

“Pursue After It”

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Introduction: “Pursue After It” is the theme of this month’s messages and Bible studies. Matthew 6:33 says, “**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness...**” The best thing that I can tell you this morning is that Jesus is the “It” that we are to be pursuing after. Jesus is the “It” factor. Now, today’s message will focus on the idea that pursuing after Jesus is personal, powerful, and possible. But let’s not limit where God can take you this month as we search out this theme of “Pursue After it.” Whatever God has for us is going to take some – or a lot – of spiritual and/or physical pursuit on our parts. Even from His first days of public ministry, pursuit was part of the expectation. In Matthew 7:7, Jesus said, “**...seek and ye shall find...**” This isn’t a game to God; He wants to be found. He isn’t teasing us. In fact, he is a jealous God, and He will be furious if we don’t find Him.

I. Pursuit Is Personal:

Matthew 4:17-22 ...they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him.

How did this really happen? John Baptist, who was called after what he did, prepared the way for Jesus. He said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” He handing off the baton. He said that he was not worthy to baptize Jesus, but Jesus said, “**Suffer it to be so now...**” Jesus got baptized as an example to us. He humbled Himself, this sinless man, to be baptized. Afterward, God spoke from Heaven and said, “This is my beloved Son...” These fishermen that Jesus called; there was no conversation to speak of, but they left their nets, left their father, left their lives, and followed this man, God manifest in the flesh. Jesus makes it personal. He seeks and speaks to every one of us today as well (John 4:23). He died on the cross for all of us. He will personally compel us to follow Him, and His works will personally catch peoples’ interest as well to pursue after Him.

Matthew 4:23-25 ...they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments...

Jesus was in this world. One of His first concerns was to see the needs of these people met; in healings, in food, etc. Note: A group of people came here today and the only reason is the voice of Jesus compelled you or the fame of Jesus drew you. Jesus is altogether worth pursuing after.

Apostle Paul was all about souls. He crucified the flesh to pursue his personal calling. It was his personal mission to spread the Gospel and to see lost should come to the knowledge of Christ.

II. Pursuit Is Powerful:

Acts 9:1-8 ...suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven...

Paul was a power player. He thought he was doing the right thing, but God had another plan. Parrish Lee shared recently about a car accident that he had. I'm sure that, two minutes before the accident, he had no idea that his life was about to change forever. Sometimes things change our whole lives. God came to us, got our attention, spoke to our hearts privately and in His Word, and still desires to lead us to Heaven. Our pursuit today is just as powerful as Saul's was then.

You may feel that you are not the right person for the job that God has in mind for you. Let me tell you, you are the right person for the job; you may need a slight adjustment, but God wouldn't call you unless He was also willing to qualify you. He's perfect in His timing. He's in control. You may feel a need and urgency, and it may seem like there's just no way, but you must finish. We have to get it done. You don't get the reward for only going part way. Saul followed, he didn't rebel and refuse and God changed his life to a righteous life of godly service to The LORD Jesus Christ.

III. Pursuit Is Possible:

That's quite a statement in times like these.

1 Samuel 30:1 ...David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop?...

David had killed Goliath, saved Israel, only to be harassed by a King named Saul. He was running, and fighting, and hiding from Saul. One day, they came back to their camp—the only camp David had—and his wives and children are gone. David, at his lowest point imaginable, sought The Good LORD. He encouraged himself in The LORD. David was ready. Experience worketh hope. He confirmed his instincts to pursue after the enemy to get back what was stolen from him and God told him, "YES!"

We may have had a lot stolen from us, our self-esteem, our pride in ourselves, our family, our health, our job, but David pursued after the LORD in prayer and acted upon what The LORD wanted him to do. Get up and pursue after God and recover all that God has for you in your life. God will rally you and those closest to you in the effort. How? Because He is God and there is nothing too hard for Him. In Matthew 7:7, Jesus said, "**Ask, and it shall be given you...**"

Jeremiah 32:27 ...is there any thing too hard for me?