

I Want MORE (Part 10)

Sunday, May 21, 2023

We began by asking...

1. Do I BELIEVE MORE is AVAILABLE?
2. Do I DESIRE MORE in MY LIFE?
3. Am I WILLING to MAKE ROOM for MORE?
4. WHAT will I ASK God for MORE OF?

So far, we have sought to answer the desire for more with these suggestions...

I WANT MORE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I WANT MORE TRUST AND PEACE

I WANT MORE FRUIT

I WANT MORE RECOGNITION OF WHO JESUS IS

I WANT MORE ANOINTING

I WANT MORE SOULS FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

I WANT MORE OF THE CALL OF GOD FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

I WANT MORE RIGHTEOUSNESS (HOLINESS AND GODLINESS)

I WANT MORE KINDNESS, LOVE GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

**Father, give me ears to hear Your word today and a heart that understands. Strengthen me by the power of The Holy Spirit who lives in me to be obedient to that Word. I know that my flesh will try to rise up and resist what you want to teach me today. I surrender my will to yours...*

Perhaps one of the most important mores we could truly ask God for and give the Holy Spirit permission to work on in our lives

Something Jesus spoke of often

I fail at it often, but it is something I want more of

There is not a week that goes by that I don't deal with the repercussions of the lack of these things within the church body.

- Squabbles
- Disagreements
- Arguments
- Comments

Scriptures

Colossians 3:12-15

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 15:12-13; 17

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

17 This is my command: Love each other.

James 1:19-20

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

1 John 4:20

20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Matthew 6:14-15

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

2 Corinthians 12:10

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Ecclesiastes 7:20-21

20 Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins. 21 Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—

Matthew 5:43-48

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:38-41

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

1 Corinthians 6:7

7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

Philippians 4:2-3, 5-7

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Seventy times seven)

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Why we don't have more

- Redefinition (We create our own definitions of what these things mean)
 - Jesus defined it for us

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

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Seven times?

- Justification (we all have what we believe to be acceptable excuses for not showing kindness, love, grace and forgiveness)
- Comparison (They did this to me so I can do this to them)

Matthew 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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- Making small things big things
- 90 percent, if not more, of the circumstances surrounding missed opportunities to show kindness, love, grace and forgiveness are not big issues. It doesn't involve bodily harm or life altering betrayals (and even in those situations we are told to show kindness, love, grace and forgiveness). They are much smaller issues

1 Corinthians 6:7

7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

- Playing the Judge rather than trusting God to Judge all things
- Do we really believe what we sang this morning? - That God is good and will take care of us. Do we really believe Jesus meant what he prayed on the cross?
- Not understanding the devices of the Enemy
- He wants to destroy our relationships within the body of Christ and our relationship with God.
- Treat it as a suggestion not a command (God understands my heart)
- Because we see only a small part of the picture

Philippians 4:2-3, 5-7

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How we can have more

- Remember how much kindness, love, grace and forgiveness we have been given by God
- Don't get offended so easily (grow thicker skin)

James 1:19-20

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

- Confess our offenses, hurts, anger and unforgiveness to ourselves and to God
- Pray for those we are angry with

Philippians 4:5-7

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Forgive quickly and often (Keep a clean slate)
- Assume the best and give the benefit of the doubt again and again and again
- Remember you will not be condemned for having shown too much of these things in your life; but you might be judged for not showing enough of them
- Quit waiting for perfect people and perfect (easy) opportunities to show Kindness, Love, Grace and Forgiveness (show them to the hard people, show them in the midst of difficult circumstances - This is what Jesus taught us to do)

Pick one person or situation in your life, one of the scriptures that challenged you today, one of the reasons we don't have more and one of the solutions and pray about it this morning.