

July 16, 2023 – ACTS 5 – Taking Responsibility

Good morning Church and welcome here, I also want to welcome all of you who are joining us online and for those of you who don't know me my name is Martin Gunter and I am one of the Pastors here.

First off, let me say that we have AMAZING Staff and Volunteers up at camp with your kids! I cannot overstate how invested they are at making sure that the kids come up there have an opportunity to meet with Jesus. And I am not just saying this because it's a ministry of our church, I am saying it because when I went to camp this last week, it was not as a pastor to check on them... no no no... I was there as a father who had a young boy who was going to camp for the first time, so my eyes, and my ears and yes my parent radar was on high alert on how it will go with my son there. And let me say, I was blown away at the professionalism of how the camp is run, but more so, I was humbled by the relationship I saw in these staff and volunteers with Jesus. In the mornings when I woke up and walked over to Black Bear lodge, it was filled with staff and volunteers spending time with Jesus one on one... They are not simply there to babysit the campers, they are preparing their hearts to minister to the kids during the day as they engage with Chapel, mealtimes, and the many skills they do. Speaking of skills, at every skill, whether its Archery, Hiking, Rock Climbing or Creative Arts, they all start the skill with 3 basics: Jesus, Safety, Fun. How do we bring Jesus into the skill, the rules to stay safe, and then to go and have fun! During these skill times there are Cabin Leaders, and Volunteers that interacting with these kids and there are opportunities for them to connect heart to heart, and these are just the skill times.

The Chapel times were not water downed at all! Brock took us through the last part of Luke 9 and the theme for camp is "Hiking the Narrow". I was personally convicted and I had to repent of some of my shortcomings and ask the Lord to show me the Narrow Way He wants to lead me in! These were honestly Holy Spirit inspired times where Brock was teaching the kids how to walk the Narrow Way. Encouraging our kids that following God will cost us something, and even if there are many excuses on why we should go on the wide path. He used a brilliant illustration of when we go on a hike, we have to pack the right stuff to take along so that we would survive and not get lost but even if we pack the right stuff, we should not forget them, but actually use them while we are on the Narrow path, even when it's hard.

Now why am I telling you all this, I would like to talk for just a minute to you parents! If you can, I would encourage you to not only sign your children up for camp, but to go with them and be a part of it! I can tell you will first hand experience this last week, you will not regret it! Your body might!! You will probably not sleep so well as you do at home, but these are small things in comparison to see the impact on your child's life at camp, and then to continue to walk with them at home on what they were equipped with. There were many testimonies already from just the first camp of young campers who did not know that you can have a relationship with Jesus, and now how they can start doing that through journaling and memorizing scripture for example. And let's say you do not have kids, and you might even be a little older than me, you can have such an impact in other kids lives and in the lives of the volunteers there. I found myself talking and encouraging other young adults and high school cabin leaders who are there, sacrificing their summers to build into our kids! I was awe struck to see this, because I was a lot more selfish at that age, I definitely did not sacrifice my summers to build into younger kids. So I would like to challenge my generation and the ones above me... Let's be a part of this, let's not miss the opportunity to build into this next generation, but to be examples and support for the ones who are currently doing it! Will it cost you something? absolutely, and you will be tired when you get back, but you will have a chance to shine Jesus light, and to build into this next generation first hand,

so with that.... Middle School camp 2 is wrapping up this afternoon, and Middle School Camp 3 is starting on Tuesday, so let's take a moment and pray for them! Pray that they will finish well today and let's pray for the next one coming up.... But I would also like you to pray and ask the Lord, Lord, where can I help out? Maybe you can go and take your kid up and grow together, or maybe you can be a light into some other kids, so its all tied into our second Church wide Prayer for the Next Gen, lets take a moment and in **3, 2, 1, lets pray!**

Let's get into the message! We are in Acts 5 this morning, and to quickly RECAP from Pastor Chris's message on The Power of Ordinary and if you have not listened to it, please go and do so as he was covering Acts 4 and talking about: The Promises of God, The Pathway forged by Jesus, The Process of transformation, The Power of the Holy Spirit... And in the end how he covered off a bunch of ordinary practices we can do as a disciple of Christ. Now, as he wrapped up and I was planning for this message, At first as I was going through Acts 5 I saw a problem.... that there are easily 2 messages in here and I was just going to pick one half and let Pastor Lorne do the other half next week, but as I read through it again and prayed about it I realized that the first 11 verses of Ananias and Sapphira and the rest of the chapter actually have one thing in common that Ananias and Sapphira did not have and the Apostles had in spades, but more on that later.

Up to this point it has been a vibrant time of progress for the Church and the apostles. It was a time of unparalleled close walk with the Holy spirit as they preached with boldness and gave generously... God has done incredible things so far and people are getting saved not by the hundreds, but by he thousands... If we would only read the first 4 chapters, we would think that man, this is perfection, that there are no problems, that there is no sin... But we still live in a sinful world and even in this incredible time, sin was brewing in some people's hearts, but before we can take a look and see what happens in Chapter 5. We need to go back to the end of Chapter 4 and here we see an act of incredible generosity of the early church that there was no one in need among them. IN fact in Chap 4 we see that Barnabas gift was listed here in our bibles for all to read for all time!! Lets take a look at what happened here in **Acts 4:31 - And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. 32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.**

Now the stage is set, we can see a POWERFUL movement of the Holy Spirit, when they prayed, the building shook.... They had no need, they where unified! and we see that its out of this great unity that they have here that a man named Joseph, who we know better as Barnabas and you will get to see a lot more about him later in Acts as we go through it, got lots of recognition for the deed he did. Now we do not have context for this in scripture, but it seems to us that because of that we see this couple come up that probably also wanted the recognition, so let's see what happens now when we start in Chapter 5. **But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's**

knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. WOW INTENSE eh! By the way, in verse 11 there it's the first time we see the word church in Acts and there is so much to unpack here but I want to start with asking the question: What's so wrong with them keeping some money to themselves... I mean would we not celebrate when someone here sells land and gives 50%, 70% to the church?? What makes this so different? But we get a hint in verse 4 where Peter makes note that it was in their power to decide what to do with the money.

So where did Ananias and Sapphira go wrong? There are a couple of things we can look at but we will only look at 3 things and start with that **They lied!** Which in itself is a big deal. Really!? did that lie really merit death? I mean I have lied, I have lied lots, and I am still here... So what's the deal? let me show you in Proverbs 6:16-19: **There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.** So out of these 7 things listed here, Ananias and Sapphira unfortunately crosses off a few, lying is definitely in there, but besides that they had a heart that devised a wicked plan, they were a false witness and if not stopped, I think they would have sowed discord among the brothers and broken the unity that the Holy Spirit has cultivated here.

Like we have seen so far in Acts, it's a time in the church where the Holy Spirit was moving powerfully!! These were radically transformed people moving and operating in the Spirit like never before, and we have seen in the past in scripture when there is a heavy emphasis on the presence of the Lord it's not something we trifle with or fool around with. In those moments we are in front of an almighty God who deserves our worship, and a reverent fear of the Lord, which brings us to the second thing they did not have! We saw this with Moses and the burning bush in Exodus 3:5, where God says take off your sandals because you are standing on Holy Ground, and later on with the Temple and the Holy of Holies that no one could just go in, why?? Because they would die in the presence of the Lord because of our sin. Does it say that certain sin is OK and others are not... NO, it's sin, period... I go and we assign which sins are worse, but it's sin in God's eyes and that is why they tied a rope around the priest who went into the presence of God. But what's so amazing is that when Jesus was on the cross and He died, the veil was torn and we have free access to the Holy Spirit now, we should not take it for granted or take it lightly, especially when there is a powerful movement like we see here in Acts 5.

The third thing I want to show you is in verse 2: “and with his wife's knowledge he **kept back** (nosphizo) for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.” Now the original Greek word that Luke used here for “kept back” is this: nosphizo not sure if that’s pronounced correctly, or if really most of my words are pronounced correctly with this English language, but it’s a very uncommon word in the bible. Its only found 3 times in scripture. It means: “to put aside for oneself” or to “keep back” or to “take some” in a secret and dishonest way. The first time we see this word is in Joshua 7:1. **But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully regarding the things designated for destruction, for Achan, from the tribe of Judah, took some (nosphizo) of the designated things; therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel.** You can go read the rest of the story but basically, before Chapter 7 we see the Israelites in great victories, till Achan took some of the designated things, and then they lost many people to Ai in Chapter 7, it was not until they confessed and Achan received a sentence of death by the end of the chapter for holding back some of the spoils from Jericho that were dedicated to God, that they saw victory again in Chapter 8 against the nation they could not defeat earlier because there was sin in the camp. Sounds similar right? Here is an illustration from Joshua to Acts where we can see how God is with them, sin entered, and after it was dealt with God was with them again... Luke knew about this story, and this was why I believe Luke used the same Greek word. You see the money that A&S gave they said its to dedicate to the Lord, so they were taking from God and testing Him in a similar way just like Achan did. They where Greedy as well.. So, there are more, but these are 3 things that we can see where they went wrong, They Lied, in saying they gave everything! They did not have a reverent fear of the Lord and they where Greedy in the end just like Achan....

OK, that was verses 1 and 2, lets look at verses 7-9 where I want to show you something amazing and this is where I want to bring a theme out of Chapter 5 that at least for me stood out... Acts 5:7-9 **7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” 9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”** OK... So what’s good about her dying too? I know that’s the part we see, but I want to focus on what happened right before that. Verse 8: **And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.** Verse 8 is an amazing because back in those times, women where really looked down upon even to the point where in court women could not testify because their account did not mean anything, but I love how Peter does not let the sin on Ananias over shadow or condemn Sapphira by default because they are married, but gives her an opportunity to tell the truth, to confess what they have done, to own up, or to simply take responsibility. Even though she chooses poorly, she had that chance to do so, God in his mercy and grace laid out the choice of life and death in front of her, but she had no idea how close her judgement was. This is a sobering story where I think we can all reflect on for a moment because as Romans 3:23 says **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** And here is part of the good news! We are still here and breathing, and the question is, will we take responsibility and own up, confess what we have fallen short, because that’s what confession is, its simply taking responsibility for not walking in God’s will, allowing sin in our lives and now its about owning it and telling Him that. And that is the theme that I personally see here in Acts 5 is that Ananias and Sapphira did not take responsibility for their actions when they where asked, but later on in the chapter we will see the contrast of what happens when the apostles have been and are taking responsibility.

Now I know that responsibility is everyone's favorite word right! Because it comes so effortlessly in our lives right.. NO?? Responsibility is HARD WORK! It takes effort, it takes time and its unfair most of the time. But don't worry, this is not a new issue, we see this all over scripture and I always thought of the lack of people taking responsibility is a Millennial issue, and in the Marriage Seminar that me and Andrea do, I made fun of that so much, and one day Wayne Falk approached me and said, you know you are a Millennial eh? NO! I cant be... I was deeply hurt by that comment, only to learn that he was right... So I had to take some responsibility and see that I have a lot to grow in, namely not making fun of them. Anyways... What is responsibility? Lets start with some more scripture and lets go all the way to the beginning: **Genesis 1:28-29** *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."* – God gave us responsibility even before sin entered the world. Sometimes it feels like responsibility is part of the Fall, but we see here that before the Fall God gave us responsibility here on earth. And then **Genesis 3:11-13** – *He (God) said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"* ¹² *The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."* ¹³ *Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."* Adam and Eve did not take responsibility for their sin! They where quick to point the finger at one another because sin has entered into the world! So this is in part WHY its so hard for us to take responsibility for things around us. So then the next question does beg to be asked, what am I responsible for? **2 Corinthians 5:10** – *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

In short, it can be summed in 3 things:

1. I am responsible for my own choices, feelings, and actions.

Andrea is not responsible for me! I am not responsible for her, but I am responsible for my own emotional buttons and what happens to me when they get pressed! If my kids come up to me and start pressing my buttons, and they know exactly where they are, and I start yelling, that is on me!

2. I cannot blame anything or anyone.

Again, 2 Corinthians 5 show us that I will give an account to what I did, they will give an account on what they did, but I do not think we will be pointing much fingers on who did wrong on the day of judgement. It coming face to face with the truth that when you point the finger, more are pointing back at you...

3. I am responsible for my own healing.

My healing is not dependant on anyone except me, and my relationship with Jesus! It all comes down to are you willing to forgive if need be, and then surrendering it all to Jesus so that He can start the healing work in your life. Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!

Responsibility is a beautiful thing if we accept where it came from and what we do next with it. Let me give you another example... Taking Responsibility is not just saying sorry... It's a good start, but taking responsibility is saying sorry, but then stating what you are sorry for and what will you do to change the behavior or action in the future. Its almost never a one and done, but it's a journey... Speaking of journey, lets move on the second part of the chapter, verse 12...

12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Amazing right! I can only imagine what that must have been like, but here in verses 13 and 14 seems to contradict one another... **None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women**, its no contradiction, its about people realizing that after Ananias and Sapphira that it's a serious issue to join the church! This is not Sunday play time, this is a commitment! You will not simply try this if people just recently died because of a lack of integrity before God. You will make sure if this is something you want to be a part off. AND that is exactly what we see here, the church kept growing! Can you imagine here with me for a second if we started praying in this building and it would shake, and we would experience the Acts church like they did here.... AMAZING RIGHT, and now imagine if Ps Stefan would call out a sin like Peter did and that person does not take responsibility and dies.... That will make headlines here in Steinbach!! People would second guess before they walk in here, but others who are hungry for the Lord will flock towards the building because we can see just like in Acts a Powerful Movement of the Holy Spirit, and a great harvest that is still to come. Thankfully we have tools available to us like confession and we can take responsibility for it!

Let me explain it in a different way.... Its about giving it ALL to Jesus! Not just some, not holding back, but giving it all, its taking the responsibility of giving it all; to surrender it all and say here I am... Or are we hiding parts away from the world so we look better?? See Jesus is not something the simply added to their lives, its taking up the cross and laying it before Him, it's a responsibility that we are here to carry out! And make no mistake that part of this responsibility is to count the cost of our salvation and sure that as we walk it out with fear and trembling as Philipians 2:12 says. Our faith is not the after thought in the mornings when we wake up, but instead it's the guiding principle and the foundation on which our whole day is built on, not the other way around. Now lets continue to read, we will see what it was like for a group of people who did exactly this, giving it all to Jesus! verse 17!

17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him, and filled with jealousy 18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 **"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."** 21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

So what where they commanded to do by the angel? To "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." So now they know what they need to do and let's see if they take on this responsibility?

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, 23 "We found the prison

securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” 24 Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. 25 And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”

YIP! There it is, they obeyed! They went to the temple and they taught the people. Now, is the story done? Just because they took responsibility and obeyed are they actually free and clear? Because I know that is at least how I think of it, now that I am walking in God’s will and I took responsibility all is well right? Lets see...

26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, **“We must obey God rather than men.”** 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

WOW! What a statement, I hope that one day God will allow us to see back in time or maybe there will be movies in Heaven where they will re-enact this very scene for us. Can you imagine just like Ps Chris said last week, these are the very same people involved with crucifying Jesus, and this Peter is the very same Peter who denied Jesus 3 times, and has now come and said: “we must obey God rather than men”! Lets see how they respond, verse 33:

33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice,

Quick side note here, every time when I read this passage, I would always be in a bit of conflict because I like what Gamaliel says here and the logic he uses, but he is a Pharisee, and that made me doubt if this was good or bad... But this time I had the opportunity to dig into it a bit more and there is some commentaries that suggests that he could have been the son of Simeon who wanted to see the Messiah before he dies and though not confirmed by all, I do like the thought of it. But what we know for fact is that he did have a hand in training Paul, Barnabas and Stephen who you will hear more of next week! But continuing on verse 40...

40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So we can see here, the apostles did not escape unscathed. They were beaten with 40 lashes minus 1 because it is believed that 40 could kill someone. And when they would

beat people, they would usually hit them twice on the back and then ones on the chest, twice on the back, and then one on the chest till they get to 39, so that was 13 rounds of beatings. So this was not a slap on the hand, they were beaten harshly for what they believed and for the actions they took.

41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

What a contrast from Ananias and Sapphira, going from one end where they were thinking of themselves, not taking responsibility for what was given to them, all they had to take responsibility for is the money they withheld and be humbled for lying.... While the group of apostles that took the responsibility seriously and walked it out! They got accused, put in prison, and then beaten, and despite the consequences, they rejoiced! I think that sometimes we believe that if I walk in God's will, and I take responsibility for my actions, all will be good. Well, I think it depends on your heart. See I would argue that the apostles said that it all was good! They left rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name! They suffered, they were dishonored, and they rejoiced in it despite of the circumstances around them!! They did not blame anyone for what happened, they did not lash out because they were beaten, they took personal responsibility.

I know that for me personally, I would wonder if I did the right thing, am I taking responsibility in the right areas in the right way? So I would pray about it, and then I would get backlash from people I minister to, it makes you wonder, did I actually do the right thing? Especially if it's Christians right... So I take these to the Lord and ask him: Father did I honor you in what I did, am I walking in your path? Let me conclude to tell you exactly how God helped me in this and how he used my favorite daughter to help in a moment like this...

It was many years ago, and as I was wrestling with something similar and as I was asking the Lord for a sign, a word, anything to help me confirm what was in my heart... well that did not happen exactly as I thought, God instead used my daughter Izzy to show me something and bring some healing to my life where I was struggling. So one day, Izzy was still very young, but she was walking and talking so we figured it's a great time for her to start taking her plate to the sink. So I asked her to take her plate to the sink, and I remembered her getting up, and running, and running, and running, and I thought to myself, man, the sink is not that far away.... And then when I turned around she was not there anymore and I heard her drop the plate in the bathroom sink... Now, you can ask my kids, I am not a perfect parent, I have many flaws and I do not always love the way I should. But do you think that in my imperfect love that I was angry at her that at her age that she dropped the plate in the bathroom sink? No, not at all... she came back running and she said, "Got it in the sink daddy" She was proud she listened... so I went, it's a parenting moment right, and I said let me show you something... Here in the kitchen is a sink, so I lifted her and she said, "Oh, there are 2 sinks!" And I said yes there is! Now later that week as I was wrestling with am I doing the right thing, am I taking responsibility in the right areas, God reminded me of this story. He asked me, were you angry at her? And I said no... I found it actually kind of cool how she listened to the best of her ability. So then the Lord told me as I was journaling... So in the same way, when I ask you to do something, and you don't exactly get it right, do you think I am angry with you? No Lord... Your love is perfect! Exactly, now go and do!

See church, we get into this area where we question so much on what we are suppose to do next, or we are scared to do something that in the end we do nothing. Its like the camp, it can seem overwhelming

on what to do next, but I want to encourage you to take that step, even if its not the right sink you put your plate into, but unless we get up and start walking, we will not know the next step, but I want to encourage you to take your plate to the sink and God will be there to direct you very loving to the right one! There is an incredible story of a lady named Sharon Stevens who helped a dad who lost his wife and she helped with his girls going through a very tough time. And she gave sacrificially of her time and money and one day someone asked her, why are you doing this? What do you owe them? How did this become your responsibility to save her? And Sharon simply replied, because I am here, because I can!

I would like to finish with us doing some listen prayer and let God have the last word! I will give you some time to let Him speak, but to help guide you, here are 3 things that you can ask him today:

1. Is there something that you need to confess and lay it before Jesus?
2. Is there an area of my life that I need to Fully surrender and take more Responsibility in?
3. Is there an area of my life where God wants to show you a different “sink to put your plate in”, an area where He wants to make a change?

Let's PRAY!

That concludes our service today, if you have any prayer requests, there are some people in the prayer room or you can email us at prayer@mysouthland.com and if you have a need please emails us at care@mysouthland.com. Otherwise, enjoy the remainder of your weekend! God Bless!!