guy by the name of Matthew you know Matthew is one of the twelve disciples and Matthew is like anyone else in that time period he had his struggles he had his challenges he was an ordinary guy and Matthew Chapter nine verse nine it says as he passed on from there you know Jesus passed on from there to give you the context of a miracle it just happened and there was joy Jesus a done this Miracle and leaving that miracle seen as he passed on from there he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collector booth and he said to him Follow me and he rose and followed him that's an amazing verse there in that moment in that instant his life was changed his life was transformed because he heard Jesus speak to him and he began to do something different and in this next few moments your life has the option to change because if you if Jesus is here walking among us and calling to us he's still in the business of doing it and in an instant your life can go in a different direction let me pull out the other person out of our time machine and the other person is no. No no one is going to come and sit over on this and Matthew's over there and I know it is. One of those stories that is great for Sunday school still was one of those stories you've been around church for a while go read Noah's story and Genesis Chapter six and then on words they could is just one of those classic stories it's one of the stories the back in the day was loved by the flannel. You know and I want to remember the flannel graph right there was my flannel ground people here all right now and the flat on the ground is that magical sheet that they used to put up in the Sunday school and on the flannel ground they would they could you know these paper things came along I read all the paper creatures and so no always a great story for that because. No one is told by God to build this ark and she put the ark up in the middle of the blue flannel graph sheets and and then. He was told after he builds the ark that two of every animal is supposed to come in so they come up and the teacher could have fun with the animals coming up and going around and all the different animals go up onto the into the ark and now the flood waters come as God brings judgment on the sins of the world and and then they come out. Of the ark and then to the regime Bowl who the rainbow comes out when you put the rainbow up there and then it was a reminder to know that they're never going to flood the earth again like that out and then he goes gets drunk and we never stop I mean we stop the story right there you know it is more a long grueling but you know no. Is there. And he is this is a great guy that we think you know this is amazing people from both of those people we're going to learn tool quick lessons the first thing we can learn from these two people about. Adventure with Jesus' intervention with Gone is that if you want to go on an adventure with God You need to give God space where he can speak to you that is the first part of the process you need to give God space where he can speak to you think about Matthew if Matthew had not listened to Jesus his life would not have changed and that's why I love talking to people of a prayer prayer is first of all against you before it's Haftar we get to go and be with God we get to enjoy his company we get to if we as we give space to God we just get to be with him and I had a moment when I was thirteen years old that changed my life living in this town was living up on the Hill by force Lake Elementary across the road there and my parents give me a copy of this book called The hour that changes the world and in this book it outlines a simple plan to pray for an hour and you break the hour into five minute segments with each of those five minute segments being a different

type of prayer it's kind of the buffet table of prayer so to speak which by the wayside No one if you're struggling with your prayer life maybe you need to try something else else on the but a prayer there's so many different types of prayer talked about in the Bible try something new it might liven things up again a bit. But I read this as a thirteen year old and then went into my room and for the first time that I remember I myself I prayed for an hour and it changed my life. It changed my life first of all whenever you go into the presence of God It can change your life but what changed my life that day was the thought that was going through my head as a thirteen year old in that room and as I came out of that room and never thought to stuck with me ever since I was old I could have spent so much longer and enjoyed every minute of it the Bible says and Psalm sixteen eleven in his presence is fullness of joy and his right hand are pleasures forevermore Psalms eighty four verse ten says Better is one day in a scorch than a thousand elsewhere that's why I say prayers first of all get to before it's a half to it we get to walk in with him we get to be where he is we get to see who he just who he is in a new facet that can blow our mind in an instant in a moment and we get to be close to the God of his ship on the Worlds and orbit we get to. Hear his voice and let him speak to our heart us ordinary As for you that's for pulling your hair back and you can't as a kid but it was. I had no need to get that off my chest all right. We miss out on adventure with Jesus when we don't let him speak to us because when he speaks to us a moment I love talking to God All I know I love speaking to him but one word from heaven is more valuable than a thousand that I can say when he. Says I love you there's. She have to give him space because you think about no no. No they live different time lengths of time back then you know always five hundred years old or more when this whole story begins for him. And so if any of you think you're done. SAS Now you guys are done with you yeah sure fire any five hundred year olds in the room you know I mean God still has stuff that he wants to speak to us about if we dare to listen he goes out one day and in Genesis sixty nine A says this is the account of no one his family nor was it right just man blameless among the people of his time and he walked faithfully with God which is a new word for that time period is he had this relationship with God He had this conversation with God I'm going because of you not walk with God Adam and Eve walked with God we get to do that don't make it too complicated give God some space in your life and see what God would do and I know that if you give him that space around this room look at this week look like if every one of us even give five extra minutes again this is not about guilt this is about opportunity the invitation of Heaven for him to speak to us what could happen the second part to that we cultivate a relationship with God can speak to us second so we begin to practice radical obedience if you give God space and then you begin to do something with what he says to you you're on an adventure with Jesus just like that but I said begin to practice radical obedience with a very specific thought first of all you've got to begin God will speak to you about something and sometimes because I know this because this happens to me I get this idea. It was for the ministry some thing and it's this is a big thing and then you can just leave it out there and do nothing don't begin because he no always call to do something huge. This was again let me nerd out for you for a second the boat was approximately four hundred fifty by seventy five feet by forty five feet this ain't no small canoe right I mean this is not I am I just imagine my wife is a saint but she. Because she puts up with me but if I could you know I've called you a couple of and said God told me to start this ministry go to old planet to church all these different things this is a phase in power but I imagine the day I come will for a walk with God and say God told us to build a boat and she look at me and say you have trouble with light bulbs body you know just like this is not a good thing you know. But we don't know what skill sets you know I hand you know but alright let's have no work if you would come up and he would speak to us what would he say like tell you what you would say I recall you I am no longer you're looking at me like you don't know a Sri Lankan accent Come on now yeah of course he had a Sri Lankan accent I remember the day I remember the day that me and my son we went to the boots we went down to the fourth and we found ourselves a goal for tree falling to go for three and then we struck it down for me and my sons and then we drag it back to the place sure we were going to be there but you know looking at your face you don't think you have a Sri Lankan accent you all move on but. I say that because at some point he had to chop down the first

tree he had to start somewhere what is God telling you that you've put out there and haven't gone you haven't started when you haven't done the next thing Gotch told you to come here and find relationships and and you're not daring enough to go out there after service and sign a first of all group. Oh my meddling No I'm sorry. What is all right let's let's look at it this way you look at me and see a guy it were a superhero shirt so you would imagine that I would be a guy who. Well I did watch a few superhero movies and if you were to think that it would be correct but I don't always watch your very own movies I remember watching this movie called We Bought a Zoo You know my spoiler alert they buy a zoo OK You know that's it right there in the title it's not that much of a spoiler but this guy and his family by Zissou and at one point in the movie the Matt Damon character who's the dad is sitting down next going to appear sitting next to his son and they're having a conversation about girls. That can happen and he says something to his son he says sometimes in life All you need is twenty seconds in saying courage to make all the difference in the world and following Jesus is often like Matthew sitting in the tax collecting twenty seconds of in the scene courage changed his life he got up and walked around you know became somewhere I mean Matthew had his issues he's a tax collector not a very popular job was the last time you wrote a thank you letter to the I.R.S. You know I thank you for collecting my taxes for me I really appreciate it OK It wasn't even though you know it was you know but in twenty seconds you got to begin to follow Jesus and it changed his life for you to when he seconds away from a whole new adventure which he says began to practice. I love the fact that both of these guys struggled early on they took a while we don't know how long you know or we sort of Matthew Matthew and he messed up a lot in those first few years of following Jesus. I mean they even ran away when Jesus was dying you know took forever on this boat we don't know the timeline but I love what the first Peter three twenty says about him he says to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built in it only a few people ate it all received through water love the phrase God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built God even had to be patient it was taking so long you know you say you know you're taking a while when God supports in the book but I taking a war on being patient with you for this thing to happen because there are starts and you know things as you begin I just imagine it's not in there but I mean just imagine they get you know like the first level Oh like oh my that was done wrong let's say we got to start all over and over get some more tree is I mean you know I would build it you know I'd take fourteen trips to Menard general to get the light socket fixed does a confession that's not true anyway. And yet he still does that to us if we were willing he'll be patient with us too if we're willing to step out and do something I travel around the country we do a lot online where and working with state leaders on stuff and by well it was kind of a process but it recently got put on my heart that he wanted me to launch a interview style podcast. And I'm like you know I don't know about you but when I was in Bible college they didn't treat teach us how to start a new video shop on a couch you know that wasn't what they were in a class on their own and like OK God I don't want you you know this is what you tell me to do I don't know how to do this you know I need to know I need to raise some money I don't know you know I'm I'm terrible at that you know and then I got to get the equipment I don't know what kind of equipment you know and then I got a line of some gas you know we're going to do that. But you begin a step at a time send an e-mail to your people's put it on Facebook just say I want to go out start to leave this direction or whatever. And God has begun to do something and that this is just amazing me is just a step at a time but two weeks ago I started the actual interviews and again I've never done this before I have no idea and in the morning the first day. I know God had a sense of humor with this because he's just trying to just mess with me I'm sure when I have a lined up the people in the morning and in the afternoon I have to the first time and there are people I don't know the first person in the morning is Candace Payne who are you would might know it's true Bochum who it has this viral video of her buying a Chibok I mean you know hundred seventy million people so there's probably someone in the room has seen this video here so I am interviewing her in the morning and then in the afternoon I mean are viewing dogleg who's the head of the ascent was a god for the entire country like God really you know could you just like give me someone easy like my

dog the interview first you know you say oh are you know I mean I'm like terrified to push the button because they were they were going live you're know this is going to be Barry. And it was kind of bad but it was. It was you know manageable enough to say that I'm going to put it out because you've got to do it poorly before you do it well sometimes and how about you Are you scared to do something poorly so you don't do it at all so begin to practice radical beauty and some were radical being and so they were up out of the idea of Moses I mean well let's go let's go Matt let me ask you first radical obedience. You know moment he had to step outside and change his life change his life there's all sorts of a spectrum in the room like this there's people who are Matthew and you just happen to wander in that doesn't look like Jason you notice it up there and then. People who are it walking with God for a long long but if we're going to go on an adventure with Jesus He never stops calling us to radical groups to do whatever he tells us to do are you willing to do whatever I mean think about knowing he. Again I nurture I think differently I always remember I said I'm pretty sure I was a kid when I did this I went through the genealogies you know this is fun for me OK I went through the genealogies and did the math if you do the math is grandpa with two salons dies the year of the flood you know I am not starting the series that Methuselah died in the flood I just want you to think about this. What was it like the socialists you know maybe nine hundred fiftieth birthday party or maybe you know the gathering. Has a potluck and gathered all the family together for a Saturday afternoon Sunday kind of thing going to. Some sure the gathering of the family and the some kids as kids do come up to know and say you know are you still building that whole thing my parents think you're crazy you're right that's how it's going to be there is going to be like what's going on but the mockery that happens around the table are you willing to walk in radical beatings even if other people don't understand let's sing. Be crazy and don't filter things through the body of Christ and things like that but there are things that people may not understand when you're walking with Jesus Will you walk in your way or you go content to live in your ruts that used to be your routines of walking with you so as I wrap up let me you've kind of three different things maybe you're here this morning and we talk about adventure with Jesus you haven't even begun you're like Matthew you may have seen some things you may have circled around here for a while but you haven't got out from behind the desk and started following Jesus and for you twenty seconds of insane courage is starting that relationship saying I don't even know what Matthew didn't know everything it entailed what do you as you walked around the desk you know I could understand everything I've been gone through over what Jesus is calling you to relationship and which are you willing to use to step out or are you in a second group of people the second challenge is maybe you got into a boring routine with God because you haven't given him space to speak to you or you hear this morning and you say I need to give God more time I'm going to be gutsy enough to pray a simple prayer you have to pray along pretty this week let me challenge you with a one sentence prayer just prayed all week long and see what happens I don't know if your day daring enough or guts enough but just pray this one sentence a prayer this week God speak to me and see what happens just try this try for a week see what happens so the third thing maybe you're here this morning and you already know God stirred some things in your heart or maybe brought back to you something from a while ago and you're. You know that thing the god spoken but you haven't begun to practice radical obedience and you need to do something this week do one step towards whatever that is for you the beauty of the Holy Spirit is he's creative and he goes all over the room and does to each person he's bringing something to mind right at this moment for you Are you daring enough to do that twenty seconds of in scene courage again maybe walking to the back and talking to a small group leader and maybe saying I'm going to commit to praying for my pastor in my church because I was going to challenge people to do that is to say I'm going to leave him for this month I'm going to pick a pastor and going to say take a picture with them and say you know where it actually better yet take it take a picture of one of the pastors and put it on your dashboard for the month you know you just as a reminder you have to pray for you know they should do so do something whatever that is that you need to do something this month would you buy your heads with me this is not been a very complicated message but as US preparing and even in this moment I know this for some of you is the first step

09-23-18

towards a whole new adventure with God and I'm not going to make a big production here at the end I'm not going to say I should want to pray with you before I turn it back to Pastor Jason and if you're in one of those three groups. You're here this morning and you have not begun to follow Jesus but you're like I want I want to start that OK or if you're saying I'm I need to give God more either time or a do something differently so that he can speak to me or if you're hearing yours God speaking to you something in your heart in your ear haven't begun I want to pray for you and so you're twenty seconds your first twenty seconds of insane courage is just simply slipping up a hand and putting it back down saying Kevin would you pray for me before I go on that I would walk it out is there anyone in the room for any three of those carry Yes yes all over the room you yes Lord you see every hand every heart I pray in this church you would start something new and powerful that would take it to a whole new level got to pray for every person hearing my voice that you were draw them into a new place with you God every person in this room has a value to you if you love them enough to come close enough to die for them everyone in our reaching back to you so God I pray that you would meet with us you would speak to people who as a as I spend time with you this week you would give them courage as they walk in oh we want to go on an adventure with you wherever you take us in Jesus' name.