

Introduce yourself

Honor Pastor Mark and Pastor Jada

Honor Bryson

## Called Deeper

I want us to take a look at our personal relationship with Jesus.

The reason that I want to look at our relationship with Jesus is because sometimes I don't think that we think about it enough, and we have a hard time looking at it as being comparable to a human relationship.

A good human relationship is between two people, it has trust, love, and you can depend on that person.

Well we should look at our relationship with Holy Spirit in that same way. Because the word says He guides us into all truth and He's our counselor.

The enemy has used Hollywood and movies to make out the spiritual realm as something that's fake, and tried to deceive Christians even.

So that's what I want to do today, I want you to focus on Jesus, your relationship with Him, what it looks like for you in this current state of life.

The Bible tells us a lot about our relationship with Jesus, what that's supposed to look like and what part we play in it.

Because we do play a part in it, it's not a one sided relationship.

I love that Pastor Mark does teachings over the end times and Jesus's second coming, because it is his job as a shepherd to warn his sheep of the signs of the times. So when I was thinking of

how I wanted to start this message there was one thing that kept popping into my mind because it perfectly describes how our relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit should look here on earth.

In the New Testament alone in the NKJV of the Bible, Paul tells us 7 times that we are to **EAGERLY** wait for the return of our Lord Jesus.

Romans 8:19 — creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God

1 Corinthians 1:7 — eagerly waiting for the revelation of Jesus Christ

Galatians 5:5 — eagerly waiting for the hope of righteousness

Hebrews 9:28 — Christ appearing a second time to those who eagerly wait for Him

1 example is **Philippians 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (NKJV)**

So that word Eagerly stuck out to me because of how much it's used. from the Greek word (apokaradokia): Refers to intense, eager expectation or "earnest longing"

An intense desire for our Lord Jesus.

1. Our relationship with Him should reflect an earnest longing for Jesus while we're here on earth.

It was explained to me like this: I desire for my husband to come home after being gone right, because I love him. I think about him, so I'm going to eagerly wait for him to get back.

**I don't eagerly wait for someone that I don't love.**

**I'm not going to eagerly wait for my neighbor to get home after a trip.**

## **Do you have a neighbor like relationship with Jesus, or a marriage like relationship with the Lord**

In several sections of the Bible, Revelation chapter 19 I know specifically we the church are referred to as the Bride of Christ.

I point this out because this language wasn't used by accident. This is a reference to an intimate relationship that our human minds can understand, a husband and wife.

2. We have to know that Jesus knows and loves us intimately.

Nobody wants unrequited love

**1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us. (ESV)**

God proves Himself to us in scripture.

**Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)**

As I thought of this intimacy, and just how good the Lord is to me, Holy Spirit brought me a scripture in

**Luke 12:6-7 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?<sup>[a]</sup> And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (ESV)**

I definitely don't know the amount of hairs on Bryson's head  
imagine how intimate that is.

- I think we often think that we serve a God that doesn't have time for us, but we can call that out as a lie from the enemy because His word tells us in John that the sheep know the shepherd's voice and we are the sheep and He is the shepherd.

So I'm sitting with Holy Spirit preparing this message and He gives me this image of me sitting there brushing my hair, and the Lord. JESUS Christ, the Messiah is sitting there and He's talking to the angels and He's like alright she lost 15 hairs this morning to the brush subtract that from the total.

He pays that much attention to me. He pays that much attention to you.

### **How much attention do we pay to Him?**

In **Psalms 145:18** David writes that **"The Lord is near to all who call on Him. To all who call on Him in truth."** (ESV)

He's near to us always, but how often do we take the time to recognize that He is? And take the time **to be thankful** that He's always near?

So we have to know that He loves us, and then we are called to Love Him in return

Matthew 22:34- 40 <sup>34</sup>But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup>**And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."** (ESV)

Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 6:5

This scripture that I just read is a call to action as believers.

God's heart towards us is pure. We've covered that

My question for us today is, **where are our hearts before Him?**

**PAUSE**

**Matthew 22:37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.**

Jesus would never command something of us that is impossible for us to do. Because that’s not His character.

**So if that’s the case then it must be true that with the power of the Holy Spirit on the inside of us, we really can love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all of our mind.**

What an interesting thought to think, right?

**This is not legalism:** Legalism is when you either think that you have to do something extra to be saved outside of believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth. OR thinking that you have to do something to earn God’s love.

In this scripture, the word doesn’t say love Him so He’ll love you. And that’s not what I’m saying either.

I just read scripture that shows God’s heart towards us and how much He loves us.

**When we can fully grasp the depth of the cross, the depth of Jesus’s love for us, Our natural response as Christians should be to love the one that gave His life for us and gave us eternity in heaven.**

**- We need a reverence back for God in the west. A respect for the cross.**

Love and reverence go hand in hand. You respect people you love.

God calls us to love Him, He calls us to pick up our cross and to follow Him.

**So loving Him, doing what scripture calls us to isn’t being legalistic, it’s called being obedient**

Circle back: It’s also the greatest commandment, of any of them. Pull scripture back up.

Which is interesting to me because I feel like it's never talked about. **Instead we focus on the law rather than the commandment that the law depends on.** We talk about all of the "Don't Do Bad" commandments a lot.

**It's like we skip over this one, and just go straight into all the commandments where we think that we have control and do in our own power.**

and a lot of the times we still fail miserably doing it that way.

So I think that it's safe to say that if trying not to do bad on our own and focusing only on the scriptures that tell us what we should avoid is only ending up in us still failing then maybe we need to put our focus towards something else. Our focus on what Jesus intended for us to have our attention on in the first place.

### **Loving Him.**

I truly believe that this is the key to so much breakthrough in your life. When the Gospel becomes more than words, when Jesus becomes something other than a background character in your life.

**John: 14: 15 <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (ESV)**

After this scripture Jesus goes on to tell His disciples that He is going to send another helper, the Holy Spirit.

That word "If" in Greek is often translated into "since."

Since you love me, you will keep my commandments.

When we love Jesus, when we are actively participating in the first and greatest command, all the other ones will come naturally.

**So what if Jesus's whole goal all along was that we were to put all the energy that we usually put into "not messing up" into just loving Him instead.**

**Colossians 3: 1-2** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**

Not only will setting our mind on things above keep us from wrongdoing; it goes hand in hand with loving Him,

Our mind being glued on Him is the fruit of being intentional with Him and loving Him

Setting our minds on Him keeps us eagerly waiting for Him because we wait eagerly when we think of someone often.

**Set our mind on Him.**

What does it mean to have your mind set on something, it was explained to me like this:

Alright, we set our mind on Him and we love Him, well what's our definition of Love?

**1 John 4:8 "8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."  
(ESV)**

So if God is love, and Jesus's mission on this Earth was to show the father's heart to us as His children, then that must mean that **Jesus and the way that He lived His life is the best definition we can get for what Love looks like.**

Before we dive into the main characteristic of Jesus that showed His love for us, **we have to know that we are worthy to come to Him, and to have an intimate relationship with Him.**

I was reading this scripture in Matthew 7 where Jesus says to us

**Mathew 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. (ESV)**

**God spoke to me and said “so many of my children never even knock because they don't believe that they are worthy to walk up to the door.**

But I'm here to tell you that God sent me here to tell you that you are worthy, not because of anything you've ever done or will do but because when Jesus went to the cross, the blood that poured from His body and covered you and that blood has washed you clean.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 “ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (ESV)**

Righteousness: means **just, righteous, or acceptable to God**

So through Jesus we are acceptable to God.

We get told a lot that the cross **bought our salvation**. We know that. But sometimes people live their whole lives not realizing that **He bought your righteousness too**.

But I'm here to tell you that you have a choice. You can either determine that The Word of God is true and have faith to believe that you are righteous before the Lord, or you can believe the lie of the enemy that tells you that you are and never will be good enough.

**It's your choice, to walk in everything that Jesus paid for you to have on the cross**, or just receive salvation but reject God's freely given grace and let the enemy beat you over the head with your past and mistakes.

He wants you to **BOLDLY** approach the throne of Grace. Boldly approach the Lord, believe that you are righteous and living in authority here on this earth.

**Hebrews 4:16**

We have to rewire our brains so we come to Him instead of run from Him.

SO YOU ARE WORTHY through the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST.

We keep our mind set on Him, We know He loves us, and we know that we are worthy to come to Him.

and I told you earlier that the best way to understand love is by looking at Jesus's life. The way He lived.

Jesus says in John 5:19 that He is unable to do anything on His own

**<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father<sup>lel</sup> does, that the Son does likewise.**

If Jesus is unable to do anything on His own then I'm really unable to do anything without Him.

the heart of the Father in our relationship with him is that He would be our source.

That we would have a dependence on Him.

**This is the only relationship in your life where you are fully reliant on the other person.**

**Because He's God so I'm pretty sure He'll never let you down**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)**

This scripture is in the context where Jesus tells us to not be anxious, He literally tells us that we just need to seek Him first and we will be provided for and then we won't be anxious. Sounds pretty great to me.

**SO then why is it more common for us to treat Him as a contingency plan rather than the first choice.**

Why do we have such a hard time going to Him first?

**I'll tell you why: Because going to Him first, means taking your hands off the steering wheel. It means surrender. And putting Him first. His desire for your life, His will for your life, instead of Your wants and desires.**

**- It's selfishness at its root.**

So now we're back to our greatest commandment, back to love, what quality of Jesus' is the most prominent in the scriptures. How do we love Him and others? **Selflessness.**

So when we love God, when we love others, when we're looking forward to the second coming of Christ, what has to take a back seat?

**US.**

We live in a society that constantly tells us that everything is about us. **But the word of God says that it's about Jesus.**

That our lives as Christians are actually to bring glory and to exalt Jesus.

That our very existence is to serve Him.

**I told you in the beginning that Jesus is calling us all deeper.**

The first step in going deeper with the Lord, is recognizing where you are today, and recognizing the truth of where God wants you to be.

The Holy Spirit can convict our hearts, and show us where our heart is, but it's our job to take action.

**Something that Holy Spirit has given me a glance into is one of the things that stops our personal growth is what we do with conviction.**

When we feel God tug on our heart that is our sign to run to Him.

You run to Him in prayer and in communion.

**Matthew 6:6 <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

It's The power of the secret place.

Prayer, talking to Holy Spirit because He is a person, and we are called to love Him, to have a deep profound relationship with Him.

I started my message off talking about eagerly waiting for Jesus's return right, and loving Jesus.

The secret place, a room that you go to to focus on God is where that relationship is built.

**Your relationship with Jesus is built on an altar. It's built on surrender.**

What do I mean by that, just what I said earlier about love, love is offering yourself to the Lord as a humble servant.

**Altar in Hebrew is "to slaughter for sacrifice" or "to offer"**

**A lot of the time we have a hard time with that truth, so when there's pushback to what the Word of God tells us to do, you run to Him.**

The secret place is where you deal with your heart before the Lord. It's where you bring your conviction straight to the feet of Jesus.

I know that the best part of me is the Holy Spirit on the inside of me so the more flesh I can burn off spiritually the more fruitful I am in the Kingdom of God

**We are to Love God. and we are called to Love People.**

**But If our human nature is to naturally choose ourselves, then we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Him daily.**

**Ask Taya to come up**

I want to close with a testimony about how and why I started communing with God on a regular basis because ultimately that is what brought me here, where I am today physically and especially spiritually.

Last August, I went and visited one of my best friends, and her and her mom, both mighty women of God, were just talking to me in regular conversation about their time with the Lord, and I remember it lit a fire in me and on my way home I was just different. I couldn't explain it but it was almost like jealousy. I wanted the kind of relationship with Jesus that they just talked so casually about.

So I entered my prayer closet for the first time, and I remember sitting there and telling God, okay, I don't know what I'm doing but I'm not leaving this room until something happens. I ended up falling asleep curled up on the tile.

But I kept going back and kept going back, and the Lord started convicting my heart, I remember I was listening to "Graves Into Gardens" one day and it got to the part where it said "Lord There's nothing Better than you." And I couldn't get myself to utter the words, because in my heart I knew that I didn't believe them. So I went into my closet and I repented and I told God, I just want to be able to say those words that there's nothing that I count more important, nothing I want more in this fleshly world more than you. And He slowly but surely started calling out idols in my life. First was social media, so I wiped it off my phone and then shows so I stopped turning on the TV. **These were things that were preventing me from having an intimate and loving relationship with Jesus.** I would just go into my secret place and lay myself on an altar and ask the Lord to crucify anything in my heart that didn't belong there, any pride, and selfish ambition. And little did I know that social media and tv were the easy ones. One thing that I love so much about God is He knows your heart better than you know it, and so probably about 3

months later, I remembered sitting in my closet and at the time I was still coming back here for church every weekend, and staying with my parents, and I was having a day where I was just so sad because I missed my parents so much and I remember I went to the Lord and His spirit so sweetly showed me that they were idols in my heart and I held them above Him. And I immediately started sobbing because **I knew what that meant because by that time, I had built trust with the Lord and I knew that letting go of the things that He told me to let go of was so good for me.** But I remember that it was one of the hardest things that I had to face, So I didn't listen and went back home that weekend like nothing happened and felt convicted that I did, and then the next week I was reading in Matthew 10 and there's a scripture in there that says whoever loves Father or Mother more than me is not worthy of me, and I started crying again, and I was like alright yeah. So that weekend I came back and told my parents my heart, I talked to Pastor Mark and Jada and told them that Bryson and I knew that it was time for us to leave and cleave and the spiritual and physical breakthrough that took place because of that obedience has changed my life forever. I know that the Lord reminded me of that story as I was coming here because

1. I can confidently say that I would not be up here preaching today if I hadn't walked into my closet that one day and decided that I truly wanted an intimate relationship with Jesus and that I was going count it all a loss in comparison to having Him.
2. Because the Holy Spirit wanted you to know that you can't imagine what He can do with a surrendered yes and an obedient heart.

So however that spoke to you because that's one thing I love most about preaching is that I'm just a submitted vessel and the Holy Spirit is doing all of the heavy lifting, He's been whispering

in your ear this whole time, He's been tapping on your heart, and He's been asking you to make a move.

So that's my call to action to you this week, let this week be a changing moment for you.

Walk into a quiet place with Him, and let Him minister to you, carve out the time for Him.

**He's worth it.**

**I pray that this has lit a fire in your heart to start talking to Holy Spirit, to start making room for Him in your life everyday.**

Bow your heads with me

PRAY

Prayer of salvation:

Lord Jesus

I ask you to come into my life

I believe you are the son of God

and you died on the cross for me

and rose again on the third day

renew my Spirit

so I can hear your voice

I accept you as my savior

you are my lord

thank you for saving me

write my name in the Lambs book of life

today is my God day with the lord Jesus Christ

Jesus...

be my Jesus