



What do You Want?
THE SIX WEEK
Pursuit

“What Does He Want?”

The heart of our discussions throughout these past six weeks has been the soul-searching question:

“What Do You Want?”

In our first conversation, we visited Jesus’ first question to two would-be-disciples. As the two young men followed Jesus in pure fascination and curiosity, Jesus asked of them: “What do you want?” What are you pursuing? What does your heart long for? Now, it is more than likely Jesus already knew what the young men wanted. So why ask the question?

“What Do You Really Want?”

Jesus challenges the way we think. Throughout Jesus’ journey with the disciples, He consistently has the young men reevaluate what they are searching for. What we want is not always so clear in our minds. Many times, what we believe we want and what our soul is desperate for are two different things. Jesus wants His followers to truly consider what they really want before they follow Him?

“But Why?”

Have you ever noticed how difficult it can be to change your mind? When we really believe in something or are committed to thinking in a certain way, it can be near impossible to change our minds. I believe the reason for this, is that our beliefs are directed by our desires. What we want determines how we think.

The disciples were often baffled by Jesus. Jesus simply did not match up with their preconceptions and beliefs of God. So when Jesus asks: “What do you want”, He is asking His disciples to consider and weigh their desires. What do you really want? Do you want to follow me, Jesus asks. Do you want what I have to offer? Do you trust me? The truth is, if our desires do not align with Jesus, we struggle to understand and fully accept Him.

“What Does He Want?”

This is the climactic question of our six week pursuit. Our struggle is similar to the disciples. We all have preconceptions, ideas, dreams, ambitions, and so on for our lives. But, do my wants align with what Jesus wants? What does Jesus want?

Have you ever considered God has desires; that there is something God pursues? Jesus did not come to the earth to live, die, rise from the grave, and give His people His Spirit just out of a scheduled program. Jesus did all of this for a reason; for a purpose. He is motivated by a desire, a long-term goal that He shares with the Father and Spirit. This is the heart of God.

“Stay with Me”

In John 17, Jesus prays a passionate prayer to His Father. Right in front of his disciples, Jesus reveals His heart. It is towards the conclusion of His prayer that Jesus makes this remarkable request to God the Father.

“Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!”

Jesus wants us to stay with Him. God came in human form because He desires you and me to be with Him. Jesus died so that we might be with Him. Jesus rose again so that we could be with Him. Jesus gave us His Spirit so that we could stay with Him. God’s desire is for us to stay.

Multiple times throughout the Gospel story, Jesus asks His disciples to simply stay and pray with Him. Jesus’ heart is for us to be with Him. His desire is for us to be in His presence.

“What Does He Want?”

Jesus wants you. He wants you to experience His love personally and corporately. He desires that you share His love with others. Jesus desires you to sit in His presence and experience His goodness. Jesus wants you. But what do you want?

This is where we conclude our conversation. To truly lean into Jesus’ presence, to deeply know His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, we must

learn to pursue what Jesus wants. We must pursue spending time with Jesus. We must lean in and hear His gentle voice amidst the raging storms of life.

This is where eternal life is found. This is where my peace lives. This is where my joy overflows. What our soul longs for cannot be found in this earth or just in other people. Jesus is what our souls truly want. What we want and need is what Jesus wants and provides: Himself. So, let's sit with Jesus. Let's stay.

GROUP DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

This week is a bit different. This week, let's determine to seek Jesus and stay in His presence together. You can do this with your kids too. Here's what we will do to accomplish this:

- Read John 17 with your group; consider Jesus' words as you read.
- Take 5 minutes and silently reflect on Jesus' prayer.
- As a group, ask yourselves this question: "What does Jesus want in my life?" Discuss and share your thoughts. What does Jesus want to do in your life? What is He asking of you?
- Pray with each other. You do not need fancy words or structure. Simply ask: "Jesus, help me do what you are calling me to do", or "Jesus, I don't know what you want, but I want what you want for my life. I trust you."
- Conclude with thanking Jesus for all He has done. Thank Jesus for pursuing you. Let Him know your desire to pursue Him and stay with Him.

THIS WEEK...

This week, just stop once. Pray today for the Holy Spirit to stop you this week. Ask Him to stop you and bring to your mind all that Jesus has done. Ask God to interrupt your schedule with a reminder He is with you. When you stop, simply thank Him for being with you. Simply thank Him for your day. Simply thank God for your family. Simply thank Jesus for His love. He is good, and He wants you more than you'll ever know. God bless my friends!