



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

How do you love God with all your heart?

Following, 2 of 5 from January 14th, 2024 "Regularly celebrating Jesus motivates our heart want to follow Him."

Mark 12, Colossians 3 by Michael Lockstampfor (@miklocks)

[\[https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/following-2-how-do-you-love-god-with-all-your-heart\]](https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/following-2-how-do-you-love-god-with-all-your-heart)

PLEASE NOTE: transcript is generated automatically and may not be completely accurate.

[Music]

well good morning church morning and Welcome to our neighbors if we haven't met yet my name is Michael I'm one of the pastors here and I'm glad to be together with you we kicked off uh a series last week called following but I wonder if uh I wonder if you ever feel like your life is is out of sync um say perhaps you have a new resolution that you have decided this is the thing that I'm going to do and so you you have made a choice that this is this is the choice this is the way you're going to live from here on out but then you get into a situation um you've you and your brain knows what it is that you've decided you're going to do um but the food just smells so good right and your body is telling you that is a delight like the thing that you will feel if you if you partake of that that will be better than the thing that you already decided you wanted to do and so now we're in Conflict the thing that my brain and the thing that I've decided to do that my brain knows I ought to be doing is now in conflict with what my body is saying and now my desires are saying that morale I would feel better my morale would improve if I just compromised a little bit now food is kind of an easy uh is an easy one uh but this happens kind of all the time um where the different parts of our self are in conflict with one another is is that just me or is there anybody else this morning that would say yeah that's that happens sometimes okay cool awesome well Jesus knew that about us and we talked a little bit uh about this passage and so I'm going to invite you to turn I'm only G I'm going to say a lot of Bible verses today but I'm going only going to ask you to turn to two of them the first one is in Mark 12 and so if you want to follow along in mark Mar 12 I'm going to read a couple of verses out of there it's on page 1060 in the blue Bibles which are kind of tucked in the chairs in front of you or should be scattered around somewhere um Jesus is is teaching and as he's teaching uh there's a different groups of people different factions of people that are coming up to Jesus and trying to trick him into saying something that is false or untrue or something they can really nail him with so he's he's teaching publicly and these different people are peppering him questions not because they want to learn but because they want to trick you trick him into saying something stupid right does anybody have like uh family members that are like that they'll ask you questions because they really just want you to say something dumb not because they want to learn from you right so Jesus is in that kind of a situation and he has a a guy called a guy from the school of scribes so these people just copy the Bible all day they know the law and so this uh in in Mark 12 in verse 38 no verse 28 excuse me it's on the I've got it on the wrong page I'm looking at the wrong page that's why I'm confused in verse 28 so 10:59 Mark 12 verse 28 the

heading there in the ESV says great commandment one of the scribes come up to come up and heard them disputing with one another these other people and seeing that he Jesus answered them well asked him which commandment is most important of all and Jesus answered the most important is here Israel the Lord Our God the Lord is one and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength the second is like this you shall love your neighbor as yourself there is no other commandment greater than these so when when asked to summarize what's what's the most important thing that we should take away from the Hebrew scriptures or the Old Testament Jesus says you can summarize it this way love the Lord and you didn't ask this question but I give you a bonus question the second commandment the second thing that you should learn is how to love your neighbor so love the Lord and love your neighbor but how does Jesus say we ought to love the Lord he says we ought to love the Lord with all of our heart all of our soul all of our mind and all of our strength so we said that that Jesus is not like a philosophy or a person that just wants to be added to your life he is somebody who wants to be the Lord of all of your life so when he says heart soul mind and strength he's naming individual Parts but he's naming these individual Parts by say and saying that all of this individual part and all of this individual part and all of this individual part and all of this other individual part and so I'm I'm slow it takes me a while to follow up and catch up with what Jesus is doing and so I actually had to take the individual Parts apart because he says you should just you should just get your life together you should just love God with everything and I'm like I hear that and that sounds good but what do I do with that on a Tuesday is is anybody else like that you hear Jesus sometimes you're like yeah but for real like what do you want me to do and so I like I have spent a significant amount of time trying to break these things apart trying to understand what it means to love the Lord your God with your heart what it means to love the Lord all love the Lord your God with all your soul don't aren't those things isn't there overlap there are they different why is he saying them separately so so that's what we're doing in talking about this series and following Jesus is like what are these individual parts and how can we love God with each of them and all of them together all at once so all that to say I don't know what's coming next I've got a stack of verses um and and I've got like four or five years of really chewing on this and so I've got really really big ideas but I'm afraid I have too many Big Ideas at once okay so I'm going to try real hard to kind of move through this and and to give myself some structure I've got three questions I'll give you those in a minute but before we go any further let's pray um it's our habit together to pray uh pray the disciples prayer I gave you the verses on there and I didn't even put them out okay it's our habit together to pray together the disciples prayer uh this is the model of prayer that Jesus left for people that were going to be his discip IES and follow him and so I'm I'm stupid enough to just do what Jesus says so if you would like to pray with us you can pray out loud the words are there on the screen but at the very least let's bow our hearts together and pray

this Our Father in heaven Hallowed Be Your Name Your Kingdom Come your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread and and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation but Deliver Us from Evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever amen so in order to give us a little bit of structure I just have three questions that I'm going to try to to work through we're focusing in on how do you love the Lord your God with all of your heart and so that asks a couple of questions uh first is what is our heart uh second is how is our heart or perhaps another way to phrase that is like what's the condition of our heart like what is it like uh so what is our heart how is our heart and how is our heart reformed so those are the three questions uh that I'm I hope that will answer and I hope that if you don't care about them at

this point that by the time we finish talking about them you'll care about these questions and and and it'll matter right okay that's what I want to do we'll see how it goes okay so when we ask the question like what is your heart um how there's a number of different ways that we talk about it are there any like nursing staff in the room or people in the medical field like when you guys when you guys talk about the heart what are you talking about there's a muscle inside of our chest that we refer to as our heart and its purpose is to circulate blood around our body is that what Jesus has said you should love the Lord your God with this muscle thingy that's locked inside your chest and how do you even do that right he's not talking about our physical heart he's talking about something else and so when we come to the scripture or there are other ways that we think about the heart like if if I were to say um to a certain uh brunette in the second row right here that I have given her my heart this is my wife by the way I have given I have given her my heart you would understand that when I say I've given you given her my heart that I did not literally take that that blood pump out of my chest and hand it to her cuz that would be the end of me and she would not take it that would be unsettling and but when I say I'll give you my heart like that makes her feel something different so we know we're talking about when we talk about the heart something internal to us uh that is a part of our kind of immaterial being um and maybe it's tied up with our feelings because Valentine's Day you got all these Hearts I mean they're they're not accurate but they've got all these Hearts kind of floating around and we talk about our feelings and love and affection and all these kinds of things so so it's it's tied to our emotions um perhaps it's tied to our desires right so I'm going to try not to talk about all the different Phil philosophical ways that we talk about the heart I'm not going to talk about all the poetic ways that we talk about the heart I'm going to try to if I can distill for you what I have come to understand to be a biblical understanding what our heart is and how it relates to the other parts and I'm I'm hopeful that uh it will be helpful our

heart is our our will our heart is it it's related to our desires and the things that we want but our heart is our will our desire and our ability to make

decisions does that idea make sense so so we have a heart we have a will we have an ability to make decisions where the animals in the animal kingdom don't have the same will they don't have the same they they operate solely on instinct or they operate solely on uh on on reward centers but we don't do that we can make a decision we can we can delay gratification we could hypothetically delay gratification if we knew that there was a better reward down the road because we have a will we have the ability to make a decision that's different different from our instincts or our appetites right at least pH like at least we understand that's a possibility whether we do that on a day-to-day basis is a different thing because the brownies are real um but our our heart um and and and maybe this maybe this will help when we say heart we we've we've translated that into English in a way that makes sense to us the words the the imagery used in the original languages that the Bible talked about was actually this is going to be fun was actually are bowels like I love the I give the Lord my bowels the the Lord controls my bowels and that is that's an uncomfortable picture but I think it gets us closer to the idea of like when we make a gut decision like there's something in our gut that we decide like this is the right way to go make a gut decision we make a decision with our heart our heart as our bowels it's our decision maker um it's our capacity to choose and it's one of the ways that we reflect the image of God which is a huge theological idea that I don't have time for but our heart is really really good at two things it's good at simple decisions and it's good at large commitments our heart can make simple decisions and it can make large commitments but it gets tired real fast it's interesting to think about our our heart gets tired real fast like it it's almost like the

heart doesn't have good cardio like as soon as it starts working it's like oh I got to take a break can't do this too much like our our decider our our big term decider gets tired really really easily and what it does is it ends it ends up uh delegating decisions to other parts of us for instance our heart gets tired and so our will our will our decider says I'm going to eat right but it's delegated some of those decisions to our body and our body goes yeah but I typically would eat ice cream after dinner and so we've trained our body that the thing that we do after we finish eating dinner is we eat ice cream until we're done eating ice cream and so our our will says I'm not going to eat ice cream or I'm going to eat a reasonable amount of ice cream and our body says we need to eat all of the ice cream that's in the house until we're full after dinner every night right because our body has has taken that and our and our will our decider cannot always override what our body knows that we habitually do right this is some of the the difficulty and some of the tension so it's our decision maker it's good at simple and large commitments and it wears out quickly um it with with like the minutia of the day particularly if we're tired does that definition make some sense okay sweet I wasn't sure it was and I'm really glad that at least some of us are on the same page so where did it come from I think it's a gift from God um it was designed to honor God uh there's a verse that says that God has made everything beautiful in its time also he has put eternity into man's heart yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end so God gave us a heart and he gave us a heart that will not be satisfied by

Earth we know this most readily I think usually when we're trying to sleep trying to fall asleep and there's all these things going on and when we're alone and we're quiet with our thoughts for a minute we just know there's got to be something more to the life that I'm living right now there's got to be something more God has put eternity in our hearts he has made our hearts in such a way that we long for something that's greater than what we have um so it's a gift from God and it's designed to be in relationship to him um it's designed for honoring God in fact uh when God's people say the right thing they say what is true but their heart is far from God their decider is far from God he rebukes them real real quick and there's plenty of examples that I could give you of that so it's designed for honoring God it's powerful and it's valuable one of the wisest men uh who walked the Earth gave these instructions to his son keep your heart with all V vigilance so guard your heart keep it guard it with all V if you're going to pay attention to anything pay attention to your heart for from it flows the Springs of Life so our life flows out of the decisions that we make right so guard it so it's it's powerful and it's valuable and plot twist it's actually really hard for us to to see it's hard for us to understand because it is inside of us um and I don't know if you've ever considered the fact that you have never seen your own face you've seen photographs of your face and you have seen reflections of your face but you personally have not looked on your face because it's here and your eyeballs are in it they can't that would that would be a different problem and our and our heart is the same way our heart is in us and often times we're making decisions and have you ever made a decision that you didn't just quite know why you decided that so our heart was given by God it's powerful it's valuable and it's evaluated best by the one who gave it to us he's the one who knows he says uh in a couple of places the plans of the heart belong to man so I make my plans but but the reply of the tongue the thing that I say in response is of the Lord so God gives my response the heart of the man uh the heart of a man plans his way but the Lord establishes his step so I make plans in my heart but then what I say and what I do actually is a result of something that God is doing in my life which is baffling in a number of different ways many plans are in a man's heart but the purpose of the Lord will prevail so uh it's it's designed for honoring God it's powerful and valuable but the one who knows it best is the one who gave it to us the

chief decider can show us what's wrong with our decider right or if our decider is good okay so that is what is our heart are we are we tracking so far okay um I'm I'm hopeful I've got I've got I've got some application stuff in the next paragraph um so I'm hopeful that makes that will help us out so if that what our heart is here is how is our heart or what is the condition of our heart because you can be on board with all of that but if but if you uh Worship in the Church of Disney then you should follow your heart to its fullest extent like that's the the PO core message of every Disney movie is follow your heart do exactly what your heart wants like whatever you decide is going to be good for you and and where you are uh and where you are failing are the places where you decide against the thing that you naturally would decide to do which is a really convenient philosophy but not a particularly helpful one because if I if by deciding the thing that I already wanted to decide my life got better then I wouldn't be questioning my

decisions okay that's a lot of words okay how is our heart uh bad news it's naturally broken and it's

untrustworthy uh and the Prophet Jeremiah says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick who can understand it our our decider is fundamentally broken this side of heav

heaven and by the way just just a side note uh I have put all of these points this outline into the sermon notes in the app and I also have given you the names and the locations for all the verses that I'm reading and not telling you so I'm not telling them to you because that would just be extra words but they're there in the app you can click the link and read them all for yourself so they're there the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick who can understand it and God says I the Lord search the heart and test the mind mind to give every man according to his ways according to the fruit of his deeds so it's naturally broken and untrustworthy we cannot trust our natural instinct or our natural decider because it is bent towards I'm using the word idolization or the Bible word would be idolatry our heart as it decides it decides things in priorities it has values and it will always operate as though something is the most important now it was designed to be in relationship with God and so it was supposed to make decisions with the assumption that God is the most important however when in its broken state it will often decide that I am the most important and I will interpret everything around me and how it affects

me it's it's bent towards idolization um idolizing something and it often will idolize myself it will make myself the most important thing which is great for me and terrible for all of you except that you do the same thing on your side and so if all of us are saying well I'm the most important thing then none of us are ever going to be able to work together on anything at all unless yeah that's too many caveat okay so it's bent towards idolization and choosing selfly you just got to do you you just look out for number one like that's that's the Mantra of our of our of our era and and of humanity in general but Jesus said what comes out of a person is what defiles him for from within out of the heart of man come evil thoughts sexual immorality theft murder adultery covetousness wickedness deceit sensuality Envy slander Pride foolishness all these evil things come from within and they defile a person I would love to be able to stand before you and say all of your problems are somewhere else somebody else's fault the problem is the scripture tells us and Jesus says the problem is here my problem is within me I am fundamentally

broken but the heart is is most truly evaluated by God himself every way of man is right in his own eyes everything I choose to do is logical in the moment I chose to do it even if in 20 minutes I'll think that was dumb but at the time I made the decision that was a logical

Choice the Lord weighs the heart here's the good news one word it's

fixable it's it's uncomfortable to hear that I am broken and if we live in a culture that they really don't want me to tell you that like people would say that I am being abusive by letting you know that your heart is broken and that you can't fix it by yourself because you can't even see it to discern what is what's wrong with it however the only confidence I have to tell you that news other than the fact that it that that's what scripture says is that Jesus also offers a fix he says you don't have to stay broken there is a way that you can you can import a new Chooser that's going to choose decisions that are good for you and give you life here's the deal I love this Psalm 34 the Lord Lord is near the Lord is close by the Lord is near to the Brokenhearted that's me that's me every day of the week the Lord is near to the Brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit and so if we get to a place where we realize I can't even make the right choices even when I can see the right information I am I what is wrong with me I'm broken I can't do this the right way then you should know that the Lord is at your shoulder he is close by and he is ready not only to just lend a helping hand and be added to your life but to give you a decider to give you a heart that is brand new the psalmist uh that we read in Psalm 51 asks begs God will you create in me a clean heart oh God and renew in me a a right spirit and he is and the psalmist is asking God to do that but God also is able because God says I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you and I will remove the Heart of Stone from your flesh and I will give you a heart of

Flesh so do we agree with God about the condition of our

heart cards on the table not not trying to impress anybody on a Sunday morning but get alone thinking about your thoughts by yourself what's the condition of your heart do we agree with God that our heart is fundamentally

broken and that I don't actually have the capacity to fix it because if I could make good decisions that would make my life better I would have already done

them so will we agree with him about the solution to our heart sickness he says I have a solution and the solution is a transplant I will give you a new heart I will give you a new decider and so if if you've not made that choice if you've not come to Jesus and said you know what I've been trying to fix this I've been trying to put my life back together I thought if I just had this area of my finances under control then everything else would fall into place but I got some of it together and it just keeps getting worse and I can't hold it together and Jesus would you please just take everything that I'm breaking and would you give me something new that works and he is right there saying yes I will my desire is to give you life and give it abundantly I want you to live the way I designed you to live my hope for you is life he's not he's not there in the corner going yeah you really screwed that up I really wish you had your act together if you could see things the way I could see them you would know how much how jacked up you are he's not there giving us that condescension he's there saying I will help you I will give you something true and good and pure just ask me just walk with me do we agree with God about the condition of our heart and will we agree with him about the solution to our heart

sickness as we do that we come to find that some of our old heart uh has has exported its habits so strongly to other places of our life that even a new heart doesn't seem to be able to override everything that we've done before is there anybody who's been walking with Jesus for a long time you're like Michael I made that choice I said yes to Jesus I prayed the prayer I surrendered my life to him and it just didn't seem like nothing ever really fell together the way that you're saying it

should well the heart the sick heart has exported some of its stuff to other places too and so that's why Jesus I think is advocating that we love the Lord with all of our heart by getting a new one but then he's got three other categories of places that we're going to love the Lord as well and so Lord willing if he letss us we'll talk about it for the next three weeks of each of those but how how do we how do we how do we tap into that new heart that feels most of the time if I'm honest that feels most of the time like it's just buried under life like even if the sin if I don't feel like I've got a ton of sin issues like it just gets buried under stress and concern how do we tap into that here's our big idea for the morning regularly celebrating Jesus motivates our heart to want to follow him regularly celebrating Jesus motivates our heart to want to follow

him so what is our heart how is our heart not great but there's hope how is our heart

reformed usually our heart heart is reformed slowly and over time in ways that it's difficult for us to actually notice as our heart changes you will actually be one of the last people to

know the people in my life that are closest to me see changes in my heart in me before I do and so our heart usually changes slowly and over time in ways that are difficult to notice but how do we cooperate with that I'm I'm I'm hoping that you'll be convinced that regularly celebrating Jesus as part of that but you're like Michael where does that come from here's the other passage I'm going to ask you to turn to we're going to turn to Colossians chapter 3 and I'll give you the page number here in one moment Philippians

Colossians Colossians chapter 3 it's on page

1227 now he's going to give us uh he's going to give us a solution he's going to give us some things that we should avoid and he's going to give us some things that we should do in all of these verses but here's here's the uh here's the takeaway that that I'm hoping you'll see in this we are designed to grow towards that which we focus on we're designed to grow towards that which we focus on Colossians chapter 3 verse one if then you have been raised with Christ seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God set your minds on things that are above not on things that are on Earth for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God when Christ who is your life appears then you also will appear with him in glory put to death therefore what is Earthly in you sexual immorality impurity passion evil desire and covetousness which is idolatry on account of these the wrath of God is coming in these you too once walked when you were living in them but now you must put them all away anger wrath malice slander and obscene talk from your mouth do not lie to one another seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have and have put on the new self which is being renewed in the knowledge after the image of its creator where there is not Greek and Jew circumcised and uncircumcised Barbarian cian slave free but Christ is all and in all put on then as God's chosen ones holy and beloved compassionate Hearts kindness humility meekness and patience bearing with one another and if one has a complaint against another forgiving each other as the Lord

has forgiven you so you must also forgive and above all these put on love which binds everything together in Perfect Harmony and Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which you were indeed called in one body and be thankful let the word of Christ dwell in you richly teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom singing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God and whatever you do in word or deed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to him to God the Father through

him we're designed to grow towards what we focus on he starts with fix your eyes Focus your attention on Jesus then as you do that as you focus on Jesus it stir in us and motivates in us the desires uh the the the decision that are able to to lead our decisionmaker to make the right choices and we can put away the things that we now can see clearly are going to kill us we're motivated to leave those things that we that we really enjoyed behind but they actually were killing us and now we can put on the things that that seem seem impossible to love and forgive one another don't you know that they offended me put those things on and to be formed in the word and by singing

together it's like plants I should have I should have brought one in the office if I if I brought you if I brought my plant in out of the office there uh I could set it up here and I would ask you which way is the sun in the office just looking at the plant and you'd be like well it points to this side cuz all the leaves are facing that way if you turn it like and if i' rotate that plant this week if i' put a mark on it and I rotate it around it would lean the other way it will go towards wherever the light is that's what plants do you are the same way uh I had a friend who was trying to teach me how to mountain bike and he said when you're mountain biking the thing you need to do is you need to not look at any of the trees that you're zipping past your face all the time don't look at the trees you just look at the road and where you want want to go because where you focus your attention is where you're going to be and if you look at the trees you're going to hit it every time and if you're teaching teenagers to drive you know this too like don't look at the thing on the side of the road look at the road look at the road look at the road like whatever you fix your attention on is what you're going to move towards and the same thing is true for us so when we celebrate Jesus when we fix our eyes on him when we come together we we stop everything else that we could possibly be doing on a Sunday morning and say I'm going to set aside this time and I don't know what's there for me I don't know what that crazy bald guy's going say but maybe he's going to point me to Jesus and maybe he will give me an idea of something that I hadn't considered before and there's something that's going to stir in me and I'm going to want to make better decisions this week because I don't know about you but the hardest thing for me to make good choices is the motivation to try I can know everything I can have the whole book memorized I can know it up here but if I'm not motivated forget about it but the thing that we do Here We Gather here for encouragement and inspiration we to be motivated by the love that we see in other people by the pain that we see in other people if you come to church and you share your pain you should know that that activates something in the people around you that they realize that that there is something that God wants to do in the world and he does it here

sometimes you can't see it anymore we cleaned him up pretty good there's blood stains in this

carpet there's blood stains in this carpet from a drunk who is trying to keep their act together and they're like the thing that I can do is I can clean the church right and and they

were vacuuming and blacked out and broke their face there were blood stains on this carpet they're gone

now but when I'm when I can't keep it together when I can't motivate myself I go to where those are and I put my head there I say God it's life and death there's life and death in the ministry that you're doing and so if you come to church all polished then know that you're robbing people of something that they need we need to be reminded that there's a cost to walking away from Christ we need to be reminded that there is hope because that drug you would not recognize her today and she loves the Lord and she's serving the lord and she will bless your socks off

but regularly celebrating Jesus fixing our eyes on him motivates our heart to want to follow him so what what usually though what usually has captivated our attention I kind of wish kind of wish there was a way that like you could put a a filter on your glasses that would like tell you where you you were focused all day I wonder what those stats would be I actually don't want to know to be honest what usually has captivated our attention I think often times we get frustrated with God because he like you didn't even show up and he's like you weren't even looking for

me celebrating Jesus is surrendering our hearts over just our time over to him to say hey this is what I've got going on in my life what would you do with it that's why we come together that's why there's there's a sense in which like it doesn't matter what songs get picked it doesn't matter what text we read it doesn't matter what you came to church looking for it never was for you it was for Jesus and if we can come and fix our eyes on him then perhaps he'll do something in us that we need it and perhaps he will use the things that he's doing in us to bless those around us CU it's not we're not isolated from one

another so we come come together in worship to express we express what's on our heart sometimes it's good sometimes it's bad if you think the Bible is real clean and all the prayers don't have curse words in it you've never read the Psalms there are prayers with curse words in them we God's Not Afraid of our frustration he's not afraid of our feeling he will hear and the expressions of what's going on in us but if he just heard it if he was just an open ear that would be insufficient because our heart is broken doesn't matter what we have to express like he'll take it he'll take the expression but he also wants to reform us and reform our

hearts there was a group of people that he set apart for himself uh and they they had nothing going for him they were poor um they they didn't have any they didn't even have a place to live they were homeless and and he takes these people he says hey here's the deal I'm going to I'm going to teach you how to walk with me you're going to be my special people I'm going to teach you how to walk with me and the the first thing he did was he shifted their calendar he said if you want to walk with me then you're going to get together and for them it was three times a year three times a year you're going to stop everything for at least a week and you're going to remember all the things that I did you're going to stop all your work and you're going to celebrate the things that I have done and am doing so Perhaps Perhaps the biggest way to like shift our our motivations is to to prioritize God in our calendar and I think setting aside a weekly time to just be focused on on whatever it is that God wants to say is a beautiful way to do that but I think there's also times where where we do that on a broader scale we do that uh monthly um God uh there's uh one one teacher who says it this way he says God wants to build us together into something

stronger and more beautiful than what we could be alone it's not that we can't celebrate Jesus by ourselves it's that he designed us to celebrate Jesus together with others

regularly celebrating Jesus motivates our heart to want to follow him one more thing to say I'm going to flip back real quick and read the end of Mark 12 that we

started Mark 12 The Scribe who had asked Jesus this kind of entrapment type question the Scribe says in verse 32 The Scribe said to him you're right teacher you have truly said that he is one and there is no other besides him and to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding standing with all the strength and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices so the guy says Hey Jesus you're right understatement of the year but it didn't happen very often where people got it so this guy gets it he understands he's he's intellectually on the same page and when Jesus saw that he answered wisely he said to him you are not far from the kingdom of

God understanding is the beginning agreement is is a great first step belief is the starting line we are not

far but to cross the finish line is to surrender and say Jesus I give it all to you I know it's broken I know I don't have the ability to fix it I'm not a heart surgeon or a rocket scientist and so it's dead it's busted but you said you want it

and so I'm going to stop trying to take it from

you understandings to start but it begins to activate when we actually surrender Our Lives to him regularly celebrating Jesus motivates our heart to want to follow him let's pray

together um Lord you do uh you do so much and um Lord I know my my words I know the limits of my words and my abilities so father I just ask that um if there's something I've said that has been untrue or distracting or just my own opinion that all of that would just be forgotten immediately but Lord if your word and your truth has been represented at all that that would stand firm in our

hearts Lord if there are those of us who say like I I believe those things but I've never like surrendered to it God I pray that today would be the day of surrender I pray today would be the day that we throw up our hands and say you take it you fix it you give me something new because the more I try to work on it the worse it gets Lord for those of us who for a long time have made that commitment years ago but have just lost the passion and the motivation God I pray that today as we fix our eyes on you you on the grace and the Redemption that you do that you would motivate us today that you'd give us just enough for today to make it maybe make it through this week till we can come together again and fix our eyes again together and would you meet us in Quiet Moments as we come to celebrate you set aside some time and personally to celebrate you as individuals God would you meet us in those moments too and would you meet us and lead us and guide us as we gather together in smaller groups and just try to share what's going on with one another God I just pray that your hands would be all over our lives as we as we seek to love you with all our

heart you're

worthy it's in your name we pray amen

[Music]