

Grace Fellowship Church

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Series: Acts

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An Intentional Life

Acts 16

If you don't have a Bible, throw your hand in the air, and we will get one to you. One of my favorite passages in all the Scripture is John 10, when Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life and have it in abundance, have it to the full." There's a huge thing in me that it just stirs up this desire. I want abundant life. I want a life of substance and weight and meaning and fruitfulness. I want a life of influence and power. I want my life to count, and I know you feel the same way, but how many times do we take on one hand we read this passage that Jesus offers us abundant life and then we look at our lives and it doesn't feel very abundant?

In fact, how many times have we rushed through another day, another week, another month, another year and looked back and gone, *Okay, now how in the world did I get here? How is it already November? How are my kids already seniors? How did this life that is supposed to be of abundance just feel like it is rushing by and I'm wondering where I am and where I'm going and what am I doing here?*

We're going to look at Paul's life and a life of incredible intentionality and how that kind of life resonated around the world and how we get in Acts 16 a little snapshot of a life that was lived with intention, and therefore a life that experienced the abundant promise Jesus offered.

So we're just going to start here, actually the end of chapter 15, and this is 15, in that section right there just to kind of set it up a little bit. We talked about this a few weeks ago, but previous in Acts, Paul and Barnabas have been on a mission to the Gentiles. Paul has a very clear call from the Lord that the kingdom of God is now available to the world. You don't have to enter this Jewish religious system to experience the power and the presence of God, but God is available because of Jesus.

So Paul has gone into the Gentile world, the non-Jewish world, the Greco-Roman world to announce Jesus. The kingdom is at hand, and it is available to you. Then he has come back to the church and announced how the Gentiles have responded with miraculous faith to this message of Jesus. The council of the apostles in Jerusalem has blessed their mission, has blessed this calling, has proclaimed it is true that the gospel is for the world, and so now Paul wants to go back to the churches he has already planted in his first missionary journey and carry a letter from the church in Jerusalem saying, "It is true. The gospel is for you. The kingdom is yours."

So he's going back to these churches. He and Barnabas have a little bit of a split over a disagreement about an issue with John Mark, and so Barnabas goes one way to a couple of churches they'd been to. Paul goes another way. So we see Paul grabs Silas and they leave

blessed by the brothers to the grace of the Lord, and so he goes through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches they'd already been to.

I have a map (if we could throw that up there) so you could just kind of visually see sort of where Paul has been. So if you look over on the far right side there, you'll see that little star Antioch, and Paul is going out into the region of Syria, up into Cilicia along the right side there, and around the coast. He comes to this town Derbe. What he finds in Derbe is a disciple named Timothy whose mother was Jewish and was a believer, but his father was a Greek. "The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him." (Acts 16:2)

In other words, Paul comes across this young man Timothy, and there's something in Timothy. There's a faith in him, a maturity in him Paul takes note of, and so he adds him to the team. So now we have Silas, Timothy, and Paul who want to continue to take the gospel message forward and the good news of Jesus.

So "Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area..." (Acts 16:3) In other words, he didn't want there to be any barrier to the people he was going to that would block them from hearing the message of the gospel. "...for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." (Acts 16:3-5)

So, "Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia." (Acts 16:6) Now I want to pause right here. There's an interesting thing that shifts in this narrative. Now the doctor Luke who gives us the Gospel account of Jesus' life, Luke, also wrote Acts. So it's a two-part work here written by this guy Luke.

It's interesting because in this section of Acts, Luke shifts from third person, writing about the things Paul did or Paul went, to first person, we. "*We went. We saw. We were going.*" So what can be assumed here is now there is a fourth member added to their team, Luke. So you have Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke together on this calling of God into these churches.

Now for you and for me and Snellville, Georgia, 2011, who are the people God has brought alongside of you in your life? That's that first blank on your sheet. Your *people*. Maybe it's just to write out those names. Who are the people God has brought alongside of you to encourage you, to urge you on in love and good deeds, to be that safe place, that counsel, that wisdom? Who are those people in your life God has intentionally placed alongside of you and recognize them for who they are?

See, I think a lot of times we go through life and we're surrounded by lots of people who come in and out of our lives, and yet so many times even in the midst of a crowd like this we can feel incredibly alone, and I think there are times we just need to stop and look around and ask the question, "Okay, God, whom have You put me in relationship with? Who are the people who stand beside me? Who are the people who if a child gets sick in the middle of the night I can call

them at three in the morning? Who are those people I can count on? Who are those people in my life?"

Paul knew his people. He had his team. He had his guys. See, a lot of times we read Paul and he's the apostle Paul who birthed the church as we know it. We kind of set him on this pedestal, but Paul never acted alone. Paul was always surrounded by other believers, men and women who walked with him, who encouraged him, who strengthened him, who kept him moving forward in what God was calling him to do.

It wasn't just that Paul would get beaten and then stand up on his own in his own strength, and we know he looked to Jesus for his strength, but we also know picking him up were men and women who would wash off his wounds and pray for him and sent him out. He never stood back up alone, nor are you meant to stand back up alone when the world knocks you down. Who are your people?

Verse 6: "Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia." (Acts 16:6) Now throw the map back up because what happens here is that Paul knows the calling on his life is to take the gospel message to the Gentile world, so obviously he wants to go to the most significant influential cities of the known world. Well that logically would have been Ephesus. It had the biggest population in that region, so it makes sense Paul is thinking, *We're going to cut west from Lystra and Derbe towards Ephesus.*

We know for some reason the Spirit blocks him from going that way. Now we don't know whether that was like he was physically kept from going, whether it was relationally he was kept from going, or just something in his spirit, a gut check, kept him from going that direction, but we know he was listening to the Lord and something is keeping him from going the way that would most logically fit on the roads he was traveling.

So then he thinks, *Okay, well then I'll head up north. I'll head up towards the Black Sea*, but the Spirit it says would not allow them to do that either. So instead, when you can't go up and you can't go down and you don't want to retreat and go backwards, what do you do? You just take a step forward, and so he just keeps walking the road in front of him one step at a time. The doors were closed, so he just took one step with what he knew, and he kept walking down that road, and he ends up at this city Troas.

"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." (Acts 16:9-10)

Macedonia, Europe. So it would have made sense actually from Troas then if you're bent on getting to Ephesus is to cut back along the seacoast of Asia there, but instead Paul has a vision in the night, and he sees a man standing, a Macedonian man, a European man, who says, "Come, help us," and Paul, convinced that Christ is calling them to cross the sea and to take the gospel to Macedonia, takes it to his companions, and they agree and together they pack up immediately and get ready to go.

So Paul had his people, and now he has his *place*, and through closed doors and through open doors, Paul knew where the Lord was sending him, and so for us in Snellville, Georgia, in 2011, what's your place? Why are you where you are? Take account of your life, your day. At 9:00 on Monday morning, why are you where you are? At 6:30 pm on Tuesday evening, why are you where you are? Why are you in Gwinnett? Why are you at the ball fields four nights a week? Why are you at your job?

Because if someone were to ask Paul, "Why are you in Macedonia?" he would have said clearly, "Because the Lord sent me here. I'm here because this is where God has me." For some of you, where God has you are four nights and all day Saturday at Bethesda Park. Embrace the place, but don't live accidentally. Don't just be there because that's where everybody else is. Be there because you know that's where God has sent you.

For some of you, God does not intend for you to devote 40 hours a week to that place. Why are you where you are? Can you say with confidence, "Because that's where the Lord has me"? Whether it's through closed doors or through open doors, that is, you've faithfully followed Jesus. It's where He has you.

See, the first thing for Paul was that decision to follow Jesus, and for us it starts in the same place. Do we really believe Jesus knows what is best for our lives? I have two little girls and a 20-month-old little boy, and I am a huge fan. I *love* my kids like crazy. I love being with them. I love just watching them. I love watching them especially when they don't know I'm watching

them, and my deepest hope and longing is that they will grow up and be a man and women of depth and character and strength and maturity, with lasting relationships and a fruitful life, who live with joy and walk in peace.

I want my kids to love well. I want them to be a good husband and good wives and a good father and good mothers. I want my kids to experience life to the fullest, but the truth is that I have no clue how to do that! I don't know how to give that to them, but I really, really believe Jesus does. I believe He knows what is best for them. He knows what He has uniquely knit them together in their mother's womb to be and to become. He knows the best way for them to follow after Him. He knows the best way for them to move into maturity. He knows the best way for them to get the college education they need and the jobs they were created to do.

I do know this...the world around me doesn't know my kids, and I know this...they actually don't want what is best for my kids. Everybody who's trying to sell them something isn't really looking out for their best interests, but Jesus is. So Jolie loves gymnastics. I mean, *loves* gymnastics, and her little strong-willed body is actually pretty good at it.

So I can see theoretically in a couple of years we might be spending hours at the gymnastics place, whatever you call it. Gymnasium? What is it? The gym. That's good enough. Short. Thank you, but if we're going to do that as our family, if we're going to sacrifice that much time and energy and money and time as a family then I want to know that is what Jesus has for her and for us as a family, and then when I know that's what Jesus has for her and for us as a family then we

can walk into that place and celebrate what God has for us there and live it fully because we're living it intentionally. Where does God have you? Why are you where you are?

For some of you, it might require some tough choices. So Paul knows, and so what does Paul do when he knows the people God has called him alongside and he knows the place God is calling him to be?

Verse 11: "From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days." (Acts 16:11-12)

So what's interesting about Philippi is the Philippi was actually a Roman city that was strategically placed by the Roman government near the gold mines there in that region of Europe, and so it was a very wealthy city, and in fact they called it a little Rome. They tried to recreate the experience, the grandeur of Rome in Philippi.

Also about Philippi is that there were hardly any Jewish people there. In fact, it wasn't for a hundred years later there would be the first synagogue in Philippi, and to have a synagogue in a city you had to have at least 10 Jewish heads of households, so there wasn't even that in Philippi, which kinds of throws off Paul's normal model because what He would normally do is he'd show up in a city, and he would go to the synagogue, and he'd begin to preach Jesus until he was kicked out, and then he'd find a house and he would gather with people who had responded to the message, and he would start a church there, a gathering, an *ekklesia*, a church.

There's no synagogue in Philippi, so what do they do? They stay there for several days. It doesn't seem like much is happening. Verse 13: "On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer." (Acts 16:13) So there's no synagogue, so they think, *Okay, well where could we find some people who are God fearers, that their hearts are already bent towards God?*

It makes sense that if they're going to find a place to gather for prayer maybe that'd be along the river. So they go to the river and sure enough they find a group of women there. "One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God." (Acts 16:14) A God fearer. "The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider me a believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us." (Acts 16:14-15)

Now what we know about Lydia is a few things. One, she's living in a Roman city, an influential, significant Roman city, but she's Greek actually. So she's a cosmopolitan woman, and she's a dealer in purple cloth. Now that's really significant because the color of clothes is what was used in that world to determine social standing, and purple was the color of the emperor. In fact, it was a Roman law that *only* the emperor could wear a cloak that was completely purple.

So as you moved up your station in life, as you moved through the upper echelons of society, the more and more purple you could wear on your garment. So as a dealer in purple cloth we know

Lydia was rubbing shoulders with the who's who of Philippi. She had tremendous influence. In fact, she'd probably just in that day ran her business out of her home and so the significant people of Philippi were on a regular basis coming to Lydia's house. In fact, it would have been the equivalent of a supermodel's home in our day today.

So here's this woman whom God has already prompted, has already begun to stir in her heart, has already begun to turn her face towards Him, and the Lord opens up her heart, and as a result, she opens up her home. It's interesting the word there when it says she *persuaded* Paul to come to her house and to stay there. Now not many people could persuade Paul of much of anything, so we know Lydia probably was a pretty strong-willed woman, which she would have to be to be running an influential business in a man's world at the time.

So here we have Lydia, this strong woman with these connections and these resources inviting Paul and his companions to come and stay at her house, which had to have been a significantly large house, and probably raised a few eyebrows when four strange men show up from out of town and move into the supermodel's house, but what we know happens from that house is that it becomes a place of prayer and place of power and a place that the gospel goes forward, and we see Paul goes from her house back to the place of prayer on the riverside and continues to preach the gospel and a church is birthed there in Philippi. The first church in Europe happens there in Lydia's home.

Then when Paul encounters some trouble there in the city and they actually get arrested and they're thrown in prison and their response is to sing praises to God, and the prayers rise up to

heaven, and an earthquake happens, and their chains are broken, and the jailer, ready to kill himself because he has just failed at the primary task he's been assigned, realizes they haven't escaped, himself says, "What must I do to be saved?" His entire household comes to faith.

Paul goes from there back to Lydia's house, and then we know Paul goes on in his journey, and he's sent on ahead of Silas and Timothy, and he gets to Corinth, and in Corinth he meets this couple, Priscilla and Aquila, who were tentmakers like him, who were supplying tents to the refugee camp outside of Corinth. They begin a ministry, and he's working in order to supply for his needs, but then all of sudden Silas and Timothy come back from Philippi with money, resources so that Paul can devote exclusively to preaching the gospel.

Lydia's home, this random woman on the side of a river, becomes a place that God launches a global movement for the gospel. That third blank: When you know your people and you know your place, what's your *purpose*? What is God asking you to do with the people He has called you alongside and in the place He has called you to? Paul knew his...to preach the gospel, to announce and represent the kingdom of God.

Why are you where you are and what are you doing there? What's interesting about Paul is that Paul's not making this up as he goes. In fact, the doctor Luke who is with him and is writing this account, having been an eyewitness to what is happening there, is actually learning alongside of Paul that this is just simply what Jesus taught His disciples. Paul is just following Jesus' model.

Flip back a little bit to Luke 10. Jesus appoints 72 and sends them out to the towns and the places He is going to show up. Now this is what's cool is that He says (and we know this also from Matthew 10), "Now you don't need to take an extra cloak, an extra tunic, an extra bag. In fact, you don't need to take anything else. Oh yeah, don't go alone. The only thing you need is each other."

You see, it wasn't Paul's idea to grab some companions; it was Jesus' idea. So go in pairs. Then Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." (Luke 10:2) The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

You see, when Paul showed up in Macedonia, his expectation was that the harvest was plentiful. The only thing lacking was the workers. When we show up in our places with our people is our expectation regarding God and the message of the kingdom that it's probably going to be met with failure or scorn or embarrassment, that it's not actually going to go anywhere, it's not going to go well, I'm going to be ashamed, there's nobody here that really cares about that stuff, that if I try to talk about this Jesus thing most things are probably going to be like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. We're not cool with that"? Because that wasn't Paul's expectation because it wasn't Jesus' expectation.

Their expectation was you're going to show up in a place and the power of God that is in you, the same power that raised Christ from the dead, that there are people who are desperately hungry for the message of hope and love and abundance and joy you carry. Is our expectation that there

are people who are waiting, desperately waiting to get to know you? Who would have guessed Lydia? When the elites of the city moving in and out of her house, the parties of the city that were probably thrown there, who would've guessed God was already at work in her heart?

Jesus goes on and He says, "This is what I want you to do. You're going to go into a town, and when you enter a house, you're going to say, 'Peace to this house.' Now if a man of peace, a person of peace, resides there, then let your peace rest on them. If not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking."

In other words, "Here's what I want you to do: I want you to go where I'm sending you with the people I'm sending you with, and then when you show up there, there's already going to be a person there whose heart is opened to you." You don't have to force it. You don't have to make it happen. Just look. Just open your eyes because the harvest field is already plenty. Just open your eyes and see. They're right there.

Who are the people who are already open to you? Who is that person of peace? Now say it with me just so we can capture that phrase for our culture. *Person of peace*. Who are you looking for? Turn to your neighbor and say, "Person of peace." Now look up to heaven and say, "God, give me a person of peace." Now God's looking at you and going, "I already have."

What does Jesus say? "Okay, this is what I want you to do. You're going to go with the people I'm sending you with and you're going to go to the place I'm sending you, and when you get there, open your eyes and look for that person of peace, the person whose heart is already open

towards you, where conversation is just easy, where they actually just like you. They want to be with you, and then let peace, your peace, the peace of Christ God has already given you as a follower of Jesus rest on them because they are desperately hungering for the thing you hold. Then move in. Don't wander around from place to place. Go deep where you are. So find that person and go deep with them."

So what does Paul do? He's following it exactly! He finds Lydia, his person of peace, and then he moves into her house, and when she persuaded him, Paul was probably thinking, *Oh wait a second, Jesus has already told me what I'm supposed to do here. I don't really have a choice in the matter. It might look funny. She might not be the one I would have chosen. She definitely has very little in common with me as a Jewish rabbi, but Jesus said when I find that person of peace, move in, eat dinner with them, and get to know them.* Then what we see is that their relationships are then opened up. So don't go alone, look for the person of peace, and then move in deep.

So in Snellville in 2011, who are your people, where is your place, and what's your purpose? Jesus actually lets us know what that purpose is. What He says is, "Preach the gospel. Heal the sick." In Matthew 10, "Raise the dead. Cast out, lift up, cleanse, and purify with that person of peace in their household as their relationships, their network or relationships get opened up."

God has given you everything you need for life and for godliness. What are the places in them that are dead, that need to be brought to life? What are the places in them that are dirty, shameful, that need to be cleansed and purified? What are the places in them that are sick, that need to be healed? What are the places that they desperately need good news?

See, the pressure is not on you. I mean, I've heard lots of evangelism talks. "Go out there and conquer the world." I think a lot of times we make something that is incredibly simple but has a very high cost, we want it to be very little cost, but we make it really difficult. We complicate our lives and we try to figure out how we fit this Jesus thing in. How do we fit this life with other believers into the life I'm already living? My life is so full. How am I supposed to do this church stuff? This isn't church. *You* are the church. We are the church, the people of God doing the work of God in the places God calls us to.

So a number of years ago I had the chance to be in Africa, and I spent a summer there before my senior year of college, and I'm in the Okavango Delta, and I go on this little solo, and so I'm sitting in this tree stand area above this watering hole, watching these herds of animals come into drink as the sun is setting, and I say to God, "Okay, God, if You want to call me overseas to be a missionary, now would be the time to do it because I feel like I'm in a *National Geographic* movie."

Clearly what I heard God say resonate in my heart was, "The mission field I'm calling you to is the American high school campus." So with that sense of place I move in with my best friend Tyler into Buddy and Jody's basement, who then invited us to come live with them. Tyler, my person, in Parkview, my place, we decide to eat, sleep, and breathe Parkview High School because we know that's where God has sent us, and we spent crazy amounts of time there, a lot of the time that otherwise I would rather have been in a hundred other places except I knew that's where God was calling us, and I knew Tyler was the one He was calling me to walk alongside.

There were times I wanted to give up, that it felt like nothing was happening, that Tyler would be the one I would lean on, who would pray together, encourage one another. So I meet this kid, this party crowd little punk, who there's something about him that I just know, I mean it's just so obvious... In my thought, I can still remember thinking, *If Jesus grabbed a hold of that kid's life, it would change the world.*

Actually I have a picture. This is February of 2002, and right there in the middle is a young kid named Matt. Sure enough, I think he's high in that picture, but a couple of days later he would decide to follow Jesus, and now we are praising the Lord for what is happening at Midtown and what is going around the world because of this young punk, Matt Reynolds.

So a few years later, I had the chance...I married later, which is a good thing...moved out of Buddy's basement. Sadie's mom decides to (she invests in real estate) buy this house in Grayson, a foreclosure in this amazing neighborhood and allows us to move in, and we rent it from her. We start to get to meet some families.

Actually we were at the time doing Grayson Young Life, and at Grayson we met these sisters who were just awesome, and we really liked them, and they were really fun and hilarious and creative. They loved Sadie, and so we met their parents, and for some reason they liked us and invited us over to their home, and we got to know this family really well, and we love this family.

So when we move into this house, all of a sudden we find out this family lives in this neighborhood, and so through that family we start to get to know some other families in the neighborhood who are just amazing families who love each other like crazy and are involved in each other's lives.

Together we start looking at, "Okay, how can we be intentional with what God is doing here among us in order to reach this neighborhood where there are families who are falling apart and there are divorces that are happening, marriages failing, kids who are bailing on life, where there are people who are faking it in the day but they go home and are desperate for some good news, who are losing jobs and losing their grip on what they feel like is safe and stability? How can we be a safe place?"

So we started praying for each other and looking for ways to serve our neighborhood, and I'm going to be excited, and I was thinking about this morning, I was just imaging standing up here with these families at this time next year and getting to talk about the families that now are walking with Jesus, whose marriages are being healed, whose kids are coming into the kingdom.

This summer, Sadie and I were really wrestling with (those families are doing their thing now), and so Sadie and I were starting to wrestle with, "Okay, Lord, what are you calling *us* to? What if I didn't work for Grace Fellowship Church?" Don't tell Buddy that. I like my job. "What if I didn't? What if I worked out in the world and church wasn't my job, what would I do?"

Well I would probably get together with some of my closest friends, the people who are already in our lives, the people who our kids are already playing together, that we're already over at their house once a week, and we're just going to be intentional with that time.

We're going to take some time, maybe just once a month, and we're going to really pray for each other, encourage one another, speak life into each other in what feels like dead places, and then what we're going to do is once a month we're just going to invite people into that relationship. So let's just throw a party once a month, and as we meet people out in the community, at Starbucks, or in the lobby, or wherever, let's just invite them over, and let's just do life together.

I don't know what it is for you, but my only goal this morning is for you to look at Jesus and ask Him what it is for you, to take just a moment as a family and ask, "Who are our people? Who are the people God has already put beside us to encourage us, to love on us, and how can we be just a little bit more intentional with the relationships we already have? Where's our place? Are we in our place, and if we are, let's own it for what it is."

See, what if we started looking at soccer fields not as competition fields but as harvest fields? What if together as families... Now I don't have kids who play varsity sports yet, so I'm just having to project my imagination upon you, but what would I do? Well I would look and try to figure out is there at least one other believing family, follower of Jesus, on this team? If so, maybe we just show up 15 minutes early, and we pray together and encourage each other and just open our Bible and read a Scripture to each other and pray for people of peace.

Then as everyone is going crazy and cheering and trying to relive their own glory days through their six year old, cussing out the ref, we are going to be looking for who God has for us. Then we're going to come back together. We're going to talk about it and keep praying. We're going to engage the place we are with the people God has for us, and we're going to look for the people God has for us. That's the church.

Then we come together on Sundays and we worship together, and we dive into the Scripture, and we celebrate what God is doing as we live our intentional lives out there. So who are your people, what's your place, and what's your purpose? Let's live intentionally.

Let's pray: Lord Jesus, I do pray You would stir up our hearts. Awaken our minds and our imagination to what You've already put right in front of us. We're not creating anything, God. You're the Creator. You're the One who says You have given us good works prepared in advance for us to do, and You're not a liar, so God, I pray for every man and every woman in this place, every family represented, every network of relationships that is represented here in this room.

God, will You give clarity? Will You just call to mind names, and I pray, would You give courageous boldness, whether that means to embrace the place they are or to realize that is not the place You're calling them to and to make courageous steps toward the place You are calling them to?

God, we confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus Christ as Lord. So may we live lives, Lord Jesus, please may we live lives where

You are King? We seek first Your kingdom and trust that everything else will be added. God, forgive us for the times we add everything else and then try to figure out where the kingdom fits in.

Lord Jesus, take the gospel to Brookwood. Take the gospel to Bethesda. Take the gospel to Mountain Park Park. Take the gospel to Parkview. Take the gospel to Atlanta. Take the gospel to AT&T. Take the gospel to Apple. Take the gospel to Home Depot and Starbucks. Lord, take the gospel.

May Your kingdom come, Your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven, and Lord Jesus, give us the bread we need to make it today, and forgive us of our trespasses when we fall short of what You intend for us. Deliver us from the evil one, God, for Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever and ever, amen and amen.