

E Summer lessons from the parables =

Main Point Know Jesus NOW, know what comes LATER



Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"



The Question

- ☐ How many will be saved
- ☐ Rabbi's differed on the topic
- Jesus was asked a question and took time to answer it



Questions, Questions, Questions

"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'



"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!" "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.



People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

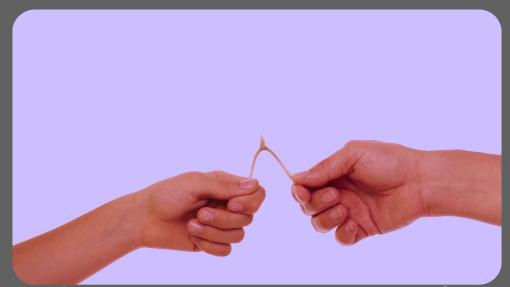




- □ Not "how many" but "who"
- ☐ Many will try to get into the door (heaven) but few will
- ☐ House owner will claim he doesn't know them
- ☐ Heaven won't look like what they thought



The Wishbone



Long End

Short End

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS FIRST??



Bad News: Not Everyone Will Know Jesus

- **□** Don't want to know Him
 - **□** Walked away
 - ☐ Just don't believe
 - ☐ Heard and don't want anything to do with Him



Get Out Of Here!!



Bad News: Not Everyone Will Know Jesus

- ☐ Thought they knew Him
 - Proximity doesn't equal relationship
 - □ We can't be saved by someone else and we can't save someone else



I'm On the List Dude!





Good News: Everyone Can Know Jesus

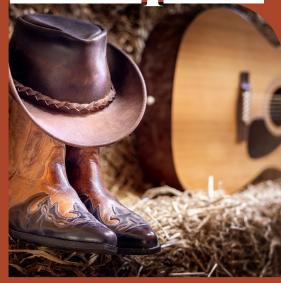
- ☐ Do it now with urgency
- □ Accept, respond, follow

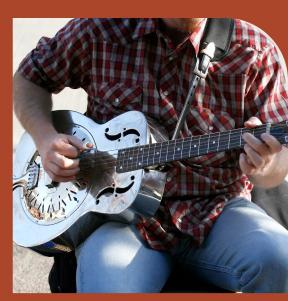


Country Music is AWEOMSE



Accept It





Good News: Everyone Can Know Jesus

- □ Accept
 - ☐ Human, God, lived a sinless life
 - Paid for everything we will do wrong
 - □ Defeated death



Respond to the Doctor



"Better than the alternative"

-Dr. Big Sister



Cardio

Leafy Greens

Good News: Everyone Can Know Jesus

- Respond
 - Repentance
 - □ We have all sinned and all need to repent
 - □ Admit you've done wrong and confess that to Jesus



Quality Ingredients

Following A Recipe



- □ Follow
 - ☐ Live for Him
 - ☐ Sharing His grace, forgiveness, truth, and love
 - ☐ Be with Him
 - Ask questions, read the Bible, talk to Him



Wrap Up

- ☐ Know Jesus
- ☐ Know Jesus now and know what comes later



Audio file Narrow Door Audio Only.mp3

Transcript

The good news? Bad news. I'm like pretty much all of you said, prefer the bad news first. In general, very similar to Eliana, who hit the nail on the head, I think know the bad and and the good. And I ask about that because today is parable kind of has some good news, bad news to it and it's all in regards to salvation and basically spending. Eternity in heaven with Jesus. Now we're going to get to kind of the the good news, bad news piece in a little bit, but I wanted to start there. We'll come back to that. That'll be a little more important later. But in this parable, Jesus teaches about salvation, like I said, but he's got some urgency to it. We believe Jesus saves us if we accept him and know him and what Jesus is going to teach today has a lot to do with do it now, don't. Wait like the time is now, it's important to know him except him. Believe in him because there. Is indeed a too late, but what he's saying is if we accept him now, we respond to him. Now we believe in him. Now we are assured of our future with him later. There is extra candy on your table to have them here. These are the old school classic candy now and laters. Does anybody remember these from back in the day? I'm going to show my age knowing now and laters. Alright, I thought of it like this. Right? This. So the candy now and later is you'll like it now. You want more later. That was the idea behind the candy. Or you're chewing it now. You're still chewing it later because they're little chewy. I gave some of my kids this weekend. Jeremiah's like? Yeah, it totally works. I had one now and I want it later. I want more of it. I was like, you're playing into this perfectly marketing right at that 7 year old, right it work. Perfectly. But think of Jesus and knowing Jesus kind of like this now and later know Jesus, now know what comes later know Jesus now know what's coming later from knowing him and that is being in heaven with him. And that's what this parable will explain today. Kind of knowing Jesus now leads us being in heaven. With him later. Now all the parables kind of start differently. Some start with Jesus is. See something? And he's like, I gotta hold on. I got to address this. Some start with the Pharisees are maybe trying to trap him or trick him. And he's he's addressing them today. It starts with just a basic question. He's traveling and they're walking and he gets asked a question. So I want to start with a question and see how we get here. We will be in Luke Chapter 13. Starting with verse 22, it is bookmarked in one of the Bibles on your table. It will also be right up here behind me. I will begin with just Luke 13. This will be 22 and 23. We'll look at the question Jesus is asked, so verse 22. Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him. Lord are only a few people going to be saved. Here's our question. So Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. This is actually an important detail. This signifies the fact that Jesus is coming back to Jerusalem, where his public ministry will end. And. In essence, his life is going to end. He knows this is coming. This is where he'll be arrested, tried and crucified. So he's in kind of a a big stage of life. But he gets asked by someone how many people will be saved and this person is concerned with a specific number. Totally valid question. There were some differences in the teaching amongst some of the rabbis and different sects of Judaism at the time. The general belief that was agreed on is that most Jews would be saved minus the few really bad, blatant sinners. Most of the Jews would be saved and there is no thought of Gentiles being saved at this point. Jewish leaders would not have taught that they went and believed. It the Gentiles aren't being saved, the good Jews will. But what I really love about this is

Jesus is heading back to Jerusalem. Big stage of life. He's got to have a lot on his mind. He gets asked a question. And he takes time to just answer it. Any of you that have kids, especially young kids, know kids, ask a lot of questions, and this is a good thing. I have this picture of how you can throw up the next slide here, this picture. This is my kids. This is what it looks like when I'm trying to work most of the time, my kids right up beside me and drove back. Daddy. Which? Which Princess is your favorite? Jasmine, obviously. Then Jeremiah Jasmine is my favorite Princess. How do you? We talked about this before. No, we have talked about that before. I love Aladdin. So Jasmine stole my favorite. Jeremiah, we're gonna talk with that later, apparently. Jeremiah dead in Minecraft. Would you go after a creep or a zombie, a mob or a spider? First? I have no idea, because I still don't understand Minecraft, right? But these are things he's like in my ear. And then dad, dad. Dad. What's for dinner? 30 seconds after they've had a snack. And this always happens like this, right? I'm trying to get something done. I worked from home. I'm home with. The kids and it's. In both ears, I'm like ah, it's easy to get annoyed. Or my Ken is yes. And yeah, sure. Whatever you want. Go, go do this. Let me finish this. That's my big fault. I know working. What I should do, as always in life, is take a cue from our guide. Jesus, take the time, respond to a question. It's important. Never be too busy to answer the question. And Jesus is never too busy to answer a question. They're all important to him. And this one's actually really important to get right. So Jesus takes the time to answer it, but he answers it in his way and in a sense kind of corrects the question. So let's take a look at the answer. This is going to be Luke 1324 through 30. This will be the rest of our passage today. It says this. He said to them make every effort to enter through the narrow door because many I tell you will try to enter will not be able to, once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you'll stand outside knocking and pleading. Sir, open the door for us, but he'll answer. I don't know you or where you come from. Then you'll say we ate and drank with you and taught in our streets. And he will reply. I don't know you or where you come from, away from me. All you evil doers. They'll be weeping there and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and West and North and South, and will take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of God. Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first and first, who will be last. All right. So here's the thing. He doesn't actually, he answers the question, but doesn't address it specifically how it was asked because it's not in essence the the question he needs to the person asked about the total number. That's not really what he gets at. He gets more at The Who, not the how many, The Who is more important. So what he uses here is imagery of a house owner and a door. And we're led to believe the owner of the house. Seeing Jesus getting in the door, going to heaven, he says the door is narrow. We don't really get much else about the door other than that, he says it's narrow, probably trying to say a lot are going to try to get in, and if you will, and that's what he's saying. Many will try to get in, few won't. And eventually that door will close. The owner will close the door and then it is too late and he says they're gonna plead for him. They're gonna bang on the door and he'll say, I don't know you. I know where you're from, who you are now. This makes sense, right? If somebody comes banging on your door once it's closed, you look through the hole or the ring camera. Whatever you got. And like, I don't know who they are, what they're doing here. You're probably not just opening the door, saying, hey, come on in for some coffee. Maybe you do. But in general, I don't think that's the play. That's what he's saying. They'll make the case, though. They'll say hey. Well, but, but we know you, we we ate and we drank with you like you taught in our streets. We were right there and teaching in the streets is something Jesus did. This is a big deal. Rabbis wouldn't have taught in the streets they were stuck in their their synagogues or temples anything like that. But Jesus was out in the streets. But again the house owner or Jesus would

say I don't know you. And now this is going to disappoint him and crush him, he says, weeping and mashing of teeth. These are cultural. Signs and it's. Just so bad because they're going to see the big names from their Jewish history. Abraham, Isaac. Jacob. Like this is the party they wanna be at. Let's go. Let us in. There's. Where we want to go. But they're not allowed in. Then, he says, people from all directions, east, West, north-south. This will be there. This is important because now Jesus is getting at the fact it's not just Israel. It's not just you. Jews right here, it's going to. Be bigger than that. People you thought. Were last might be the first ones in people you thought were first might be last. He's basically saying heaven, the Kingdom of God. It's not gonna look like what you thought. But what he says is what he means. Know that house owner now know the house owners, that you can be assured that you're in there, that when the time comes that door owner says I know you and you can come in. Because knowing Jesus is really a two way street, right? He knows you and you know him. So you saying? No. Him. No. You'll be in heaven with him. He tells him this. It's almost like there's there's two ways this can go, right? It's in and out. Who here has ever done the tradition? On Thanksgiving, you get the wishbone from the Turkey and you pull it apart or break it. Ever do this? Getting a few head. Nods. Alright. Cool, right? So what you. Get it right, you get 2 ends as we just started showing our kids this. And in essence, you pull it apart and the person with the longer. And gets their wish right? You do this. You either get the longer end or the shorter end. It is one or the other. There's one of two ways pulling the wishbone. It's kind of like this here. You're either in heaven, you get that longer end, you get what you're after or it's the shorter end. Hell, you're out of heaven, right? It's not great to think about, but these are kind of one of the two ways it goes. And I want to address kind of the two ends of the wishbone as kind of a good news, bad news approach. So we're going to do something I haven't actually done before. You guys are going to control how the rest of the sermon goes a little bit. There's a good news and bad news. We're gonna vote. And which one you want me to do first? I can do either one. I have it written one way. Kyle's got the slides one way, but he's prepared to go the other way if we need to. So am I. So show of hands. Who wants to do the good news first? These are one of those moments where I wish like you guys, see what I see. And that's just every staring at like, dude, we all said we wanted the bad news first in the open, like obviously doing the alright. So I'm assuming that all the rest you want to the bad news first or you just don't care. Great. We're gonna do the bad news first. Good news for Kyle and I. That's the way I wrote it. Because that's the way I like to do it. So we're Kyle, we're going straight in order. Here it's going to be great, but we are going to do the bad news 1st and the bad news as I would describe it is, not everyone will know Jesus again knowing Jesus meaning knows you'll be in heaven later. Not everyone will know. Jesus, Matthew 1033 says. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my father in heaven this is. Kind of the group that. Just doesn't want to know Jesus or be known by him. Now this these. People with this mindset aren't really addressed specifically in the parable, but I think they're still relevant, right? Just ones that that don't want to know Jesus or walk away won't get in that door. Whether again they were. Part of it, or. They they kind of maybe thought they got to know and. Just walked away said. I'm done or they just straight up. Don't believe, like just doesn't make sense. No, I can't prove it. No, I want nothing to do with it. Or they heard a message from Jesus. They heard friends of theirs that believe in Jesus and just said again. Not for me. Not what I want. Think of it like this. If you don't want to know someone you don't want to know anything about someone you're not going to know that you're not going to know. You're not going to know them if you just reject them and separate for from them. And Jesus says when you do that, you don't get in the door. Think about if you've ever not gotten in somewhere you wanted to go, I thought back to this in high. School. It was high school graduation. And, you know, high school always has kind of your friend

groups that form, you know, four or five different groups. And there's my crew guys. We're kind of like the tennis players. Some was for music guys. And then there was the other group of guys. We didn't really hang out with. We didn't want to. We didn't really want to get to know, like, stay over there. Well, there's all the graduation parties after we graduate. So we've gone to some of our friends, like, oh. Hey, that crew guys got one going on at night out in the country. We'll go. We'll go out there. We'll just go. We'll pull up. It'll be great. We'll hang out. So we pulled up. And there's probably two or three cars of ours that we pull up and we start to get out of the car. And the first thing we hear in this loud booming voice is F out of here. Perhaps like, whoa, what the? It's one of the guys, the guy that owns this, like, no, you can't be here. Get out. He didn't want us there. He was outside, like if this was us coming to a door, we would have gotten the door slammed in our face. But think about it, we hadn't wanted anything to do. With them during high school, we didn't really talk to them. Hang out, so why would they want us in this party? Same thing. It's kind of like Group 1 not wanting anything to do with Jesus. They don't really know each other, so the door is closed for them. Then there's the group. So those are ones that just kind of completely want nothing to do with Jesus. Then there's a group that thought they knew Jesus, and this is what the parable really gets at, right? It's this group that gets to the door of the house. It's closed. They're banging up being like, wait a minute. We we know you and the doors like, Nope, it's closed. The owner says, I don't know you. Jesus says I never. Knew you. How does this happen? How can you think you know Jesus but not? And I think it comes down to the fact that salvation and a relationship with Jesus are very personal. It's personal. Right. You don't get it by association. The parable teaches that Jesus taught in the streets and the people say, well, you were in our streets and and we ate and drank with you. We were all around you. Now Jesus doesn't deny that they were there, but that's not relationship. That's not knowing him. Proximity doesn't equal relationship. That's what Jesus getting at just being near him doesn't mean you know. You can come to church every Sunday and not actually know Jesus. There's an old saying that says going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than being in a garage makes you a car. Think about everything in your garage. If you have a garage, ours is, you know, there's bikes, there's tools, there's my lawn mower, there's toys, and there's the car. Not everything in there is a car. There are certain characteristics of the car that make it a car. Just being in the garage doesn't make it that. So just being in church or being around Christians doesn't make you know Jesus or be saved. To him. Again, remember back to the beginning. Jews in Jesus Day thought just by being part of Israel, being this Jewish nation, they'd be saved. But Jesus, like, it's not like that. The family can be full of believers, but it's still a personal decision from you to be saved. You also. Can't be saved by someone else or save someone else, right? In essence, we can't put someone else on Jesus guest list. I went to a concert in College of Steven Kellogg and the Sixers was the band they played at the annex on Regent Street in Madison, and I had a friend in college. That was a a concert promoter. And I was like ohh dude, I got these two friends or these two girls I know. And I were friends were big fans of this band. Can you get us in? And he's like, oh, yeah, I'll put you on the guest list. So I'm like, oh, this. Is awesome. So. I tell these two girls we're gonna go and we get to the door and the bouncer guy, you know, six times my size, whatever is looking at the list, looking at me. Like don't see your name like. Oh no, I'm panicking. Like this is gonna be terrible. They're looking at me like I'm an idiot. He's going through, going through it, finally finds their name. And lets us in like I even at that point in college, I had a shirt. I don't know why, but a shirt that read, I'm on the list. Dude like, and I wore it. He finally found our name towards the top and we get in. My friend had got us into that concert. He put our name. On the list. Heaven doesn't work like that concert. Just because you pray for someone to know Jesus doesn't automatically mean they get into heaven, or they'll know Jesus now, by all means, pray for

people you know that don't know Jesus. Pray for them a lot. Pray for them, know Jesus, pray for Jesus to get a hold. Their hearts. But in the end it is up to them to individually accept and respond to Jesus, call in their hearts. We can't put anyone else on the guest list. So the bad news is not everyone will know Jesus. And they don't go to heaven. And that's very real. It's bad news. It is sad. But it's true. However, as we talked about, there is good news. So again, bad news. Not everyone will know Jesus the good news. Everyone can know Jesus. Everybody has the opportunity to know Jesus and be saved. And what Jesus teaches here really is do with urgency. Do it now. Take care of it before your time on Earth is done. Well, what does getting to know him mean? I think there's three kind of pieces to this that we're going to. We're going to look at and that is accept respond and follow. So first one is accepting Jesus Romans 10/9 through 10 says if you declare with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved for it's with your heart that you believe and are justified with your mouth that you profess your faith. And are saved, so accepting is believe. Meaning that he is real and he is Lord. So think of things that we have to look at as a whole and we just have. To accept. Them to be real. I'm going to put a charge to you today after something that I would like for you. To accept to. Be real. Looking around. Yeah. I think Ryan might be the only one that's with me on this right now. Kyle. Yeah. Kyle sees it coming. Go ahead, Kyle. We're going to accept that country music is awesome. No, we're not. OK, good. Old school country. Alright, now this didn't happen for me until later. Senior year of high school. I can just talk about country music and I know I get a rise out of people. So it's great. I was a holdout, but then I kind of looked at all the parts of country music I was like, got some good vocals, good sounding guitar. There's lyrics about life and heartbreak and relationships. It's music. You could have a good cry to. Music. You can throw darts to music. You Can Dance to. You can road trip to it. It's awesome. So we all just need to go ahead and accept it for what it is. That is awesome. That's right. See Ryan. Who's with? Yeah, that one's not gonna. Go over but. That's what it is, right? So it's to know Jesus as you accept him for who he really is. Take that whole body of work of Jesus and accept him for who he is. The fact that Jesus came to Earth as a man but is also God, he lived a human life. Jesus got hungry, he got upset. He felt emotion. He was a human. But he's also God. He was sinless. And blameless. And because of that, he was able and willing to come to earth, but then to die in the cross for our sins. A man that never did anything wrong paid off what we all did wrong and will do wrong. And he did it all for us as the individual part. It's for your sin and your sin and your sin. He did it individually for us. And then after that, he rose from the dead, rising from the dead. He defeated death. And because he beat death, that's a fight we don't have to fight. We can have eternity in heaven with him. We'll have our own struggles and battles here on Earth, but it is nothing like the fight against death that he already won for. So we believe we accept. And once we've believed and accepted, I think Jesus wants us to respond to him. Think about hearing something, accepting it, and then knowing you need to do something right. Again, we'll go back if I accept, as I have, that country music is awesome. My response. I'm going to listen to it. Right. I'm going to listen to it. I'm going to take it in. I play the music, right. Think about something else you might hear or accept and know you need to do something with. Maybe doctors suggestions. If they tell you there's something you need to do. I had my annual good old Wellness check this week with my doctor. You're you're really physical and after coming with that and a little blood work, he's like, hey, we need to make a few. Lifestyle changes, right? He's like you need a little better. That's a little less red meat. Sad because I love steak. A little less salt. I like food with a lot of flavor. Cool, more leafy greens, more fruit. Do some more cardio and I'm like ohh, this doesn't sound like what I want to do at all. And I shared with this my sister who is a a PA and she's been in cardiology most of her career. So she kind of gets a lot of this. I referred to her as doctor big sister. If I have to go to her with

medical. Questions like hey, Doctor, Big sister and what she told me is doing all of this is better than the alternate. Respond to this, even if it's difficult or hard, or I just don't want to do it. Responding to Jesus, even if it's hard, frustrating, or scary, is better than not doing it and not being in heaven with him. And the big response to Jesus is repentance, Luke. 531 through 32 says Jesus answered them. It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I've not come to call the righteous but sinners. To repentance, he called sinners to. To repent, we are all sinners. He wants us to repent. That is stopping the behaviors that don't honor him and start living the way he wants us to live. And going back towards him. That is admitting that we have done wrong and confessing that. Remember from other parables, if you've been with us. Jesus taught that there is rejoicing in heaven. And even 1 Sinner repents and comes back. Repenting of what Jesus had to save us from is something we should want to do. We should be inspired me like man. He saved me from this. I'm gonna repent and live for. For him, you know, praying. God, I know you saved me from this. I screwed up. Forgive me. And then saying I will work to follow you. And that's the third part of knowing Jesus is following him. Following him, think about things you follow, Sir, I think while following a recipe I cook a lot and I talk about that. I love to cook at home. And and I thought about how I follow a recipe and I'm gonna do this as an example of Cuban sandwiches, right. I love Cuban sandwiches. One of my favorite things to make, eat, order, whatever. But to make them based on their recipe that I've come up with and tweaked from other people. So I need two things. First off, after the skills and the know how I have to actually know how to do this, how to cook. The different meats for the sandwich. How to assemble the sandwich with the mustard and the pickle and the cheese and the meat, and how to press it right. It's a pressed sandwich where you get all nice and hot and crusty together. Now I want one for. Lunch. This is a bad idea. But how to do it? But then I also have to have good quality ingredients. I have to actually have what goes on the sandwich with me. If the ingredients aren't there, I can't follow the recipe. Following Jesus isn't all that different. There's a couple of things we have to have. And the first part I think is actually living for Jesus. This is like the skills and the know how to follow the recipe. We have to live for him, live for his direction, for our lives, his actions. So wait, so if I'm living for Jesus, that means I have to, like, sell all my stuff and go to some other country I've never heard of and be a missionary, right? Not necessarily. Some people may be called to that and that's awesome, but it's not what this means. You can live for Jesus anywhere and work in anything, whether you work in teaching IT art, customer service, it does not matter. You can live for Jesus in whatever area you work in. You can live for Jesus and still do the things that you enjoy. But the focus becomes what you do, being about God and God being glorified, and actions that please him. It's about how you live that life, living by sharing what Jesus gave you, Grace, forgiveness, truth and love. So we have to kind of have live for him and have that know how. But we also have to have those quality ingredients. The ingredients have to be present and this is actually being present with God be with him, quality time with God. And I think this can take on a variety of forms. I see it differently for me. I'll just share what it looks like for me. It could be very different for you. There are times when I am with God. That it's like I'm alone in my room, pouring myself out to him. This is when I'm venting or I'm struggling with something, or I'm asking questions right? Maybe things just don't make sense. I'm like God, what's happening? Or God, this really sucks. What is going on? Those times, sometimes it's like I'm just listening to him over coffee. Right. You're there with your friend and your friend is just sharing something over coffee. This is when I'm reading my Bible or I'm listening to worship music, and I'm just letting it come to me and I'm taking it in. Or sometimes it's like we're sitting in the driveway together, like 2 good Midwesterners just watching that storm roll in. Right, and we're just hanging out, shooting the breeze. Just being with him. But being together grows our relationship with God. It helps you get to know each other, and it'll be like

a lot of other relationships. There's times when your relationship with God will be great. It'll be strong. It'll be vibrant. There's times where it's gonna be hard, where you're gonna be like, man, this is rough, right? My relationship with Jesus is not always perfect. Sometimes I get frustrated, sometimes I get impatient. I think that's normal. But the point is just continue to be with him every day. We can't know Jesus without being with him. We can't be saved by him without knowing him. So the point is to know Jesus. Know Jesus and know him now. So want you to think about that kind of as we go through this week. Do you know Jesus? Do you need to? Know him better. Do you need to know him for the first time? Do you wanna recommit to that relationship with him? And those are the things I think we want to think about with Jesus. So I would encourage you to as we we kind of wrap up here we come into communion to. Think about that. To think about your relationship with Jesus and to make sure that you know him now that you know that we're in heaven with him later. Got to thank you for this parable. I thank you that we do have the opportunity to know you right now. That we can know you, God, that we can be in heaven with you for eternity. So, God, I pray for all of us that we would get to. Know you, we would continue to know you deeper and more. And God, I pray for anybody that doesn't know you yet. God, that you would. You would be on their hearts God and they would be willing to take that step to know you and God for any people here. They want to recommit to knowing you. They're maybe drifted off God, that they would come back to you, that also you would put that in there. Parts and got to just pray for all of our relationships with you to grow. I got to thank you that we have the opportunity to know you. Pray this in your name. Amen.